

CRIME - GENERAL

1996 -

~~JAN~~AUG. - DEC.

Fivaz warns: 'SA risks becoming a gangster state' (34)

□ *Fight against crime to be intensified in 1996*

ARG 3/1/96

PRETORIA. — An increase in the police budget is the main factor in demonstrating a determination to curb crime this year, says Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

He appealed to the government "to give the highest possible priority to providing the SA Police Services (Saps) with the necessary crime-fighting resources in 1996".

Commissioner Fivaz said unless the Saps were given every means necessary to fight crime, South Africa would risk becoming a "gangster state where hijackers, druglords, muggers and other criminals will trample hard-won democratic rights into the dust".

This included addressing the "disgracefully low" salaries of police officials.

"If crime goes on unhindered this year, the possibility exists that certain areas could fall into anarchy. We must avoid this at all costs."

Commissioner Fivaz said efforts would be made to root out corruption and racism in the Saps and to increase the performance, productivity and discipline of all members.

Strengthening community confidence in the Saps through quality policing was important, as was an improvement in the welfare and morale of police members.

"Saps already has geared itself, with its available resources, to intensify the struggle against crime in 1996," he said.

Commissioner George Fivaz added that the police planned to deploy more undercover spies in KwaZulu-Natal in a bid to stop political violence there.

"We are stepping up the intelligence base, especially in the southern region of KwaZulu-Natal," He said this meant sending in secret agents.

"To be in a position to pre-

empt, to be in a position to anticipate what is going to happen in certain areas, you have to infiltrate certain groupings and the activities of certain individuals.

"We have to infiltrate where there are visible signs of certain persons or groupings are busy with crime-related activities," he said. "We have to get on top of it."

At least 189 people were killed in criminal and political violence in KwaZulu-Natal in the week ending on December 30, said police.

In the worst incident, 19 people died on Christmas Day when more than 600 men rampaged through the Shobashabane area, near Port Shepstone.

About 14 000 people have been killed in the past decade in fighting in the province between supporters of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party. — Sapa-Reuter.

Crime takes a beating

ARG 6/1/96 (34)
More community police soon?

■ The new and innovative community police force project has drastically reduced crime in the city centre and Sea Point, claims city councillor Chris Joubert.

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Staff Reporter

WITH its innovative community police force now cracking down on the muggers and other criminals, Cape Town may be on its way to becoming one of the safest tourist destinations in the world.

The project has taken the city by storm and crime has dropped drastically in the city centre and Sea Point, says Chris Joubert, city councillor and co-chairman of the Interim City Centre Police Board.

He said the board had been inundated with offers — from small and big businesses who were prepared to donate money — to sustain a community police force which would make the city a safer place.

A similar scheme is run in Sea Point, where 10 community police officers have been employed. More than 1 000 people applied for these positions, of which more than 200 were trained police reservists.

Over 80 community police officers have already been deployed in the city centre and more than half of the R300 000 needed to pay the salaries for a planned contingent of 120 community policemen has been raised.

Now Mr Joubert plans to put for-

ward an innovative plan to make Cape Town one of the safest cities in the world.

"I would like to propose to the city council a scheme which will ask rate-payers to make a voluntary donation of R10 a month to support our community police project.

"People can add this extra R10 to their electricity bill and the money will enable us to employ sufficient community policemen in our city to stamp out crime once and for all.

"We believe this is a community project and have already found a tremendous spirit of support from individuals and small and big business.

"If we can get this voluntary scheme off the ground, we will not only make Cape Town a safe city, but will also create jobs which go hand in hand with the RDP."

Mr Joubert said the benefit of having a safe city also ensures that property values are maintained. In other cities in the country where crime has spiralled out of control, there has been a marked drop in property values.

Mr Joubert stressed that the South African Police Services will continue their normal police duties and the community police will simply strengthen the crime combatting capability of the city.

In a state of fear

South Africa is in the midst of a violent crime explosion, the like of which has seldom been experienced by any country in peace time.

(34)

ARG 11/1/96

'If he moves, you must shoot because you never know if he might be reaching for a gun. And nobody wants to die. Even criminals don't want to die.'

ROBERT BLOCK of The Independent reports from Johannesburg.

WHAT is it like to hold someone's life in your hands? What goes through your mind in those first tense moments after you pull the gun, when the adrenaline starts to flow and your victim cowers before you?

The reformed Soweto criminal pulled at his plaited locks, shifted slightly on the bench where he sat and considered the questions carefully.

Finally, after chewing it over in his mind for about a minute, he said: "When you point a gun at somebody, you must not have any feelings. You can't allow yourself to feel any pity for the person you hold the gun against because you might be easily overpowered by emotion.

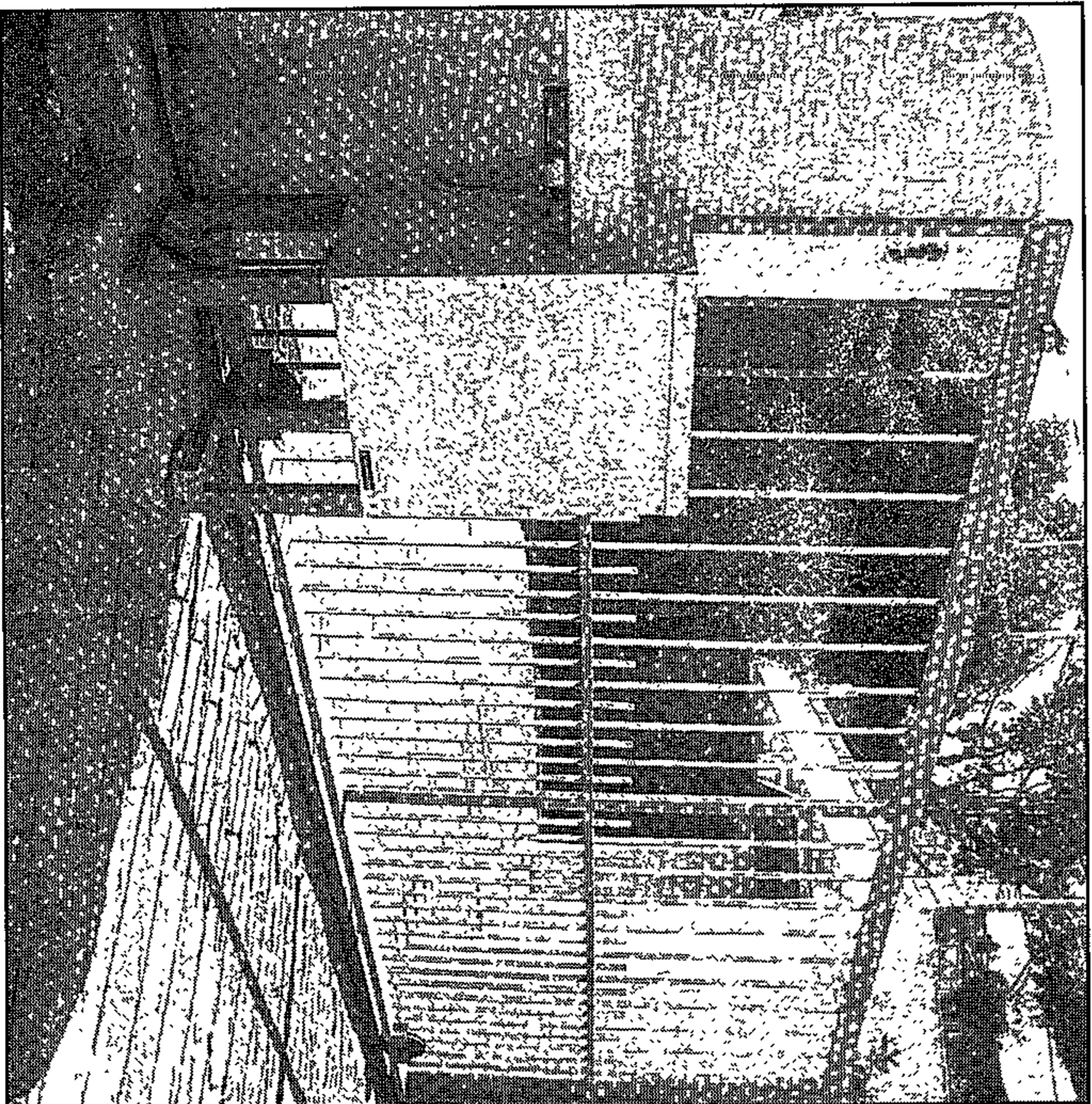
"Just pretend you will shoot at any time. You must threaten the person so he will give you what you want. All you want when you hold a gun to somebody is for that person to respond as quickly as possible because there might be other people who are watching as you are hijacking the car.

"So you must create the impression that you will shoot at any time. Don't listen to his pleas. If he tells you about his son, you say, 'Shut up. I don't want to know about your son'.

"You must kick them out of what they are telling you because they are always telling you that they have got children. They are always pleading, 'Don't kill me'.

"All you think about is the money and getting away from the scene of the crime as quickly as possible. But if he moves, you must shoot because you never know if he might be reaching for a gun. And nobody wants to die. Even criminals don't want to die."

Kere Nyawo is a playwright, but this is not a scene from his latest work. It is his



SECURITY PRECAUTIONS: More homeowners are fortifying their properties.

This strong gate is intended to keep out strangers.

about murder, armed robberies, child abuse and domestic violence.

Many people, both black and white, live behind locked doors and barred windows

ers used to protect themselves from hostile natives.

Less than a year ago, the "new" South Africa was considered a "must see" by

worth of children's clothes were taken from one of his shops in the centre of town.

"The alarm went off at 4.20am, yet neither the armed response company I subscribe to nor the police responded," he said.

The police and the government have come under fire for the escalating crime-wave. In the past year, since Mr Mandela first promised to "take the war to the criminals", government has cut the police budget, maintained a police hiring freeze, ordered juvenile offenders to be held in low-security "welfare lockups" and tinkered unconvincingly with ways of tightening bail rules.

After a great public outcry, and with reports of white flight reaching fever pitch, the government only recently released emergency funding to the police and has taken some steps to halt the indiscriminate release of juvenile criminals back into the community. Last week, the national police commissioner, George Fiyaz, warned that unless his forces received adequate funding, South Africa risked becoming a "gangster state".

The overall impression is that the government has no strategic vision. Until now its overwhelming concern has been civil rights protection for suspects and convicts, which is understandable after the lack of such safeguards during apartheid.

However laudable, the sentiment has not been matched with firm steps to harden penalties for serious crimes and make the police - a largely demoralised and, in part, corrupt force - more efficient.

The fact of the matter is that crime pays in South Africa, and pays well. It pays because the vast majority of offenders escape capture. By the police's own reckoning, they solve only about a quarter of all reported robberies, 15 percent of car thefts

burg suburbs are patrolled by what amount to private police forces.

In Yeoville, a trendy Johannesburg neighbourhood of whites and blacks, the local traders' association has hired Hell's Angels to watch the streets. And in White City in Soweto, neighbourhoods are patrolled by a band of heavy-fisted teenagers calling themselves Youth Action Against Crime.

At the same time, there is another factor driving fear in the white community: racism. Crime has become the latest euphemism for black South Africans. When whites say that they want to move away from crime, what they really mean is that they want to get away from blacks. Even in the black community there are different attitudes to criminals who prey on whites and those who attack their own community.

"The people in the township hate those criminals who do crime in the township, but they like those criminals who go to the white man's land," says Mr Nyawo.

But contrary to popular perceptions and media hype, Johannesburg's northern suburbs score comparatively low in at least one of the most feared crimes - car hijackings - when compared with black townships.

According to a suburb-by-suburb breakdown in Johannesburg, where 75 percent of all South African carjackings take place, motorists are far more likely to get hijacked in Soweto than anywhere in the white areas of the city.

In the first six months of last year there were 685 carjackings in Soweto and only 49 in Sandton, one of the country's biggest, most prosperous white suburbs.

There is also reason to believe that the crime scourge may not be quite as bad as the statistics indicate. Police and insurers say that up to 70 percent of all reported car-

SA's lawlessness a major stumbling block for RDP

Business Reporter

(34) ~~33~~ ARG 13/1/96
UNLESS lawlessness was brought under control and the lives and property of South Africans were protected, the noble principles enshrined in the RDP would become dead letters, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry warned this week.

In its latest Business Bulletin the chamber said it would support an action programme where the priorities and needs of civil society were re-assessed. This included re-examining the approach to the RDP.

Fighting crime and violence had to be elevated to top RDP status. Improving police pay, training and infrastructure were more urgent concerns than even education and health.

The police should become "the heroes of society" backed up by a streamlined criminal justice system. Once a semblance of law and order had been established with law breakers strongly vetoed, the task of restructuring society as outlined in the RDP could be given renewed attention, the chamber said.

Frustration among chamber members was mounting over the government's reluctance to take decisions, particularly at a regional and local level, the bulletin said.

Some vacillation was understandable as local government elections had been delayed and Cape Metropolitan elections not yet held.

However, the lack of predictability and certainty, essential ingredients to any business, was harming the economy.

Most of the chamber's members were in the formal sector which, instead of being viewed as the

engine which would grow the economy, often appeared simply to be judged as "white business" — at best a cash cow to be milked, the chamber said.

This situation had been further aggravated by the removal of the "business vote", for many years a feature of Cape Town, although the business sector continued to shoulder the largest share of the rates burden.

The failure to pass by-laws in regard to street trading and hawking stood out as a glaring example of the inability to govern and a lack of political will, the bulletin said.

Uncontrolled street trading is causing enormous disruption to the commercial activity within the heart of Cape Town and in many of its major surrounding commercial trading centres.

"A continued lack of control runs the risk of setting in motion a process of urban decay from which it will be extremely difficult to recover."

Effective government meant taking often difficult decisions — no decision was far worse and ran the risk of feeding "a state of anarchy".

The government also urgently needed to address the culture of entitlement, where rent and service boycotts continued. "Having moved from a state of euphoria following the elections, South Africa is now in a state of informed pessimism and the challenge must be to move to a state of informed optimism."

In his New Year message chamber president Geoff Ashmead said it was government's unequivocal responsibility to provide business with the infrastructure which the business community required in order to prosper.

THE CAR HIJACK MAGAZINE

ST 14/1/96 (34)

By DON ROBERTSON

ONE in three vehicles hijacked in the first 11 months of last year was a Toyota — not a luxury Mercedes-Benz or BMW as one might have expected.

This is the finding of the National Crime Information Centre, which disclosed statistics for hijackings in Gauteng only after considerable bickering between representatives of the motor trade, insurance companies and the police — all of whom have been reluctant to make the figures public.

The centre said more than 9 400 vehicles were hijacked in Gauteng in the first 11 months of last year.

In October alone, 37 vehicles were hijacked a day. Forty-three people lost their lives and 87 others were injured.

A spokesman said some of the injured may have subsequently died, but their deaths had not been reported to the unit.

Toyotas accounted for 34.6 percent of all vehicles stolen at gunpoint in the province, it said.

While Toyota sold more vehicles in South Africa than any other manufacturer the hijack figures considerably outstripped its market share of 24.5 percent last year.

In contrast, the percentage figures for BMWs and Mercedes-Benz hijacked were well below their market share (see graph).

Explaining the apparent discrepancy between Toyota's market share and the incidence of hijacking cases, a spokesman

said that the company was a major supplier of vehicles in the high-risk taxi industry and that about 50 percent of its sales were commercial vehicles.

It also had a high profile in company fleets, most of which were in the Gauteng, he said.

In second place behind Toyota came Nissan, with 13.6 percent of all hijackings. In the 11 months to November, Nissan had a 18.4 percent share of the car and light commercial market.

The third-most desirable model among hijackers was Volkswagen. A total of 8.6 percent of all cars hijacked were Volkswagens, well below the car maker's market share of 17 percent.

Only 6.1 percent of cars hijacked were BMWs. BMW, which sells only cars, had a market share of 7.5 percent in the first 11 months.

Mercedes-Benzes and Hondas, which are made by the same company, were even less popular among hijackers, making up only 4.9 percent of the hijacking total. Mercedes-Benz had a market share of 11.2 percent.

Ford and Opel were not listed individually but fell into the "other" category.

Just over 17 percent of all cars hijacked were in this category. Hijackings of Mitsubishi accounted for 2.4 percent of the to-

tal, while Isuzu bakkies and trucks — popular models sold by the Delta Motor Corporation — made up 6.8 percent of the total. Delta's share of this market was 10.1 percent.

The crime information centre said 4 479 vehicles were taken by force in the first six months of last year, while 4 937 were taken between July and November.

Efforts to obtain official hijack statistics have until now, been unsuccessful. The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA, which represents motor manufacturers and the police, has refused to reveal which vehicle are most sought after among hijackers.

Representatives of the police and the manufacturers blame each other for the secrecy, but say that figures could be misleading if not properly presented.

Insurance companies have been equally reluctant to disclose hijack statistics for individual models.

The chief executive of the SA Insurance Association, Barry Scott, said his association did not have consolidated figures.

He said such information was determined by individual companies based on the models they insured.

Understanding the sensitive nature of detailing which models are hijacked most often, insurance companies are reluctant to disclose this information.

Joe Roux, the assistant general manager of public relations at Santam, said insurance premiums were calculated on the value of vehicles, but these were influenced by the area in which the policyholders lived, the ages of the vehicles and as well as other factors which influence the value of the vehicle.

In the next few weeks, however, Naamsa, the police force, the Automobile Association, insurance companies and other interested parties are due to meet to consider the most "equitable" way of releasing these statistics.

Responding to the lack of hijack information and the substantial monthly premiums charged to BMW owners, the company has introduced its own comprehensive insurance policy, at considerably reduced rates, to counter the "hysteria" in the insurance industry.

Chris Moerdyk, the general manager of public affairs at BMW, says that in spite of its own research into vehicle crime, as well as those from the police and independent researchers, the enormous discrepancy in insurance costs between owners of

TOYOTAS ARE TOP OF THE 'MOST WANTED' HITLIST

BMW's and other cars, "has convinced us that a few players in the insurance industry seem determined to squeeze as much as possible out of our customers."

In spite of intensified efforts by the Police, Gauteng remains the hijack capital of the country, representing about 75 percent of the national figure. Of the 1 011 vehicles stolen in November, 362 were in the Johannesburg area, 166 in Soweto, 123 in the North Rand, 178 in the East Rand and the rest in the West Rand, Vaal and Pretoria areas.

National Crime Information Centre statistics show that 44 percent of the hijacked vehicles were passenger cars, 28 percent bakkies, 14 percent minibuses and 13 percent were trucks.

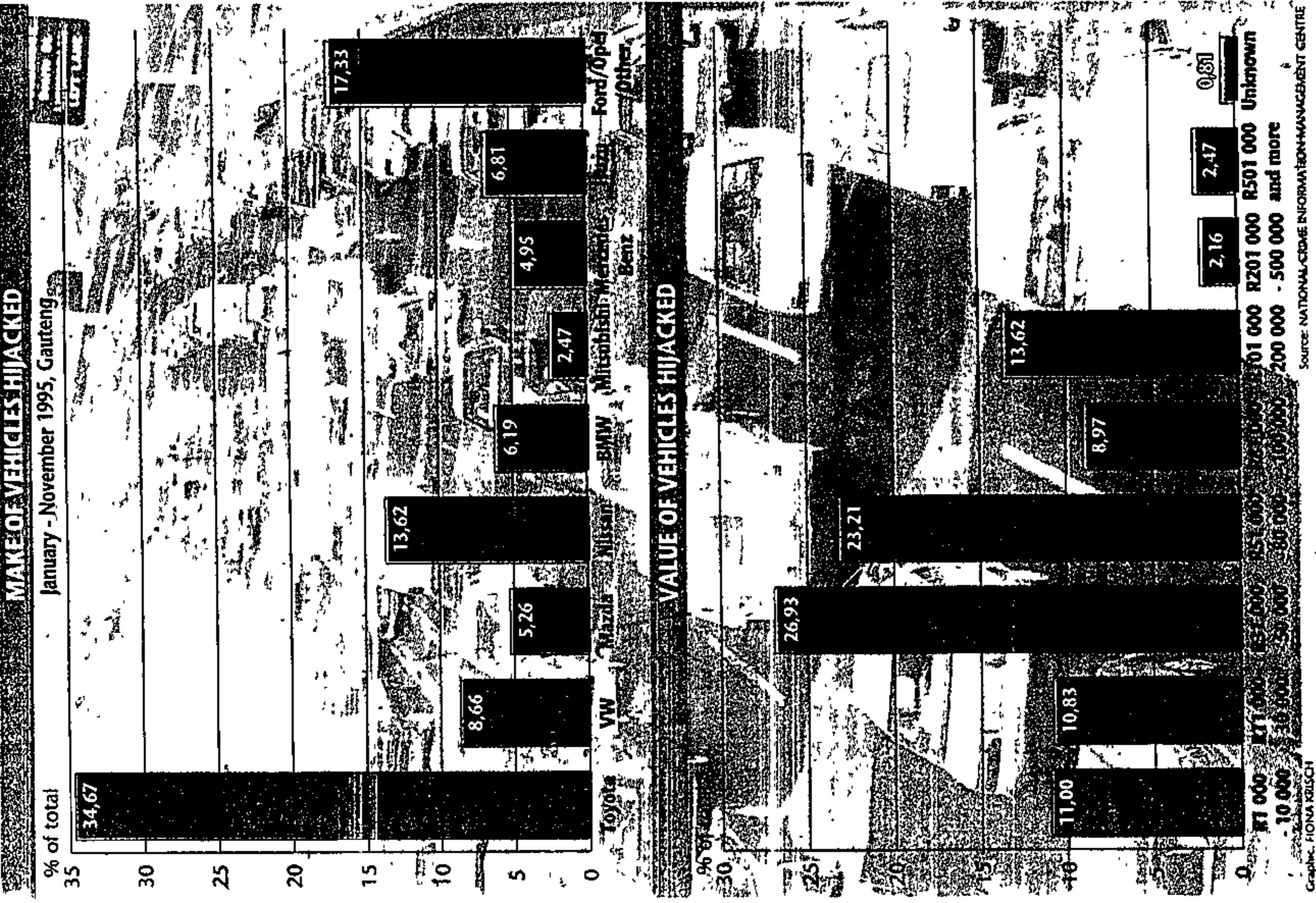
But, it is not the luxury vehicles, but rather the mid-range cars costing between R31 000 and R50 000 that are subject to hijacking. Cars in the R51 000 to R80 000 were next in line. (See graph).

The hijacking of trucks with freight has also risen dramatically from about 50 cases a month in the third quarter of 1994 to an average of 170 cases during the same period last year, reaching an all time high of over 240 in September.

Although the number of hijackings reported by the Crime Information Centre represent all types of vehicles, trucks made up only 13 percent of the total.

Vehicle thefts have also escalated from about 6 500 cases a month in mid-1993 to an average of over 8 000 a month last year.

• See Business Times for 1995 car sales figures



Cachalia retracts car theft fraud claim

By PETER DE IONNO

SAFETY and Security secretary Azhar Cachalia has retracted his claim that up to 70 percent of reported car hijackings never happened.

Mr Cachalia, who took up his post this week as the civilian head of the police, said he "regretted and apologised for" the impression, created in an article in the Saturday Star last month, that he and the police did not regard hijacking as a serious problem.

In the article, Mr Cachalia wrote that "many reported hijackings are actually cases of insurance fraud". This week, however, Mr Cachalia

admitted the police did not have accurate statistics to substantiate the "70 percent estimate" which had been given to him by a senior member of the vehicle theft unit.

"I was not trying to play down the problem or calm people's fears," Mr Cachalia said.

"We have made hijacking a national priority crime and I wanted to open an analytical debate on the issue."

He said an analysis of 3 500 unsolved hijacking dockets collected from police stations throughout Gauteng at the end of October was expected to reveal "a more accurate picture of the actual extent of fraudulent claims."

Results of the analysis were expected within a month.

"The fact remains that there are a significant number of hijackings which, upon investigation, have turned out to be false insurance claims," he said.

The Komatipoort vehicle theft unit identified 31 fraud cases between October and December. The Isando vehicle hijacking unit reported 13 false hijackings in the past three months and the vehicle theft unit's head office had identified 42 cases in which vehicles had been registered in Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi or Kenya before being reported stolen in South Africa.

NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE... Azhar Cachalia



Niehaus takes tough stand on criminals

(34) CT 19/1/96
BARRY STREEK

A CLEAR message must be sent to all potential criminals that crimes will not be tolerated, ANC MP Mr Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

It was essential that criminals were brought to book and punished if found guilty, he said in a speech in Cape Town to the Institute of Citizenship.

The historic judgment of the Constitutional Court on the death penalty told people what crime experts and criminologists all over the world had stressed, that "the only effective deterrent against crime is the knowledge and certainty in the mind of potential offenders that, if they commit a crime, they will be apprehended, prosecuted and serve a full sentence".

Mr Niehaus, who is chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, said he believed the call for the death penalty was not the call of a society baying for blood, but a call for help by frightened people.

"The death penalty has never been a deterrent against crime. Calls for a return to the death penalty, therefore, divert us from our main task — the implementation of ways and means to defeat the ends of the criminals that threaten us all. No one arm of government can do it alone. Nor can government solve the crime problem without the active participation of society."

Crime forces government to reconsider rights bill

ARG 23/1/96

(34)

(~~35~~)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE government is being forced to look "very critically" at certain areas of the Bill of Rights after failing to anticipate the crime wave bedeviling the new democracy.

African National Congress MP Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday the government's revisiting of contentious issues relating to the criminal justice system — such as bail, limitations clauses and imprisoning juveniles — should not be construed as an attempt to water down the Bill of Rights.

He was speaking after a panel discussion on crime, justice and the Bill of Rights hosted by the Human Rights Committee at the University of the Western Cape.

"The issue of crime is a vital one. We cannot simply ignore these concerns.

"Otherwise populist demands for tougher action against

criminals will eventually sweep away all the rights for which we have fought so hard in this country," said Mr Hofmeyr.

Earlier, the government was roundly criticised by the gathering of legal academics and human rights workers for releasing a draft bill of rights for public scrutiny and comment in November while simultaneously "continually amending" it through political party negotiation in the Constitutional Assembly.

In a statement, the Human Rights Committee said the delegates to the conference which preceded the panel discussion had "criticised the freedom of expression clause and rejected the provisions restricting freedom of expression, like those relating to hate speech".

The group felt the general limitations clause was sufficient in allowing appropriate regulation.

Curb crime and we'll spend R1 bn says motor giant

Business Reporter

BMW is to spend R1 billion on investments in South Africa during the next four years — provided crime can be contained.

In a statement read out on his behalf at a briefing in Cape Town today, the chairman of BMW in Germany, Bernd Pischetsrieder, said the motor giant would make a major investment in the upgrading of its manufacturing plant in Rosslyn, near Pretoria. *ARL 23/1/96*

But, he said, there were strings attached to the investment.

The company remained deeply concerned at the level of crime in South Africa, particularly vehicle theft and hijacking.

"While we are aware of efforts to contain crime, we remain conscious of the fact that should crime continue to escalate as it has in the past year, it will undoubtedly force us to reassess the considerable investment we intend making during the next four years."

In the statement, read by Rainer Hagemann, managing director of BMW SA, Mr Pischetsrieder said the investment would be used to upgrade and increase capacity of manufacturing facilities — by as much as 20 percent — in order to meet increased domestic and export demand.

Crime threat to BMW investment

BD 24/11/96
Samantha Sharpe

(34)
CAPE TOWN — German car manufacturer BMW warned yesterday that its plans for a R1bn investment in BMW SA would be scrapped if crime continued to escalate.

Announcing the four-year investment programme, BMW said the investment would be used primarily to upgrade and increase the capacity of SA manufacturing facilities to meet increased domestic and export demand.

But BMW AG chairman Bernard Pischetsrieder said a continued escalation in crime, especially car thefts and hijackings, would "undoubtedly force us to reassess the considerable investment we intend making over the next four years".

"However, we are optimistic that crime levels will be suitably addressed and we are prepared to play our part," he said.

BMW SA has supplied police in Gauteng with 100 cars worth R22m.

BMW SA MD Rainer Hagemann said the capital injection would raise SA manufacturing capacity by about 20%, although production levels were running at only about 50% of their potential. This meant BMW SA's manufacturing staff complement was unlikely to show a substantial increase, especially given the group's drive to enhance productivity.

1 Customs chief caught in a crossfire

Search for smuggler-trap

ARG 27/1/96

(34)

MAUREEN MARUD
Business Reporter

CAUGHT in the crossfire between powerful lobby groups, Commissioner of Customs and Excise Daan Colesky has once again postponed a controversial plan to stop smugglers who are robbing the economy of billions of rands a year.

Mr Colesky has issued an ultimatum to the private sector: Either propose a workable solution to the ever-increasing problem of illegal imports or live with stringent new measures he will implement on February 19.

These measures include a cash payment upfront of 125 percent of the duty and VAT liability on all goods arriving at South African harbours destined for countries north of the border.

Huge quantities of these goods — duty free because they are marked for removal to either Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique or Angola — never reach those destinations. Instead, they are sold in South Africa at lower prices than it costs domestic industries to produce them.

While Mr. Colesky welcomes financial and other help, the

private sector has offered his department in the fight against fraudulent imports, he wants specific suggestions from those sectors unhappy with his proposal to implement the surcharge on goods in transit to neighbouring countries.

"Everybody's complaining and looking to customs, but it's easy for them to say this is our problem and we must stop it," says Mr Colesky.

"We would like a joint venture between the private sector and government to find what can never be a foolproof solution, because nobody has ever found one to stop smuggling, but something that's workable."

He is waiting for the private sector's recommendations, some of which are still outstanding from Sacob members.

"If they tell me they think they have a possible solution and would like a further extension, I am quite prepared to do so."

"But if they say, 'Sorry, we can't give you any alternatives that will work,' we will have to very seriously consider imposing this."

A customs investigation in 1994 involving only a limited number of goods from Durban that did not reach neighbouring countries estimated the reve-

nue loss to the government in the region of R100 million over 12 months, Mr Colesky said.

He first proposed the provisional payment in November last year, but has since twice deferred its implementation.

The payment will be refunded on proof that the goods arrived at their destination, and proof of the existence of the importer.

In addition, he proposes that all but two South African border posts be open for goods in transit. They are Beit Bridge and Komatipoort.

While these measures are welcomed by industries that say thousands of South African jobs are threatened by the smuggled goods, a strong lobby has been mounted in opposition, mostly from the Association of Freight Forwarders and other road and rail carriers.

"We have said to him these measures are targeted at the forwarder who is responsible for organising the delivery across the border," says Alan Cowell, executive director of the freight forwarders' association.

Mr Cowell argues that while the forwarders are not committing the frauds, they are being asked to make cash payments involving sums of up to R50 million a month to fight

what is essentially a customs problem.

Traditionally, the forwarder accepts responsibility for submitting documents to the customs controller in Durban or Johannesburg requesting permission to remove goods across the border. In return, he guarantees by way of a bond that the goods will reach their destination.

Now the commissioner has said all such bonds will be replaced with hard cash to be released only when customs is satisfied the goods have reached their intended destination.

"There is no way that the forwarding organisations are going to put that money up front. They don't have that sort of cash," says Mr Cowell.

He argues that it will be next to impossible to get the person doing the trading from overseas to pay the money. Neither will the consignee in the African country pay because reserve banks there will not release their limited foreign exchange to South African customs.

"How can we as forwarders cover it when we have no certainty that the money will ever come back? When it does come

Continued on page 2

Customs chief caught in a crossfire
P.T.O

Chaos at customs makes SA a smugglers' haven

By MARLENE BURGER

THE chaotic state of customs control has turned South Africa into a smugglers' paradise, and unscrupulous people have been quick to take advantage.

Evidence presented to the Kumbleben commission of inquiry, appointed in October 1994 to investigate illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn, has exposed serious flaws in the control of goods leaving and entering South Africa by sea and air.

The situation is so serious that Mr Justice Mark Kumbleben has recommended that urgent attention be given to a "complete overhaul" of the system.

His call comes amid reports that customs control at Durban harbour, which handles more than 70 percent of all containerised goods, is on the verge of collapse because of a lack of staff and equipment.

Details of the apparent ease with which contraband may be hidden in containers were given to the Kumbleben commission by Wayne Tonkin, assistant finance director with the Department of Customs and Excise in Durban.

Mr Tonkin said the department's main task was to ensure that the correct export

and import duties were paid to the state and that exchange control regulations were not contravened. Detection of contraband was considered "incidental".

No provision was made for random inspection of containers, he said, and only three percent of the 60 000 containers passing through Durban each month were inspected.

Permission to export goods can be obtained at any container terminals or regional offices by means of Form DA550 — an export bill of entry. Details required on the form include the exporter's name, the destination, the vessel on which the container is to be shipped and a description of the goods.

But the form may be completed before or after a container is packed, and there is thus no assurance that the contents correspond with the details on the form.

Containers of "free" goods — those on which there is no excise or rebate to be paid — are not sealed, but customs officials do not carry out routine or spot checks.

Smuggling is made easier by the fact that customs and excise officers are hopelessly ill-equipped to do their job.

The full extent of this problem was spelled out by Adriaan Britz, the acting cus-

toms controller in Durban, regarded as one of South Africa's more sophisticated customs and excise branches.

"We were allowed to hire a forklift for the first time in decades just two months ago and, until recently, when we received a single fax machine to put us in touch with Beit Bridge, there was no way of checking if documents submitted for customs rebates had been legitimately processed there," he said.

"Apart from the fax machine, we've got a few outdated computers here, but we can't even communicate electronically with Portnet. For four or five months now, customs officials have resorted to personally getting into cars to deliver authorisation documents to Portnet."

Smugglers have also found loopholes through which to move contraband on international flights to centres such as Durban via Johannesburg, and at airports used by privately owned aircraft.

In the case of the flights, aircraft from, say, London touch down briefly for passengers to disembark in Johannesburg before going on to Durban.

Local travellers then fill the vacant seats for the last leg of the journey to Durban. Their boarding passes are marked with a sticker which allows them

to avoid going through customs.

According to the Kumbleben report, "there is nothing to stop such a passenger from swopping, by prior arrangement, hold or hand luggage with a passenger who boarded in London".

No resident customs officials man airports such as Lanseria. The onus is on the pilots of aircraft flying in from foreign countries to contact customs staff while still in the air to ensure they are there on arrival. As Judge Kumbleben observed, however, this is something a pilot "would hardly do if he did not wish his cargo to be subject to inspection".

The Customs Union agreement between South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland makes the definition of illegal goods even more difficult. Once goods are cleared by a member country, no further formalities are needed.

Any contraband coming from signatories to the agreement would pass through South Africa undetected because, as Mr Tonkin put it, "those containers have diplomatic immunity".

The government has set aside R100-million to restructure the inland revenue and customs and excise departments, which are due to be merged into the South African Revenue Services on April 1.

ST 28/1/96

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CRIME

NIEHAUS GETS TOUGH

(34)

FM 2/2/96

The reasons for SA's grim crime rate are usually rehearsed — particularly by the ANC — as an inheritance of the evils of the past. Carl Niehaus, chairman of the parliamentary Correctional Services Committee, recently argued that "crime is a mirror of society . . ."

Others blame crime on criminals and want them punished appropriately.

A recognition that such a belief has real consequences in community behaviour is gaining ground within ANC ranks, and Niehaus himself has introduced a Private Member's Bill that would tighten up detention for certain categories of juvenile offenders and introduce tougher parole conditions.

In a recent speech, ANC MP Willie Hofmeyr touched on his party's concerns about stronger law and order measures. He argued that "populist demands for tougher action against criminals will eventually sweep away all the rights for which we have fought so hard."

Nonetheless, "every democratic society has had to find an acceptable balance between the rights it holds dear and the need to fight crime. We must ask whether our country can afford to lead the world in protecting human rights, which include the rights of criminals."

Part of the problem, Hofmeyr said, lies in "popular mobilisation" against crime: "(We) see more and more cases where communities are taking the law into their own hands rather than trusting the criminal justice system."

This accords neatly with the intentions of Niehaus's Bill. Within a politically correct framework that blames crime on

socio-economic factors which have to be redressed by a more equitable spread of the benefits of economic growth, the ANC seems sufficiently scared by crime to want to crack down.

Niehaus — who is often at odds with Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela — explained elements of his Bill to the Institute for Citizenship in Cape Town on January 18.

Awaiting-trial juveniles are required to be held in places of safety. But "the reality is . . . that such places of safety as exist in SA are, like so many of the institutions we have inherited, hopelessly inadequate to the task. The result has been that children run away, and that violent children become a threat to others and to society," Niehaus said.

His Bill therefore proposes that "young people accused of serious crimes can, for the time being, be detained in police cells or jails if the person in question is a threat to the public and where no alternative place of safety exists." This step would be "self-limiting in that, as facilities for the detention of juveniles improve, so will the need to keep them in prisons and cells be phased out."

As for parole, "this decision is taken by an administrative board entirely without reference to the justice system as a whole." Niehaus would wish to see the sentencing judges and magistrates consulted on parole.

His Bill does not offer any restoration of the death penalty — rendered null by the Constitutional Court. Other parties — particularly the NP — have pointed out that the court is guided by the right to life clause of the interim constitution.

The new constitution leaves judicial execution as an option for the moment,

though it is unlikely to be included unless there is such a mass clamour that Niehaus and his allies are dissuaded from their view that "the greatest responsibility of the State is to set the moral tone of the country, and where the State leads, the public will follow."

The Bill is due to be considered by a parliamentary vetting committee to determine whether it can proceed further. That it should have originated as a Private Member's Bill, and not from the ministry, suggests a moral cleavage on crime within the executive. ■



Carl Niehaus

Slump in commercial crime

By Josias Charle

THERE was a 4,3 percent decrease in commercial crime last year compared to the year before, according to national police statistics.

Releasing the figures in Pretoria yesterday, head of the commercial crime of the South African Police Service, assistant Commissioner MJ Schoeman said the decrease could be

(34) Sawetan 7/2/96
attributed to various factors which included positive crime combating strategies by the SAPS assisted by the private sector.

"However, with increased sophistication of white collar criminals combined with expanding technological innovations, a number of crimes may have gone unnoticed," Schoeman said. During 1995 about 51 117 crime cases involving about R2,7 billion were reported compared

to 53 441 involving more than R4,7 billion in 1994.

This represented a decline of 4,3 percent in cases and 40,5 where cash was involved. "In this regard it is important to note that the substantial decrease of value from 1994 to 1995 is partly due to 10 cases affecting the Reserve Bank with a potential value of about R1 billion which were reported in January 1994," Schoeman said.

Now we'll crush crime, president (34) promises

Mar 10/2/96

By ADRIAN HADLAND

The Government is determined to break the continuing cycles of political and criminal violence still affecting different parts and sectors of the country, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

In his opening address to the third parliamentary session of the Government of National Unity, Mandela said the perpetrators of violence would be dealt with in the strongest possible manner. "I am today issuing a strong warning to these elements, that this cannot be allowed to continue." Violence in the taxi industry, gang warfare and political violence in KwaZulu Natal would be high priorities for corrective action, he said.

Individuals in KwaZulu Natal's South Coast region had organised themselves to undermine investigations into the killings which took place there in December, Mandela told a packed National Assembly chamber.

"Armed with an assortment of weapons, they have taken it upon themselves, in full view of the public media, to challenge the nation's law enforcement agencies." This would not be allowed to continue, he said.

One of the first measures to be introduced, ahead of a comprehensive national crime prevention strategy due to be unveiled later this year, was legislation preventing the carrying in public of dangerous weapons.

"No one, irrespective of organisations to which they may belong, will be exempted from these measures," Mandela said.

Previous attempts to ban traditional weapons being carried in public have foundered in the face of cultural needs and justifications.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said in a briefing after the address that there had been no discussions with the IFP, which had opposed an earlier attempt at a ban. "This is a legal and criminal matter and not a matter to be negotiated among political leaders," Mbeki said.

Mandela said four critical challenges lay ahead for the Government: the expansion of the economy and the creation of jobs, the improvement of the quality of life for all, the expansion of the frontiers of freedom, and ensuring that all citizens enjoyed comprehensive security.

Optimism and business confidence were the result of an economy which was healthier than it had been for decades. With clean water being distributed to hundreds of thousands of people, electricity reaching 400 000 homes in the past year, and education, health and nutritional programmes in place, the nation was on its way to a better future. "At last, millions who had no hope in the future can look ahead with confidence, in the full knowledge that they have a government prepared to work together with them to build a better life for all."

Mandela called for a "new patriotism" to inspire South Africans to "aim for the stars" of development and progress. "We must unite in a new patriotism to achieve the goal of creating a new society."

Education, housing, health delivery and land reform would all be important themes of government endeavour over the coming year. Mandela also urged members of the Constitutional Assembly to "burn the midnight oil" to ensure the constitution was finished before the May deadline for completion.

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Tough New Crime

□ Bid to confiscate goods, money in fight against

organised lawbreakers

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

Law

JUSTICE Minister Dullah Omar is to put a new law before parliament to ensure crime does not pay.

The Proceeds of Crime Bill will enable a court to order the confiscation of goods and money, and will contain a new provision for money-laundering to become a statutory crime.

Mr Omar said today the measure was specifically targeted against organised crime.

"It will ensure it is possible for our law and courts to knock at the bottom of organised crime and to ensure the proceeds of that crime are confiscated."

Organised crime was one of the biggest threats to the country. It encouraged dishonesty and corruption and relied on violence.

"If we can knock organised crime we will be half-way home," Mr Omar said.

In devising new measures, consultations had been held with the United Nations and neighbouring states.

An inter-ministerial committee was drawing up proposals based on international experience.

Other measures announced today:

- The possibility of greater judicial control over the release on parole of people found guilty of serious crimes.

- An Extradition Amendment Bill.



Dullah Omar. with attorneys-general and magistrates on the campaign against crime.

- An International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill, providing for the obtaining of evidence from witnesses as well as the provision of evidence in criminal matters to foreign courts.

Mr Omar said discussions had been held with attorneys-general and magistrates on the campaign against crime.

Problems which had been discussed included cases being dragged out and too many cases being withdrawn, and bail not being strenuously opposed.

The Law Commission had been asked to recommend legislation on more effective sentencing policies, witness protection, the introduction of a new juvenile justice system and bringing criminal procedure and evidence laws in the line with the constitution.

Mr Omar said South African law had until now neglected the plight of victims of crime.

Consideration was to be given to this during this year, he said.

"However, budgetary provisions will have to be made to implement any scheme to provide for compensation."

The justice department would also focus this year on addressing the problem of crime tolerance.

"Goods stolen during house break-ins and robberies are sold to ever-willing buyers.

"Crimes are not reported, especially white-collar crimes.

"Witnesses often fail or refuse to come forward to assist."

Mr Omar said communities and business should develop greater intolerance of crime and actively help prevent and combat crime.

Dehumanisation and brutality were part of the legacy of apartheid, while the collapse of discipline and morality were a result of the destruction of family and community life.

"In addition to changing the socio-economic circumstances, special measures — in the home, places of worship, places of entertainment, work, at schools — must be implemented to reverse the process of dehumanisation and to build respect for life and human dignity," Mr Omar said.

SA has 'pathologically high' murder rate — SAP

Bonile Ngqiyaza

(34) BD 15/2/96

SA HAD a pathologically high murder rate compared to other developing countries, SAPS spokesman Wikus Webber said yesterday.

He told delegates at the first SA Security Federation conference in Midrand, Johannesburg, that the murder rate recorded in SA in 1994 was 45 per 100 000 people. The international average for the 122 countries studied was 5,5.

SA's crime rate, excluding violence, was low compared to other developing countries.

SAPS records showed 194 077 serious crimes were committed in 1994. Australia had, in the same year, recorded 6 773 crimes, Canada 11 443 and New Zealand 13 247, Webber said.

Forty-five cases of assault per 100 000 people were recorded in the same period. The figure per 100 000 internationally was 142, Webber said.

Sapa reports that SANDF operations chief of staff Lt-Gen Wessel Kritzinger said the SANDF should not be involved in combating general crime, but in fighting serious crimes that threatened the country's constitutional dispensation. The military should engage in crime fighting only for limited periods and should not be involved in investigating crime.

The most serious threats to SA's security were the influx of illegal immigrants and proliferation of illegal weapons, he said.

The SANDF should focus on border protection, prevention of drug smuggling, stocktheft and the plundering of SA's marine resources.

It was developing a plan for co-operation with other defence forces in southern Africa.

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Theft of medicine increased to R1,2bn last year — police

Jacqueline Zaina

BD 15/2/96 (34) ~~(34)~~
PHARMACEUTICAL manufacturers' theft claims escalated to R1,2bn last year, with stolen medicines intended for the state having found their way into pharmacies, undermining manufacturers' higher margin private sector sales.

Capt Daan Davis of the SA Narcotics Bureau said yesterday that total losses claimed by manufacturers had increased to R1,2bn from R1bn in 1994 and R750m the year before. Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association CE Myrienna Deeb said increased theft of medicines destined for the state severely affected manufacturers because private sector sales were on average ten times more profitable.

The issue was of continuing concern to the industry as it undermined the cost subsidisation system in terms of which discounts to the state were covered by higher margins on private sector sales, she said.

Davis said the bonus system, in terms of which doctors received bonuses and samples from manufacturers and often sold extra stock back to wholesalers, meant it was no longer mandatory for wholesalers to buy from original sources. This had created a loophole for stolen medicines to be sold back into the private sector.

While the police were investigating pharmacy owners and dispensing doctors, most unknowingly bought state medicine which had been repackaged for sale in the private sector.

SA Druggists CE Peter Beningfield said a marked increase in state sector theft over the past four months would help depress interim earnings growth to below 15%. However, the group remained on track to achieve its forecast 15%-17% earnings growth for the full-year.

Premier Pharmaceutical Company chief financial officer Hymie Shapiro said the group, which primarily supplied the private sector, had experienced minimal shrinkage.

Omar wants to dilute ~~the~~ human rights

MTG 16-22/2/96

David Beresford

THE Minister of Justice, Dullah Omar, wants key elements in the Constitution protecting individual rights watered down to facilitate the government's fight against crime.

Omar said on Thursday that he would support amendments to the Chapter of Rights protecting citizens' rights to privacy, freedom of information, and the rights of an accused to bail and legal representation. He also indicated that he supported a tougher stand in dealing with pornography, saying adults needed to be protected from it.

In a statement presented at a parliamentary briefing session for journalists, Omar conceded that his proposed dilution of fundamental rights was "controversial". But he said that "a starry-eyed and over-romantic approach to the question of rights is costing our country too dearly."

The minister cited three sections of the Constitution which he said were giving an advantage to criminals:

- Section 13, which says that "every person shall have the right to his or her personal privacy, which shall include the right not to be subject to searches of his or her person, home or property, the seizure of private possessions or the violation of personal communications"

- Section 23, which says "every person shall have the right to access of all information held by the state or any of its organs at any level of government insofar as such information is required for the exercise, or protection, of any of his or her rights"

- A section making provision for an arrested person to be released with or without bail "unless the interests of justice require otherwise", and for legal representation of a person's choice "where substantial injustice would otherwise result".

Omar also suggested that Section 33 of the Constitution — a limitation clause on certain rights — should be reviewed "to give the state greater capacity to fight crime by imposing reasonable limitations".

Questioned about the justification for limiting freedom of information, Omar said it was particularly important, in dealing with the prosecution of organised crime, that suspects do not have access to police dockets "at a crucial period of investigation".

He also supported critics of the government's latest censorship Bill who regard it as too permissive.

"I am for freedom and individual liberty, but I do think there is a need to protect children; there is even a need to protect adults", said Omar.

"We need to look very critically at the Bill, to ensure that we are not just giving the green light to pornography. Maybe I am very conservative in that regard, but that is my view."

'Not enough money to fight crime'

ARG 21/2/96

(34)

Political Staff

THE fight against rising crime will be stopped in its tracks this year by an insufficient budget allocation, say police.

Police accounting officer Bat Bosman told the parliamentary safety and security committee it would be almost impossible to implement far-reaching strategies or employ more staff.

The R9,8 billion provisionally allocated this year was just not enough to apply the widely hailed National Crime Prevention Strategy.

This could stymie the new community policing programme, frustrate the work of the National Criminal Investigation Services and would not pay for more staff for visible policing. Nor would it enable the police to act decisively on priority crimes such as car hijacking, gang-related violence, drug smuggling or violence in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr Bosman told the committee more money would be needed, in spite of the R1 billion increase on last year's budget, for effective policing.

He said there was a staff shrinkage of about 300 a month through retirement, but no money to replace this staff.

An informal assessment of how many staff could be employed within this year's allocation had in fact shown that more than 3 000 personnel would have to be retrenched, Mr Bosman said.

He added, however, that this would not happen because there was a dire need for more police officers.

Although the personnel budget has been increased by R900 million to R7,4 billion, this would have to also accommodate the new secretariat which was installed last year and whose members were categorised at senior staff pay levels.

Another blow for the police was the R17 million decrease in the budget for equipment which meant that computers which were to be installed in police stations would have to be put on the back-burner.

The criminal crisis facing South Africa

It is now clear that it will take a great deal more than police roadblocks and politicians' promises to solve the national problem writes **PETER LEON**

Despite Government rhetoric, whether at national or increasingly provincial level, serious crime is unlikely to show any real decline in the life of the Government of National Unity.

While politically motivated crime, including murder has, except in KwaZulu-Natal, substantially decreased since 1993, a vicious cocktail of poverty, syndicated crime, lawlessness and an inadequate and, at times, corrupt police service, have all contributed to the horrendous levels of crime to which South Africa has become accustomed.

It is now clear that it will take a great deal more than police roadblocks, politicians' promises and stakeholder workshops to solve the national crisis of criminality which we are facing.

The Democratic Party is no stranger to the debate about crime in our country. We have urged this government and its predecessor to stop talking about crime and do something about it.

We have likewise suggested in our national safety and security policy launched last year that the management structure of the SAPS requires drastic decentralisation. To this end, not only have we advocated

much greater powers for the provinces and provincial police commissioners, in relation to policing, but we were the first political party to unveil a metropolitan policing policy for our metropolises and municipalities in 1995. That policy is likely to a greater or lesser extent, to be implemented in Gauteng in 1996.

What struck those of us who developed our safety and security policy is that the present Constitution vests too much power in the SAPS National Commissioner and too little in the provincial commissioners.

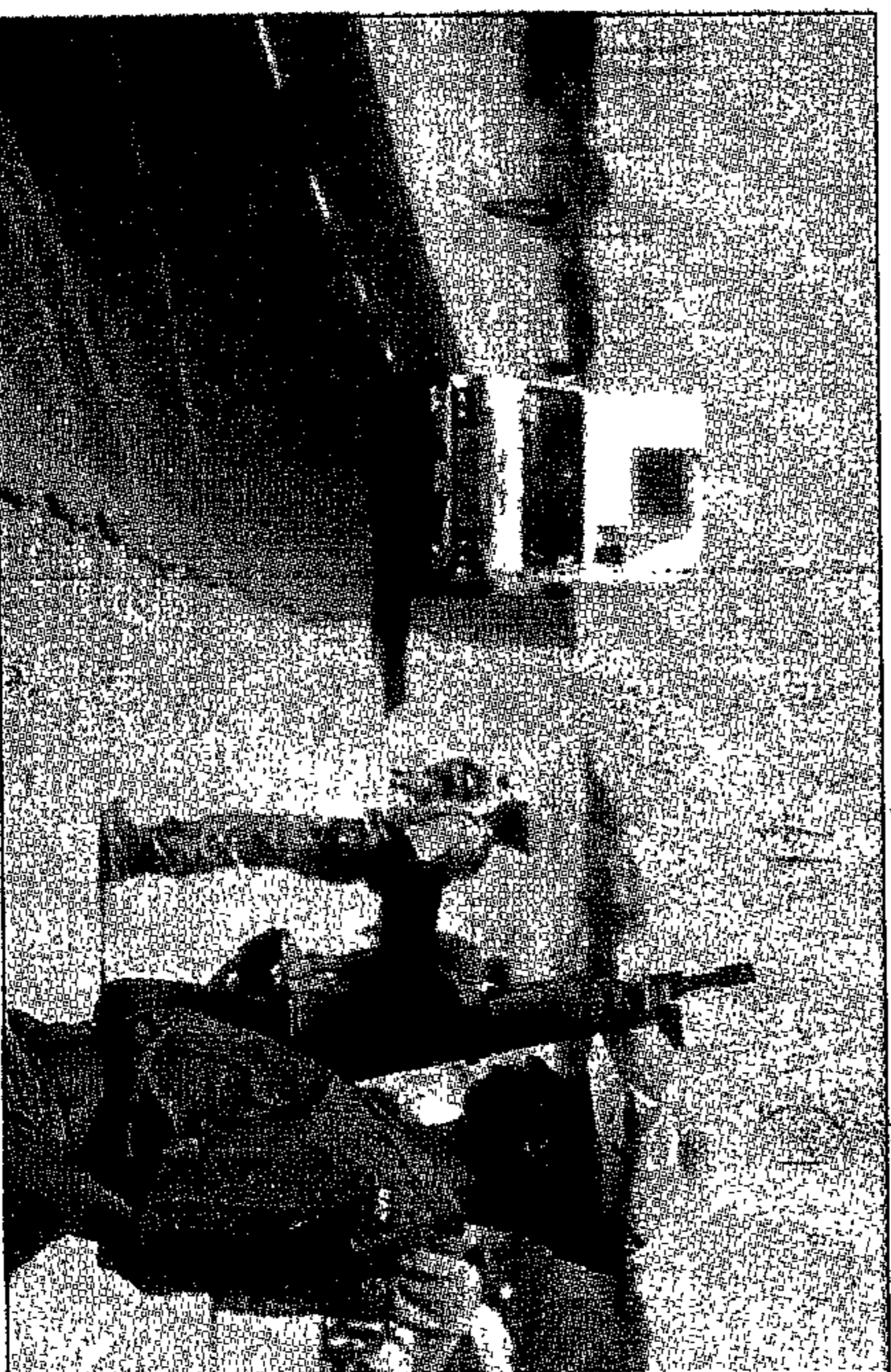
Provincial commissioners are given very little authority, constitutionally, when it comes to organised crime and public order policing and are constitutionally prohibited from promoting staff above the level of Superintendent.

Provincial MEC's for safety and security suffer from a similar lack of authority, while provincial legislatures have almost no legislative authority in policing matters.

Worse still, provincial commissioners have no control over the budgetary allocation to a particular province, which is entirely determined by the National Commissioner.

More worryingly, provincial commissioners are subject to a confusing and contradictory chain of command: to the National Commissioner operationally and to the MEC politically. Consequently, at the managerial level of provincial policing, we are faced with the constitutionally odious notion of power without responsibility, while, at the political level, we see responsibility without power.

While the present constitutionally-driven



CHECKING CARS: It will take a good deal more than police roadblocks and spot checks to combat criminality in SA.

structure of policing in South Africa is patently defective, it does at least have the merit of creating limited decentralisation. Given time, one would hope, provinces and provincial commissioners would demand and obtain greater powers.

Unfortunately, the centralists among the authors of our draft final Constitution are in the ascendant. Chapter 13 of which almost

and regulated. The only mention that the provinces receive in the whole chapter is that a provincial government is obliged to monitor and oversee the conduct and efficiency of the police service in a province. Any vestige of political accountability by provincial commissioners is removed by s 182 (4), which provides that the National Commissioner "may direct provincial commissioners," who will presumably, in the future, be appointed by the National Commissioner without the consent of the provinces.

Although some may say that the answer to this conundrum lies in the South African Police Service Act, 1995, which does make some allowance for provincial autonomy, as an ordinary Act of Parliament, it may be changed at Parliament's whim. Indeed, the fact that the final Constitution truncates the policing power of the provinces is likely to be an invitation to Parliament to remove any vestige of provincial autonomy.

It is of course, true that crime is localised, not centralised. It is equally true that some crime, such as organised crime, is not only national but international in character.

Our present Constitution recognises the reality, that, at some levels, particularly local and regional, pro-active policing needs to be devolved locally.

Thus, the present Constitution allows local authorities, without any enabling legislation, but with the consent of the responsible MEC, to establish a metropolitan or municipal police service. The job of such police service is essentially preventive and

reactive: a much needed supplement to the wholly inadequate resources of the SAPS. The logic of the present Constitution is that no one knows local conditions better than a local authority. It should, accordingly, be the responsibility of local government as the financier of such service, to establish and organise a metropolitan police service as it thinks best.

The final Constitution, oblivious to this reality, simply removes metropolitan/provincial government competence. At a stroke of a pen, local government will lose its Constitutionally-guaranteed right to establish a local government police service. Provincial legislatures will similarly lose any right to legislate on metropolitan policing. While metropolitan policing will undoubtedly happen this year and next, it will be on the basis of national legislation, national uniformity and a national disregard for regional and local differences.

Few police services in the world are as constitutionally centralised as the SAPS will become if the final Constitution becomes law. South Africa's shocking crime rate and the conspicuous lack of success that the former SAP had in combating crime under a highly centralised command structure, should all point us in the direction of decentralisation. Ignoring all international precedent, our constitutional masters have failed to appreciate that to be omniscient is not to be present.

Peter Leon is leader of the Democratic Party, Gauteng

SAW 24/2/96

Top busters of economic crimes will follow paper trail

THEY work their way through mazes of financial red herrings to crack the codes of cunning money scams — and expose them for the shocking crimes with severe economic consequences that they are.

The Office For Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) investigators are the country's top white collar crime-fighters and have been responsible for uncovering this country's most sensational financial scandals since its inception in 1992.

Nationwide, there are only about 20 advocates — helped by about about 20 top detectives — in OSEO.

"It's a paper trail, but it's certainly not a dull job," said advocate Mr Tommy Prins, head of OSEO's 12 Cape-based members.

City investigators are currently working on 13 cases, including the probe involving the Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams, who resigned



WHITE COLLAR criminals cannot escape this aim of the law, writes JACKIE CAMERON.

decided whether there will be a prosecution in connection with the case.

Stockbroker Greg Blank was one of the first to be felled by them in 1992 when they uncovered a deceptively simple scheme in which Blank and Old Mutual investment fund managers manipulated share prices and made a profit of almost

R10 million.

Blank was sentenced to eight years in prison and is still behind bars in Krugersdorp Prison.

OSEO have also had their hands full with the investigation into the collapse of the Tollgate group, which owed about R600 million when it went into liquidation.

Prins says: "We are called in to do speedy inquiries. Before we take a case, we look at the amount of money involved, the complexity

of the case, the urgency of the matter and public interest.

"Sometimes we are precluded from taking a case if we do not have an advocate available.

"We first do a preliminary investigation. Someone comes off the street, speaks to me and I evaluate what the person tells me. I take a statement, and then make a recommendation to our director in Pretoria, advocate Mr Jan Swanepoel.

"If he suspects that a serious

CT 26/2/96 (34)

offence has been committed, then we investigate. If we find offences have been committed, we report this to the minister of justice and send a copy of our report to the attorney-general. We recommend whether or not there should be a prosecution."

These investigators are independent from police control and the attorneys-general offices. They cannot effect arrests and prosecute suspected offenders unless the attorney-general grants them power

of prosecution for a case. But they do have the power to subpoena witnesses to testify at hearings — and hand over documents — in OSEO offices as soon as they have declared the case a serious economic offence.

The OSEO's track record exposes them as ruthless in their efforts to root out the most cunning white collar criminals and see them brought to book.

For OSEO investigators, no one is untouchable.

until the very end

Corruption could cripple SA, but ...

(34) (257) M+G 1-7/3/96

Karen Harverson

SOUTH AFRICA'S corporate standards are being polluted by corruption, and the toll on the country is far higher than the mere monetary value.

For example, corruption in Nigeria was initially accepted as a way of "getting the job done" — and so the cost of corruption was less than its monetary value because it had spin-offs of greater efficiency, explained Professor Lawrence Schlemmer of the Nedcor Project on Crime, Violence and Investment, at the fourth annual conference on fraud hosted by Compact Business Systems.

"But, of course, today Nigeria's society and economy is crippled by corruption and it is plainly costing more than its monetary price," he added.

Although statistics were unreliable, Schlemmer said corruption in South Africa was surging and estimated that serious economic offences in South Africa were up to three times higher than in Britain relative to the economy. "Just looking at commercial branch cases, between 1992 and 1995, there was a 60% real increase in the amounts involved in fraud."

He attributed the increase in fraud, in part, to the transition the country has undergone. "Also to blame are skill shortages and high rates of emigration, which result in controlling agencies running out of human resources," said Schlemmer.

Other factors, such as the general increase in crime, have resulted in more police entering the private security sector, further depleting the personnel in the various police commercial branches available to fight fraud.

Senior superintendent Frik Kitching of Gauteng's commercial crime unit said the unit had lost a lot of personnel to the private sector. "It's an enormous problem because we can't compare to private sector rates, in order to keep our investigators, in whom we've invested time and money on training."

But whatever the cause, said Schlemmer, corruption is at an unacceptably high level and the money cost thereof is higher than all other crime combined.

Also of concern, is that as much as 60% of corruption is committed by people in management positions, whereas in other countries it is mainly carried out by people in salaried employee positions.

So how much is it really costing South Africa? Schlemmer said the state was the victim in about 33% of serious economic offences in South Africa, far higher than in countries such as the UK, the United States, France or Germany.

"Including tax evasion, fraud, tariff scams and financial irregularities, the state may be penalised by as much as R25-billion a year, which equals 17% of the 1994/95 budget," commented Schlemmer.

He pointed out that this is roughly the size of South Africa's interest payments on the state debt — "one of the factors crippling our capacity to improve the lot of the people".

In essence, said Schlemmer, the combination of interest and corruption means that of South Africa's state financial system, some 35% is being spent on things it shouldn't be spending money on, if society had better controls.

The state, he said, may fight back by robbing investment capital which, along with high taxes, is imposing a huge penalty on a country that needs investment capital to grow.

Another serious implication for South Africa, if corruption continued unabated, is the damage caused to growth opportunities.

"Overseas countries may become cautious about risking investment in a country whose reputation for serious economic offences are growing. So, corruption is costing South Africa more all round than its financial value," he said.

Karen Harverson

CORPORATE fraud is on the increase and it's costing companies millions of rands each year. In many cases, companies are reluctant to bring a criminal case against the perpetrator — frequently an employee.

"Companies are scared to bring criminal charges for a number of reasons, be it their reputation, lack of knowledge of criminal processes or the stigma of going to court," says Eskom corporate investigations department senior adviser, Christo Giani.

He says a company may prefer to hold an internal disciplinary hearing and thereby dismiss the employee, or in some cases, negotiate a package to pay the person to leave.

Very often, if the company wants to be compensated for the loss, it will institute a civil case against the person.

"However, this can prove to be expensive as the company has to hire an attorney to argue the case," says Giani.

Instead, he suggests the company proceed with a criminal case, which means the public prosecutor takes on the case against the individual, and the state bears the cost.

"Even if the person is found not guilty, the company is not liable for costs or open to a defamation case

against it by the person, provided all the facts of the case were honestly presented," says Giani.

Although a criminal conviction does not mean the company will be compensated for the losses incurred by the fraud, it is then able — on the basis of the criminal conviction — to instruct the public prosecutor to apply for a Section 300 judgment.

According to Section 300 of the Criminal Procedure Act, any convicted person who has caused damage and or losses to another person through his crime, may on request by the victim in certain circumstances be ordered to compensate the victim.

"Many companies are unaware of this option — they can save legal costs by instituting a criminal prosecution and still get monetary restitution by applying for a Section 300 judgment."

The amount awarded to the victim (the company) will depend on the court in which the case is heard: a magistrate's court may only award a maximum of R20 000 in damages while a regional court may not exceed R200 000.

"If you apply for Section 300, you lose the right to institute further actions, so if you find after the judgment there were further losses, then you have 60 days to notify the court to withdraw the judgment so that you are in a position to launch a civil case," says Giani.

Section 300 pays off

Strategy to fight fraud

(34)

Sawetan 5/3/96
By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

CORRUPTION was part and parcel of the apartheid era in government and has "continued to plague our society", President Nelson Mandela said in Parliament.

What was needed immediately, Mandela said, was a national strategy to fight the corruption that was a feature of the former bantustans.

He said that to rid society of the corruption plague a number of commissions of inquiry had been appointed to "bring the culprits to justice".

Where possible and necessary, the commissions would effect restitution.

Three major commissions under way were:

- The Skweyiya Commission of Inquiry into corrupt practices by various government officials and the misuse of state funds in Bophuthatswana;

- The Budlender Commission of Inquiry into irregularities in relation to assets in the old TBVC states; and

- The Heath Commission of Inquiry relating to state property and other property in the Eastern Cape.

The commissions were, however, not the answer to getting to the root of the problems, because the measures were inadequate, Mandela said.

"They only go as far as those specific areas and do not investigate corruption in the whole of the country. The investigations need to be rationalised and an effective national strategy be developed to fight corruption.

"It is with this objective in mind that plans to set up a national commission against corruption are well advanced," said Mandela.

Terms of reference, which would possibly include the power to make binding orders, are being finalised.

While not giving a time frame for the commission to begin its work, he said it would be soon.

Omar: Crime thrives in justice system

ESTELLE RANDALL
Staff Reporter

CRIME syndicates are thriving on corruption in South Africa's justice system, says Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

Speaking at an anti-drugs conference in Paarl last night, he said bribery was occurring in the justice system as a result of poor salaries.

He said many battles had been fought over the need to treat "professionals as professionals". While cabinet had accepted the principle, what this meant in practice for those involved in the justice system had yet to be worked out.

He said that in some parts of the country, police dockets had mysteriously disappeared. Every court should establish systems to prevent this.

There should also be improvements to the expertise of prosecutors, who now had to

operate within the framework of the constitution and its bill of rights.

"Everybody enjoys those rights and people who commit crimes often claim these rights before anyone else."

Mr Omar said he would attend a conference of Commonwealth law ministers in April, where countries would focus on drug trafficking and organised crime.

Mr Omar said South Africa had the capacity to deal with organised crime.

But doing so required greater cooperation between different components of the criminal justice system, a professional approach to prosecutions with proper training for prosecutors, adequate pay for staff, tighter laws and co-operation between South Africa and its neighbours.

He was speaking at the open-

ing of the conference which is being hosted by the office of Western Cape attorney-general, Frank Kahn.

"The problem is the fragmentation of the justice system. There is a specialised role for each department and a need for all to exist but we must ensure that we don't work against one another," Mr Omar said.

Co-operation was more important now because South Africa was a target for international crime syndicates who were sophisticated and had access to many resources to ply their trade.

Besides co-operation between the different departments, South Africa had to co-operate with countries in Africa and elsewhere.

A Southern African group on safety and security had also been established to create a se-

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cure environment in the region. An important aspect was control of South Africa's borders.

Mr Omar said the causes of crime were essentially socio-economic and unless these were dealt with crime would not be reduced.

"Whether or not we have the death penalty, we will still have to develop an effective deterrent to crime."

Key elements of such a deterrent involved ensuring that potential criminals knew with certainty that they would be arrested, their cases would be properly investigated and prosecuted, that they would get effective sentencing and that they would serve their sentences.

"Our main problem is that criminals are not being apprehended. So the rest doesn't come into play at all."

CRIMINALS GATHERING HAMSTERS

ARG 9/3/96

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■ While the government tries to give the impression that it is going all out to fight crime, the reality is that the police — understaffed, demoralised and underpaid — are fighting a losing battle.

WILLEM STEENKAMP, Staff Reporter

OUTGOING provincial Minister of Police Services Patrick McKenzie has lashed out against the central government for not giving effective power to provincial police services, warning that lack of power made it difficult to fight crime.

And Gerald Morkel, outgoing Minister of Housing and new Minister of Police Services in the Western Cape, has vowed that he will stem the tide, making Cape Town safe for all.

Mr Morkel said that if necessary he would launch a crime blitz throughout the Cape.

"Criminals must know that the long arm of the law will be out there waiting for them. Cape Town must become a safe city for all. People should not have to hide in their houses for fear of criminals.

"I have put my political career on the line in accepting this tough challenge, but I intend to fight this evil with all the powers within my means", warned Mr Morkel.

Referring to plans by the cash-strapped Department of Correctional Services to re-

From page 1
assembly to devolve more powers to the provinces in line with federal structures around the world. We want the right to train our own policemen. We have no problem with a national standard being laid down to which our training must adhere, but we want the right to train and appoint our own staff.

"We have some of the best police training facilities in the country, but we are not allowed to do any training. These facilities stand empty and will go to ruin. The situation needs to be resolved urgently."

Mr McKenzie's criticism on the central government's tardiness in the devolvement of powers was echoed by Cape Premier HERNUS KRIEL, who said the seriousness with which the Western Cape government viewed the crime situation was reflected in the fact that Gerald Morkel — the most senior minister in the local cabinet — had been appointed as the new Minister of Police Services.

Mr Kriel said the provincial

government was being blamed for crime in the Western Cape, but the regional government had no power.

"We want powers to be devolved down to us because we believe we know local circumstances better and would be in a better position to re-deploy resources."

Mr McKenzie said: "In the Western Cape we have launched several innovative schemes to fight crime and I believe we are leading the country with these strategies.

"A peace corps consisting of young unemployed men in the townships will be formed and we will train these young men to help combat crime in these areas.

■ Top community policemen — Page 7

lease up to 40 percent of so-called non-dangerous criminals, Mr McKenzie — who is to become the new national Minister of Welfare and Population Development — said a dangerous perception was being created that authorities were soft on criminals and hard on victims.

Mr McKenzie said he had written to the central government asking that powers be devolved down to the provinces as a matter of urgency so they could launch effective strategies to fight crime.

"I have asked the national

■ To page 3

"The Western Cape has now also established 100 community police forums on which members of the community and the police serve. These forums are headed by civilian chairmen and play an important role to foster better relationships between the police and the community."

37 000 HOUSES BURGLIED EVERY MONTH

Burglars terrorise city suburbs

(34) CT 12/3/96

A HOUSE IS broken into every 15 minutes in the Western Cape. Crime Writer **JACKIE CAMERON** looks at house-breaking trends and the best way to safeguard your house.

THE 28-YEAR-OLD police-woman cocked her firearm as she peered through a tiny broken window of a Rondebosch home to see three scantily clad youths fighting over designer clothing.

"This is the police", Sergeant Toni Bongers shouted as she fired a warning shot. Within seconds, the panic-stricken youths scrambled to the nearest exit and into the hands of detectives.

One of the youths grabbed Bongers' gun and turned it towards her stomach, but was overpowered. After yet another brush with death, Bongers had successfully rounded up another gang of burglars.

She is one of many detectives struggling to cope with a growing pile of housebreaking cases. The problem is compounded by a reluctance on the part of victims to testify once their belongings have been returned or insurance has paid out. The burglars walk free, and continue with their crimes.

A home is burgled every 15 minutes in the Western Cape.

Last year about 37 000 residences were broken into every month. The trends vary from suburb to suburb. In Rondebosch more cases are reported in February when University of Cape Town students return to find that their rooms have been broken into.

In Muizenberg, housebreakings escalate over the festive season when there are more people staying in the area, according to the police.

Most homes are broken into during the day when people go out, in what detectives call "opportunity breaks".

"They see someone leaving the house, and then ring the door bell. They know they have got about 20 minutes to break in before someone returns," said Bongers.

"About 50% of burglars in this area are youths who roam the streets. A lot of these youngsters have parents who are not wealthy but can support them. These children want money and they are not interested in attending school.

"Some of these youths are highly dangerous. We recently arrested an 18-year-old who has already been arrested in connection with two murders which he committed when he was a juvenile. Housebreakings dropped significantly in the week following his arrest."

A senior policeman said a Woodstock man recently pointed out more than 47 houses in Rondebosch, Mowbray and Claremont he had burgled to support his R3 500 a day drug habit.

He said: "He told us he wanted to confess because he wanted to kick the habit.

"Most stolen goods are sold off

quickly for minimal amounts of money to businessmen with second-hand and pawn shops.

"Burglar alarms, burglar bars and security gates may act as a deterrent, but cannot stop a determined burglar.

"Burglars thump a window hard enough to set off the alarm without breaking the glass, and then disappear. Armed response companies check the premises and find nothing amiss. The burglars do this several times until the alarm is switched off and reported as faulty. Then they break in."

Young thieves find burglar bars easy to climb through, and the locks of security gates easy to foil.

"I believe in a proper dog. Burglars tend to be scared of them. I would opt for a female dog. I know of one case in which the burglars brought a female bitch on heat to the house and opened the gate. The normally fierce guard dog left the house to chase after her," the policeman said.

Police spokesman Captain Evan Johnston has this advice:

- Keep valuables out of sight to prevent tempting burglars to break-in.

- Place "Beware of the Dog" and "Burglar Alarm" signs around your property, even if you do not have them.

- Take identity numbers and addresses of all casual workers who come to your property because they are often behind burglaries.

- Do not open your door to strangers because they often force their way in after pretending that they have something to sell.

'Government fails to take white collar crime to task'

CT15/3/96

(34)

JACKIE CAMERON
CRIME WRITER

AS police struggle to cope with a staggering R7,5 billion worth of white collar crime, the business sector has lashed out at the government for failing to make this economic scourge a priority.

At least 80% of white collar crime was not reported because business lacked confidence in the authorities' ability to bring offenders to book, Mr Petrus Marais, an advocate, said.

Speaking at a crime conference in Stellenbosch yesterday Marais also criticised companies for their "reluctance to spend money in crime prevention until they become victims".

It further emerged at the conference that:

- The government is poised to spend R200m towards improving the judicial system.

- Foreign investors rate crime very low on their list of priorities when considering investing here, a survey has shown.

- The Department of Justice intends reviewing its sentencing poli-

cies — it may allow the lower courts to impose stiffer jail terms — and finding ways of speeding up court cases.

- Border controls may be tightened up to prevent international criminals and illegal immigrants from entering South Africa.

Marais said that only 20% of crimes were reported to police and the "single greatest contributing factor to this is a lack of confidence in the authorities to investigate and successfully convict an offender".

He said the justice system was "crippled, if not paralysed" when it came to economic crime.

In Johannesburg, the financial capital, about 50% of the posts at the police's commercial crime unit had not been filled and "the rest of the staff are inexperienced".

"Police cannot go to prosecutors for guidance because they are also inexperienced. The attorney-general's office can take up to two years for decisions to prosecute."

The Office for Serious Economic Offences had only 10 advocates in Johannesburg and six in Cape Town,

"which is obviously inadequate".

"At present there are only two commercial crime matters on the Johannesburg court roll. One had been running for four years and the other is coming up later this year."

Ministry of Justice official Mr Enver Daniels said that "unacceptably high levels of secrecy" under the former government had "given rise to conditions under which fraud could take place". Police were currently investigating cases involving R7,5 billion and there were moves afoot to improve the judicial system with the help of R200 million in RDP funds.

Daniels said his department would also look at stiffer sentences for criminals, tight security at places of safety where juvenile serious offenders were held and public education programmes.

Dr Robin Lee, of Nedcor, said a recent survey of 70 existing and potential foreign investors revealed that "contrary to common wisdom, the companies rated crime and violence in South Africa as 21st and 22nd considerations in making their investment decisions".

Wages and housing among mineworkers' top demands

CT(BR) 18/3/96 (21)

By ROSS HERBERT

Pretoria — Wage hikes 2 percent above inflation, large increases in minimum wages, radical changes in worker housing and an end to racial discrimination are among the top bargaining demands for this year agreed to by the NUM at its annual central committee congress at the weekend.

The union said it wanted to seek a two-year wage agreement with the Chamber of Mines that would raise minimum wages to R1 320 a month for surface workers and R1 458 for underground workers, a significant jump from the average of R1 164 now received by NUM members.

The union said it would seek a collapse of job categories 1 to 4 into one category paid at the minimum for category 4. For mines outside the

Chamber, the minimum demand would be 25 percent for category 4.

Kgalema Motlanthe, the general secretary of the union, said "starvation wages" of as little as R325 a month were still a problem that the union would have to combat at some small-scale mines.

The union said it intended to challenge mine management on a wide range of racially discriminatory practices and demand equal wages for all workers in the same jobs.

"Racist attitudes still lie behind every rule and regulation that exists for black workers in the mining and energy sectors," the union's draft list of bargaining priorities said.

The bargaining document said housing was the area of the most pronounced racial discrimination. It said the union would push for the same

housing rules to apply to white and black workers and it would seek housing allowances apart from minimum wage demands.

Allowances, the union said, should be set so that no worker paid more than 15 percent of salary for housing. One option included working with local government to use housing subsidies for construction of houses on mine property.

The union also intended asking for additional compensation for black workers disabled before 1977.

At the time, disabled white workers got life pensions while blacks got a lump sum, which many workers spent quickly.

Subcontractors should also pay the same wages and follow the same work rules for their workers as apply to NUM members, the union said.

Union confronts authorities over crime

CT(BR) 18/3/96 (34)

By ROSS HERBERT

Pretoria — The labour movement must challenge the government over its failure to fight crime adequately, James Motlatsi, the NUM president, said on Friday.

Speaking to the union's annual central committee congress, Motlatsi also said that the union movement had failed to set the political agenda and was largely reacting to business.

There were two issues on which the labour movement should challenge the government. "The first is crime and the second is their new growth and development strategy.

"I believe the government is not being firm enough in dealing with the crime wave that is terrorising our communities," Motlatsi said.

The government should put more resources into prosecuting networks of

organised crime, eliminating the ability to sell stolen goods and blocking the sale of stolen vehicles.

Motlatsi said the government's present economic strategy had more in common with business than labour.

"I am sick to death of the progressive forces in this country being anti anything. Let business take a defensive stance. We have the space to be on the offensive," he said.

Motlatsi said labour was failing to influence the government because of a breakdown in the Cosatu-ANC alliance. "There is no real co-ordination of forces at factory, mine, shop, farm and township level."

He suggested that regulations be imposed on the alliance requiring at least two meetings a year at the executive level and more frequent ones at regional and local levels.

The union needed to bolster its

expertise to make it better able to challenge cost-cutting and downsizing efforts in the mining industry.

"NUM should hire its own geologists, mining engineers and experts as consultants to assess the nature and extent of mineral reserves in every case where there is a question mark over continued production. I want us to challenge the employers to provide us with the information on which they base their decisions ... so that we can work out a joint production strategy."

Some NUM members privately raised questions about how much senior union officials were earning. He said there should be a policy throughout Cosatu that the fees earned by officials for sitting on private boards go to a special fund. Motlatsi told the central committee that members should not expect salaries rivalling those in government or industry.

SA continues to be beset by a criminality crisis

(34) 10/14/96

Peter Leon

SA IS facing a crisis of criminality. Last year, according to the Nedcor project on crime, a staggering 80% of homes in SA experienced some form of crime or violence, representing R1.1bn in costs or, simply, Gauteng's entire budget for last year.

In about 60% of the homes burgled last year children younger than 17 experienced crime or violence.

It is strange for the NP to criticise the ANC for doing nothing about crime, when serious crime increased 22% between 1980 and 1990, under PW Botha, while the SAP enforced apartheid rather than fought crime.

In this way they effectively created a culture of reactive rather than preventive policing, which bedevils the SAPS to this day.

Crime increased 21% between 1990 and 1994, during the rule of then president FW de Klerk, who has, since 1994, chaired the key Cabinet committee on security and intelligence. The NP agreed with the ANC that the police budget should be reduced by 4% last year, despite an enormous increase in last year's crime rate.

For its part, the ANC, in 1994, promised to wage an all-out war against crime.

Although we have seen numerous roadblocks, anti-crime plans and programmes of every description, the incidence of most serious crime — with the exception of murder — has increased.

During a six-month period in Gauteng last year, reported rape incidents increased 12%, housebreakings 10%, vehicle theft 5% and hijackings — where the province leads the field by 75% — 7% over year-earlier figures.

It is quite extraordinary, then, that in this environment the SAPS has been compelled by government to place a two-year moratorium on the employment of extra police personnel because of an acute shortage of funding.

It is obvious that in provinces as crime-ridden as Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, only a massive increase in and deployment of police resources on a visible basis will help rid us of the scourge of crime that besets our community.

Although the government can point to the success of community policing as a new initiative against crime, the Institute for Defence Policy has recently found that "the successes of community policing are modest and it appears that community policing does best in the areas that need it least".

Unfortunately, the government and the SAPS's senior management labour under the misapprehension that a national crime prevention strategy needs to be nationally driven. The truth is that crime is localised, not centralised.

Unless a national strategy is locally driven, it is doomed to failure. That is why the DP is alarmed by the proposal, made by the ANC in

the draft constitution, to remove metropolitan policing as a joint provincial-local government competence and replace it with national legislation, driven nationally.

We are disappointed by what we have seen of government's draft national crime prevention strategy. In the first place, the ministerial strategy team behind it is far too narrowly based, being drawn entirely from the security ministries and the justice ministry.

In the UK, by contrast, such a team is not only multidisciplinary, but driven by disciplines as vastly different as economic planning and urban deprivation.

If the ANC is really tough on the causes of crime, why have none of the welfare and housing ministries been involved in the formulation of this strategy?

The draft strategy paints the big picture, but is rather vague on the detail. In particular, it pays no attention to local government and the need to involve local, not national, agencies in actual crime prevention programmes.

It is hardly surprising that the SA business community is less than impressed with government's record on crime: despite devoting much time, money and effort to the Business Initiative Against Crime.

In December, two-thirds of all business people polled by Nedcor found government's efforts to be "not at all convincing".

Government must realise that it is no use dressing up public relations exercises as a crime prevention policy. Not only will the public no longer believe it, but, more importantly, criminals will take the same view. It is no use managing a variety of disparate programmes which attempt to address different crime prevention issues but leave out local government.

What crime prevention needs is a management-driven, multidisciplinary, multipronged approach. One way of achieving this may well be to institute an RDP against crime, located in the office of the President, which is able both to involve and direct line function ministries on a holistic basis. New Zealand now has a crime prevention unit in the prime minister's office doing exactly this job, while South Australia has a crime prevention ministry. SA, by contrast, has lots of plans and lots of crime.

□ Leon is leader of the DP in the Gauteng provincial legislature. This is an edited version of a speech he made last week during a debate on the crime situation.



LEON

National plan for fighting crime to be adopted soon

(34) Star 26/3/96

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Reporter

A national framework aimed at the curbing of crime through co-operation between the Government, the private sector and the police is to be released soon.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) will include plans to tighten the South African banking industry to stop international money-laundering, and the restructuring of motor vehicle registration systems in all nine provinces.

An official of the SA Police Service secretariat, Janine Rauch, told an Mpumalanga government crime summit yesterday that the NCPS, which is expected to be released by the end of next month, would be a guideline to provincial governments for adaptation to their own situation.

"The challenges facing the implementers of the strategy is to get the criminal justice system to work effectively, mobilising civil

society into a partnership in which it will make it its responsibility to fight crime, to provide a clear vision in which strategies can be developed to meet changing needs and to set up structures to innovate, lead and co-ordinate programmes," she said.

Rauch added that creating employment, investing in people, enhancing investment in household and economic infrastructure, creating a system of welfare safety nets and transforming the Government and the public service formed the cornerstones of the NCPS.

She said that in streamlining and reforming the criminal justice system, the Government sought to create a smooth linkage between the police, courts and correctional services.

"The strategy, which must be looked at and implemented as a whole include factors such as ensuring that there is appropriate sentencing of criminals, a programme of diversion for young petty offenders, the co-ordina-

tion of legislation to prevent white-collar crime and the provision of secure care facilities for juveniles and support programmes for victims of crime," Rauch said.

Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa told delegates that the current high crime levels in South Africa had led to several negative consequences.

"These include an unwillingness to move towards fixed investment by international investors, internal uneasiness, restraints on the tourism industry, impediments on development, stability, and a lack of security."

For the NCPS to be a success, the public needed to be encouraged to join hands with the police to fight crime, Phosa said.

"In essence, police, justice and correctional services are all over-burdened due to insufficient skilled personnel, ineffective systems and a serious lack of co-ordination of policy management between departments," he said.

US investors warn against SA crime

Star 3/4/96 (34)
The American Chamber of Commerce yesterday warned that South Africa would suffer negative effects unless urgent steps were taken to combat violent crime.

Amcham said the findings of a survey conducted among its members on violence, crime and security had been sent to Commissioner George Fivaz.

While the survey indicated encouraging levels of long-term investment confidence, Am-

cham members, including some who had recently invested, said urgent steps were needed to combat violent crime or South Africa would lose out.

Eighty-six percent of the participants in the survey felt that police resources were inadequate to deal with crime.

The vast majority of companies surveyed were extremely security conscious and used a high level of security.

Nevertheless, 48% had expe-

rienced a break-in or burglary over the past year, 48% had experienced hijacking of a delivery vehicle and 24% had experienced a car hijacking.

Two-thirds of companies said business confidence was being affected by crime.

Amcham said the survey had two specific objectives: to establish data on crime levels, and to provide some form of guidance for Americans wishing to invest in South Africa. — Sapa.

Crime: No room for complacency

(34) (45) M+G (MM) 4-11/4/96

Economic issues frequently override the fear of crime for prospective investors in South Africa, writes **Madeleine Wackemagel**

CONTRARY to popular wisdom, South Africa's high crime rate is not a significant deterrent to foreign investment, according to a new survey.

Professor Robin Lee, who collated the research for the Nedcor Project, was somewhat surprised at the result, having expected crime to play a more important role in foreign investment decisions. In many respects, the conclusions are predictable: issues of competitiveness and economics come first, social factors second.

But local investors and foreign companies already operating here are being hit — hard. According to Lee, other research done by the Nedcor Project shows that investment plans are being postponed or, in some cases, shelved completely.

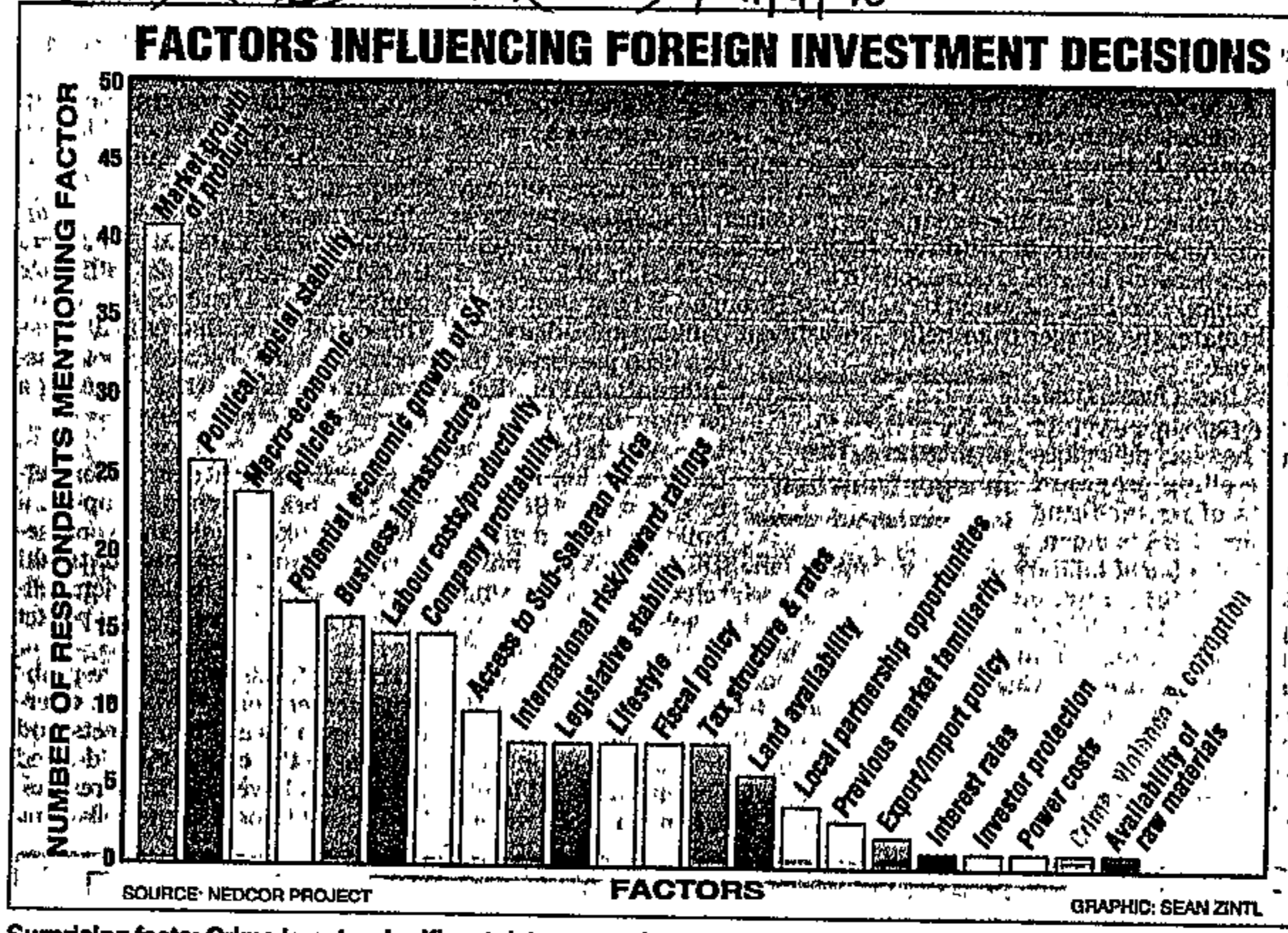
Indeed, a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) released this week shows that 48% of respondents — mostly companies with more than 200 employees — had suffered a delivery vehicle hijacking and 24% a car hijacking in the past 12 months. A total 27% had experienced the assault of an employee, and 48% had been victims of burglary or a break-in.

The problem is particularly acute in Gauteng. Dr Ben van Rensburg of the South African Chamber of Business (Sacob) says: "In Sacob's experience, crime is definitely a high-profile issue. Many of our members have been subjected to some sort of personal attack, especially in Gauteng."

Staffing problems are an issue, even for the big multinationals. Van Rensburg quotes a visiting Danish executive as saying he would never want to live behind barbed wire, in constant fear for his personal safety.

Smaller and medium-sized businesses are more likely to be put off by crime than the bigger corporations, says Klaus Schuurman of the South African-German Chamber of Commerce, because of the impact on their investment of hijacking, personal safety, etcetera, is more immediate.

The AmCham report highlights that the cost of security protection to combat the unusually high levels of crime was an additional inhibiting factor to investment. Almost two-thirds of respondents said business confidence was affected somewhat by prevailing crime rates; 28% said they were not affected.



SOURCE: NEDCOR PROJECT GRAPHIC: SEAN ZINTL

Surprising facts: Crime is not a significant deterrent to foreign investment



Under siege: Burglars and hijackers have put foreigners in the line of fire

PHOTO: HENNER FRANKENFELD

An overwhelming majority (86%) felt the levels of appropriate police resources were inadequate to handle the crime level, with another 80% saying they felt the service levels of the police were poor. The most serious risks to business were hijacking (27%), theft and shrinkage (17%) and threats to people (10%).

Is the government doing enough? The problem, says Graham Simpson, director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, is one of co-ordination at inter-governmental level. There are no quick fixes; government should seek a co-ordinated approach, encompassing all departments from edu-

cation to the prisons service and social welfare.

Most of the companies surveyed by Lee made the distinction between the transitional and permanent nature of a high crime "culture" — if the latter were to develop here, it would put South Africa in the same category as Nigeria, which is not a popular

investment destination. But at the same time they did not think private intervention was necessary; it was more important for government to produce cohesive crime prevention strategies.

In addition to the above factors, for many multinationals, crime is relative. Russia and Colombia, for example, present far greater problems for companies' operations.

Said one interviewee: "What we have found to be a problem is 'opportunistic violence'. But South Africa is not Russia, where you have to hire bodyguards for visiting executives."

A more important indicator of investor sentiment is that political and social stability scored very high, coming second after product opportunities. The years of isolation and disinvestment experienced by South Africa during the apartheid era are testimony to the belief that social upheaval is a far greater threat to investment than so-called opportunistic crime.

Latin America is a case in point. Years of political upheaval and government instability have taken their toll on investment plans, but relative to the rest of Africa, South Africa still fares well.

A survey of investment risk ratings, ranking countries from nought to 20, puts South Africa second, after Botswana, at 16.33. Rwanda scores 000, with Mozambique at two, Zimbabwe 12.67 and Nigeria 5.32.

Thus it would seem that foreign investors draw a distinction between political violence — which has dropped by more than 50% since the elections in 1994 — and general crime. But should "ordinary" crime rates escalate further — and South Africa is still the most violent country in the world — foreigners may interpret this as indicating a lack of effective government.

Such a situation could well spiral. Says Lee: "Foreign investment could suffer in any one of three scenarios: the public taking the law into their own hands as regards 'ordinary crime'; corruption in government at the local level; and high levels of public discontent with government's failure to control crime."

"In these scenarios, crime or its consequences threaten political stability and go straight to the top of any foreign investor's agenda."

But, he adds, the long-awaited National Crime Prevention Strategy, due to go before the Cabinet this month, should go some way to allay foreign and local investor fears. The key is strategic direction from government. While the problem is of a long-term nature, there are short-term measures to be taken that would at least send the right signals in terms of government intent.

Control crime or lose out on investment, says new poll

Company executives in South Africa were optimistic about the economic future but concerned about political volatility and the crime rate, a survey showed this week.

The poll by the American Chamber of Commerce in SA said many members believed the country would lose out on investment unless measures were taken by the Government to curb crime, theft and fraud.

Citing UN statistics, the survey said SA recorded the highest number of reported murders and assault cases in the world in 1991.

The American Chamber of

(34) (7113)
Commerce is made up of US and SA business bodies. Of the 104 chief executives who responded to its poll, about half had suffered a burglary and a hijacking in the past year.

South Africa remains riven by the economic gulf separating its six million whites and the rest of its 40-million-strong population.

While pointing to racial, ethnic and political tensions as well as a "culture of violence", the overwhelming majority of businessmen who responded to the poll put the high crime rate down to socio economic causes. - Reuter

Star 6/4/96

Farmers call for state of emergency

Louise Cook

FARMERS have threatened to withhold local government taxes unless government declares a state of emergency and imposes curfews until the serious rural crime situation improves.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) president Chris du Toit said farmers would be advised to stop paying certain taxes, using the money instead to buy security systems.

Natal Agricultural Union president Graham McInstosh warned that as a last resort farmers would openly rebel.

Figures released by the police showed that murders and violent attacks on farmers had jumped by 40% during the first nine months of last year.

(34) BD 12/4/96
At Heilbron in the Free State, hundreds of farmers accepted a resolution on Tuesday to stop paying levies to local authorities.

The Free State Agricultural Union demanded police be given effective equipment to fight crime in rural areas.

Yesterday the general council of the SAAU demanded government declare a state of emergency and impose curfews to fight the "increasing plague of murders, crime and assaults in SA, particularly on farms and rural areas".

Sapa reported that a meeting between Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and the Free State Agricultural Union scheduled for today was cancelled due to the death of Free State premier Patrick Lekota's daughter.

Farmers want state of emergency over crime

34 (2) Star 12/4/96
By NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

The Government has been asked by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) to declare a state of emergency and impose a curfew to stop crime, particularly in rural areas.

This follows farmers' warnings that they intend withholding payment of certain taxes and taking other action to protect themselves and their communities if the security situation does not improve "rapidly and noticeably".

The general council of the SAAU decided at a meeting in Pretoria yesterday to make the appeal "to stem the continuing

and increasing plague of murder, crime and assault".

SAAU president Chris du Toit said it was unacceptable that the state repeatedly declared its intention to combat crime but did not take action.

He said: "The security situation has reverted to the same level as during the terror onslaught and farmers no longer have confidence in existing security systems."

"If farmers have to set up their own security systems at considerable cost, the council will have no choice but to recommend to farmers that they withhold certain taxes for this purpose," Du Toit said.

Survey shows fraud to be rampant in SA

(34)
Adrienne Gillomee

BD 16/4/96
SA AND Germany were the two countries hardest hit by fraud, according to a worldwide study by professional services group KPMG.

More than 97% of SA respondents said they regarded fraud as "a major problem", while almost 80% indicated they were aware of domestic fraud. Despite this awareness, only 50% of SA employees said they knew how fraud could occur — the lowest of all the countries' respondents.

Respondents said they were least likely to do business in China, followed by Italy and Nigeria, as they perceived the countries as "fraud hot spots".

The study, conducted in 18 countries, found that more than half the companies surveyed expected fraud to be an increasing problem.

The report said corporate restructuring, political instability in various areas of the world and rapid technological advances gave rise to opportunities for new and more sophisticated methods of fraud.

International fraud included airline ticket fraud, cheque and credit card fraud and fraudulent money transfers, while the most common domestic fraud was kickbacks, followed by the purchase of items for personal use and the misappropriation of cash.

External fraud included false representation, patent infringement and secret payments such as bribes and commissions.

Most respondents said proper internal controls was the best mechanism to combat fraud, followed by specific investigations by management.

Africa — with respondents from SA, Malawi and Botswana — was the continent hit hardest by fraud, with 79% of employees surveyed aware of fraud in their organisations.

New govt body to oversee national anti-crime strategy

BO 25/4/96

(34)

Stephen Laufer

THE Cabinet has set up an interdepartmental committee of directors-general to drive anti-crime efforts.

The committee will oversee implementation of the national crime prevention strategy — a comprehensive plan to tackle the root causes and most visible manifestations of crime in SA. The final version of the strategy is to be presented to the Cabinet at the end of next month.

The crime prevention committee is made up of the most senior officials in the safety and security and defence secretariats, the SAPS and SANDF, the National Intelligence Agency, the SA Secret Service and the departments of justice and correctional services. Participation by the national intelligence co-ordination committee is apparently under discussion.

The strategy will closely co-ordinate government, private sector, non-governmental and community crime

prevention efforts.

The strategy is an integral part of the long-term growth and development strategy evolved under the auspices of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

A central focus is likely to be the criminal justice system, where greater co-ordination between police, prosecutors, judiciary and prisons will enhance deterrence and revive confidence in crime prevention efforts. A reduction in blockages in the criminal justice process, increased consistency in sentencing policies, and better management and sharing of information on criminals are among the goals set.

A multifaceted public education programme will target civic awareness and public attitudes to crime.

Urban design, transport systems, better vehicle registration and a better national identity system are among the physical upgrading needs the strategy will seek to address.

See Page 10

THE national crime prevention strategy which goes to Cabinet at the end of May can be expected to elicit howls of protest from most quarters. The strategy is likely to give a wide berth to quick-fix solutions typified by a radio station billboard on the M1 in Sandton which sports a giant executioner's noose and asks "Could snap decisions put an end to hijacking?"

Besides the hangers and floggers, the strategy could also have "bleeding heart" liberals and high-tech combat wizards up in arms. They will all search in vain for the single strong statement, the winning magic formula which is fervently held to be the sole solution to rising crime, public tensions and private anxieties.

Despite avoiding the easy options, the strategy is likely to be an intensely practical document. It will spell out a range of concrete options for greater public-private co-operation in improving the criminal justice process, altering community values, upgrading security, and tackling transnational crime.

But the strategy will not work if it is left to government to develop and implement, agree experts on crime. At today's Business Against Crime conference at the World Trade Centre, more than 400 delegates from the corporate to the small business sector are expected to formulate proposals in an attempt to influence government thinking on crime.

Business, government, communities and the nongovernmental sector must forge a broad alliance, the experts say.

Its task will be the repair of the country's moral fabric and to build faith in the criminal justice system, crucial to a fundamental shift in SA's crime situation.

At the heart of the national strategy will be an appeal for what expert jargon calls disaggregation — specialised approaches to different types of crime. This includes the prioritisation of different types of crime in different places — stock theft in the Free State, hijacking and fraud in Gauteng — and a greater understanding of problems facing investigators, prosecutors, and the judi-

National strategy an alliance to engage crime's diverse facets

(34) DP 25/4/96

STEPHEN LAUFER

ciary with specific types of crime. A major problem with murders, for example, is the lack of investigative skills and the huge case loads confronting detectives. While most murders are reported, many rapes are not, preventing development of a full picture by the police.

A detailed analysis of an individual problem will contribute to a targeted response by the SAPS and by other agencies. By focusing first on helping SA understand crime better, the strategy will help fight crime more effectively.

It will attempt to involve government departments apparently peripheral to crime prevention. Trade and industry and transport, for example, whose job is regulation, could be drawn into the search for solutions to bloody taxi feuds.

Housing, water affairs, and local government could have a role in responding to research which shows that if poorly managed, development of under resourced communities can bring new conflict and warlordism based on the new bounty.

Understanding crime better, say experts, is the precondition to prevention and a de-escalation of the highly charged emotions associated with the issue.

Individuals, businesses, and government and private agencies will contribute more effectively if they are able to better identify individual types of crime, its perpetrators, their backgrounds and behaviour.

Better understanding will also improve co-operation — in mobilising police resources in the right places, establishing consistency in sentencing, creating alternatives to prison for first time offenders, gathering intelligence on individual criminals and syndicates, and closing gaps in legislation.

Until now, crime has been the sole responsibility of the police, with failures — evident in highly emotive areas such as rising numbers of car hijackings, rapes, and murders — blamed on them and, by implication, on SA's new human rights culture which has removed the iron fist as an option.

Rising pressure on government for quick answers has resulted. Solutions proposed have generally been one-dimensional, including the return of the rope, high speed anti-hijacking units and more money for police.

Many are rooted in nostalgia for a supposedly simpler, more ordered, and largely crime-free past, or blind faith in the power of modern technology.

Focusing on highly visible crime, they tend to ignore the effect of less emotive but highly costly breaches of the law such as fraud, customs and tax evasion and corruption. Concentrating on deterrence or retribution, most quick solutions ig-

nore the victim, thus contributing to a sense of vulnerability in increasing numbers of ordinary people for whom the prospect of being at the receiving end of crime becomes increasingly real.

Few politicians have been able to resist public pressures for immediate responses to the highly visible type of criminal activity. Particularly those on the opposition benches have seized opportunities for grandstanding provided by the rising panic associated with undifferentiated crime reporting.

Indeed, the delay in publishing the crime prevention strategy appears to be the result of ministerial demands that the strategy include a set of short-term responses, alongside the proposals for a broad reorientation of the campaign against crime in SA.

The additions could strengthen the strategy significantly, particularly if they contribute to its acceptance as a whole by calming demands that something, anything, be done right away.

But to succeed, the crime prevention strategy will have to be implemented in its entirety and continuously developed over a lengthy period of time.

It is an approach which will test the patience of the public and the tenacity of the political leaders involved in an attempt at a major overhaul of how large sectors of govern-

ment see their role and how they function together.

If it is to significantly move the public perception that the police are useless, magistrates incompetent, the prisons porous and government as a whole soft on crime, the strategy will have to sell its analysis of SA's crime situation.

That analysis is crucial to understanding why the solutions can, in the main, only be long term, and will only have any chance of success if new crime prevention measures proceed in tandem.

SA was always a society with high crime and violence levels. Crime fighting resources were deployed unevenly, and most victims suffered far from the public eye.

But with the old barriers — distant townships, influx control, lowered material expectations, a paramilitary police, narrow access to the media — gone, crime has not only grown, it has come to town.

The explosion of criminal energy testing South Africans of all backgrounds is not untypical for a society in transition, say experts familiar with the strategy's analysis.

Exploding crime and public perceptions of its encroachment have been a feature of change in Eastern Europe since the fall of communism, in Namibia since independence, and now in SA. As in the other countries, shedding an authoritarian past, government agencies have to learn how to do things differently while they are holding the fort.

They face many challenges, including inadequate management skills, limitations imposed by a constitution which values human rights highly (torturing confessions out of suspects falls away as an investigative method) and a tradition of interdepartmental rivalry which precludes co-operation and leads to wastage of resources as efforts are duplicated and agencies work at cross purposes.

If it achieves its aims, the crime prevention strategy could mark a significant departure and the first real chance for a turnaround in the battle to bring crime under control by actively co-ordinating the SAPS, SANDF, justice and prison systems, social welfare organisations and intelligence agencies.

'Hired killers

used to kill

ARG 25/4/96

taxi opponents'

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. - Hired killers have been blamed for high levels of taxi violence.

But a police spokesman says that although taxi hit squads caused violence, the actual initiative and planning of attacks on drivers and commuters came from taxi association members.

In a paper presented to the Security 96 conference, W van Zyl Roux of the National Crime Investigation Service said that taxi-owners and taxi association executive members often identified certain targets

themselves for the hit squads.

The hit squads were paid vast amounts of money and given vehicles with false registration numbers.

In order to prevent the violation of certain codes, some taxi associations made use of so-called squad patrol cars, he said.

These patrols were well organised with excellent communication capabilities.

Such hit squads were paid up to R70 000 for an operation to kill opposition taxi-owners and R90 000 to kill a police investigation officer.

Commuters were afraid to come forward as witnesses because they were intimidated or bribed not to testify, said Mr Roux, a director.

There was evidence of criminals, including gangs, acting as freelance hitmen offering their services to the taxi industry for money.

Individuals were employed as full-time bodyguards for the taxi associations.

He said many associations made use of external groups from KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, whose return to their provinces made it extremely difficult to identify them.

'National strategy

needed on crime'

(34) ARG 25/4/96

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. - Crime and the related threats are destabilising society and a national strategy is needed, says the Defence Force.

Major General F E du Toit, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations (South African Air Force) was speaking at the Security 96 conference which was held at the University of Pretoria.

He said a national strategy for achieving internal security, stability and safety required a two-pronged approach.

"On one hand we need

to demonstrate delivery of the RDP in order to achieve social justice and economic development and uphold democracy.

"On the other we need to employ all the means at the disposal of the government and the private sector to combat the threats that are presently destabilising our society."

On the role of the Defence Force in combating crime, General du Toit said the constitution provided for the Defence Force co-operate with the South African Police Service when the police were unable to manage a

situation on their own. This had come into effect on July 12 1994 because of the increasing threat to internal security.

He said the Defence Forces goal was to build the capacity of the police to deal with public violence and crime on their own and eventually to withdraw the Defence Force from a policing role.

However, the Defence Force would have to maintain the capability of being deployed in exceptional circumstances, General du Toit said.

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA - The state

Gauteng through the provision of 100 BMWs to police in the province

lar phones could be made available to the police

'Business has crucial role in fighting crime'

Crime rate worries foreign investors

Business Editor

(34)

FOREIGN companies with investments in South Africa give the country a fairly clean bill of health and more than a third plan additional investments this year.

This is the finding of a survey of 261 companies by the influential Investor Responsibility Research Centre (IRRC) in Washington.

But the IRRC found that foreign companies were worried about the crime rate.

Asked to rate South Africa with respect to other emerging markets, the companies surveyed gave

the country high marks for infrastructure and availability of raw materials. Four out of five also found South Africa's legal environment and management of economic policy was at least as good as those of other emerging markets. ARG 25/4/96

But more than a third said labour relations were worse than elsewhere, 42 percent said labour productivity was lower and a hefty 79 percent said crime and violence was higher - though the IRRC said multinational firms probably did not give much weight to this factor in making

investment decisions.

European companies - by far the largest foreign employers in South Africa - rated labour productivity particularly low.

Canadian companies were especially bullish on plans for new investments, while only eight percent of Japanese companies surveyed said they intended to expand their South African investments.

The IRRC said the survey, completed last month, was fairly representative of the 1 800 multinational parent corporations doing business in South Africa.

SAPS 'is losing crime war'

(34) BD 30/4/96

CENTRAL government's crime-fighting strategy offered no short-term, practical solutions to the problem of crime, DP member of the Gauteng legislature Peter Leon said yesterday.

Last year's crime statistics showed the SAPS was losing the war against criminals.

The first draft of government's national crime prevention strategy was "strong on analysis but weak on solutions, let alone results", he said.

The document, meant to be presented to Cabinet on April 18, was withdrawn at the last minute in the face of questions about its practicality, Leon said.

Short-term measures were needed before any medium to long-term strategies could be introduced. These measures included re-education and training of the SAPS, formulation of decentralised and operationally driven anti-crime operations, and introduction of modern management techniques in the SAPS. Information technology, too, was in dire need of upgrading, Leon said. — Sapa.

Over 18 000 people slain in SA last year

IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES of articles on crime, Staff Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** looks at the crime statistics and how they have increased. The police and the World Health Organisation also comment on the crime rate.

If the bodies of all the people who were murdered in South Africa last year were strapped into the seats of passenger aircraft, they would fill 50 jumbo jets.

If they were laid out head to foot in a long line, they would stretch from Cape Town, over De Waal drive, along the Blue Route, up Ou Kaapseweg and down into the Fish Hoek valley.

This is not an attempt at the macabre, but an effort to put South Africa's horrific murder statistics into a form which is more easily visualised.

According to statistics supplied by the SA Police Service this week, 18 312 South Africans were murdered in 1994.

By June this year the figure had reached 8 407.

To put the country's murder rate into an international perspective, the World Health Organisation (WHO) was asked where South Africa ranked in terms of world homicide statistics.

Dr Odile Frank of the WHO's statistical department said this week only about 55 of 190 member countries supplied the organisation with homicide statistics — and South Africa was not one of them.

However, a simple calculation shows that the murder rate in

South Africa, with a population of just over 41 million, works out to 44.4 for every 100 000 people.

This is way above the highest murder rate recorded by WHO — the Russian Federation with 30.4 murders per 100 000 people. This is followed by Armenia (27.1), Estonia (26.3), Latvia (25.2), Puerto Rico (23.4), Mexico (22.7) and Brazil (20.1).

The murder rate in the United States is 10, in Chile 3.2, New Zealand 2.4, Korea 1.5, Germany 1.4 the UK 0.9 and Japan 0.7.

If the crime rate in South Africa is horrific, what is perhaps even more disturbing is that in some sections of South African society crime has become part and parcel of daily life.

Even the press often gives no more than a paragraph or two to murders, robberies and gang rapes.

Exactly how many crimes are committed every year will probably never be known, as many are never reported, but available statistics are chilling enough.

One takes the average number of serious crimes reported daily, by this time tomorrow 544 South Africans will have had their homes burgled, 216 will have had their businesses burgled, 260 will have had their cars stolen, 431 will have

been assaulted, 88 raped and 105 murdered.

A study by Dr Lorraine Glanz of the Human Sciences Research Council shows that crime has on average increased by nine percent from 1990 to 1994.

Violent offences — murder, rape, robbery and assault — have increased by 25% in the same period, reflecting a steady shift towards serious crimes.

From 1990 to 1994, the following increases in serious crime were recorded:

- Rape increased by 45% (from 20 321 to 32 107).
- Assault increased by 17% (124 030 to 157 315).
- Murder increased by 11% (15 109 to 18 312).
- Burglary of business premises increased by 10% (65 755 to 78 989).
- Burglary of residential premises increased by 14% (159 403 to 198 408).
- Robbery increased by 62% (38 835 to 68 416).
- Theft of motor vehicles increased by 27% (68 649 to 94 710).
- Fraud by two percent (49 644 to 55 102).

The only serious crime to have dropped in this period was public violence, which decreased by 83% (from 4 756 to 961), which Dr Glanz ascribes to the attainment of democracy in the country.

The head of the South African Police Service's national priority crime section, Major-General K Brits, said although white South

SA'S SHOCKING CRIME FIGURES

"If the bodies of all the people murdered in SA last year were strapped into the seats of passenger aircraft, they would fill 50 jumbo jets."



SAINT

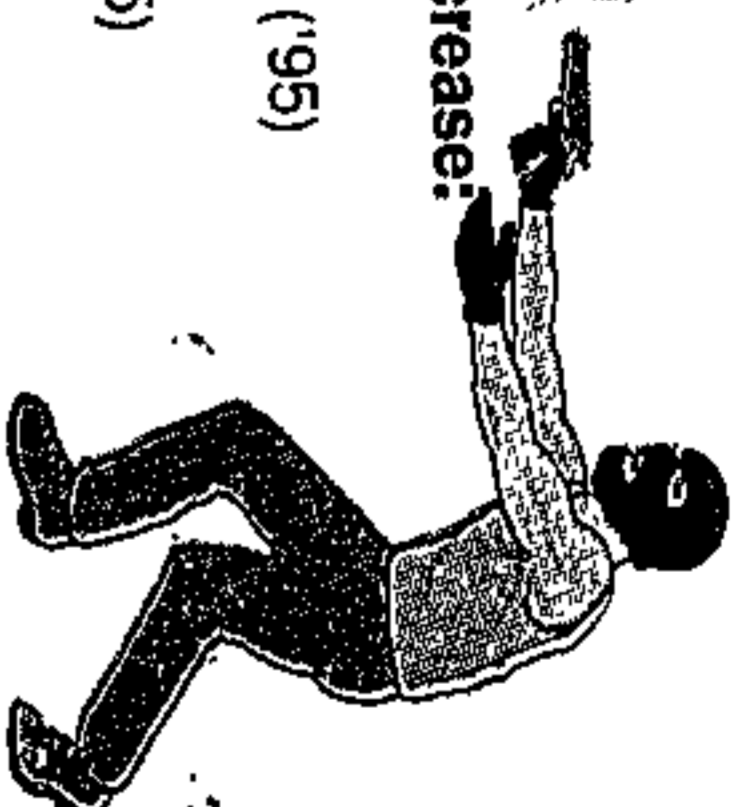
By this time tomorrow:

- 544 Homes burgled
- 216 Businesses burgled
- 260 Cars stolen
- 431 Assaulted
- 88 Raped
- 105 Murdered

PILOT

Vehicle hijackings (78%) increase:

- Gauteng: 85% - From 4 171 (1992) to 7 637 (1995)
- KwaZulu-Natal: 26% - From 752 (1992) to 951 (1995)
- Free State: 74% - From 62 (1992) to 108 (1994)
- Western Cape: 336% - From 39 (1992) to 182 (1995)
- Free State: 74% - From 62 (1992) to 108 (1994)
- Eastern Cape: 76% - From 88 (1992) to 155 (1994)
- Mpumalanga: 114% - From 115 (1992) to 293 (1994)
- Northern Cape: 166% - From 3 (1992) to 8 (1994)



PILOT

Serious crime recorded (190 - '94):

- Rape: 45% increase - 20 321 to 32 107
- Assault: 17% - 124 030 to 157 315
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- Fraud: 2% - 49 644 to 55 102

PILOT

Murder rate according to WHO:

- Statistical director: Rate per 100 000 population
- South Africa: (44.4)
- Armenia: (27.1)
- Estonia: (26.3)
- Latvia: (25.2)
- Puerto Rico: (23.4)
- Mexico: (22.7)
- Brazil: (20.1)
- United States: (10)
- Chile: (3.2)
- New Zealand: (2.4)
- Korea: (1.5)
- Germany: (1.4)
- United Kingdom: (0.9)
- Japan: (0.7)

Graphic: Matthey's Moss Cape Times

Africans formed a relatively small percentage of murder victims, there has been an increase of 48% in the numbers of whites murdered from 1993 to 1994.

Because murders were almost impossible to predict, he said it was an extremely difficult crime to control.

"Except for measures taken to prevent serious crime, the police are mostly at a loss when confronted with the problem of curbing murders," he said.

A crime which has increased

enormously in the past few years is vehicle hijackings, which has seen a 78% increase nationwide from 5 455 in 1992 to 9 723 in 1994.

The bulk of hijackings occur in Gauteng, where there has been an 85% increase in this crime from 4 171 in 1992 to 7 637 last year.

No other region comes anywhere near this figure.

The next highest is in KwaZulu-Natal, with a 26% increase for the same period from 752 to 951.

Although all other regions have a relatively low number of vehicle

hijackings in comparison, the percentage increases over two years in some cases are enormous.

The Western Cape has the third highest number of vehicle hijackings, with a relatively low number of 39 in 1992 and 182 in 1994, but which shows an increase of 336%.

The Free State saw a 74% increase from 62 in 1992 to 108 in 1994; the Eastern Cape a 76% increase from 88 to 155; Mpumalanga a 114% increase from 115 to 293 and the Northern

Cape a 166% increase from three to eight.

Commenting on South Africa's crime trends, Dr Glanz said: "Few would argue that crime has reached critical proportions and even senior members of the South Africa Police Service have declared that if left unchecked, crime threatens to reduce the country to a state of anarchy."

In the next article we look at crime patterns in the six major metropolitan areas of South Africa.

Illegal immigrants not to blame for crime rate

BD 21/5/96

(34)

LALA CAMERON and
HUSSEIN SOLOMON

cal reflection.

Illegal immigrants are to some extent being used as a scapegoat for SA's woes.

Various emigration pressures, both voluntary (where prospective migrants are motivated by a more sophisticated infrastructure and opportunities), and involuntary (involving civil war, ethnic strife and natural disasters such as drought) have resulted in SA playing host to an estimated 3- to 8-million illegal immigrants.

Obviously, such a large illegal foreign population places various socioeconomic burdens and other pressures on the host state.

At an anti-crime summit in Johannesburg earlier this month safety and security provincial minister Jesse Duarte argued for tighter border controls to keep out aliens with unlawful intentions.

A similar connection between illegal immigrants, increasing crime rates and ineffective border protection was raised by the mayor of Johannesburg, Isaac Mogase, in Vancouver earlier this year, further stimulating the perception that illegals were responsible for SA's crime problems.

Both assumptions require criti-

cal reflection. Various measures to strengthen SA's supposedly porous borders have been proposed. These include deploying a further 5 000 troops along our borders as well as using camera surveillance on remote-controlled drones and helicopters.

In addition a technical subcommittee on border control and policing has been established which plans to give the SAPS a coastal patrol capability.

The National Intelligence Agency has suggested that the intelligence-gathering capabilities be used to collect intelligence on the movement of illegals.

However, following a recent research trip to the defence force border protection units monitoring the Mozambican and Zimbabwean borders, it appears that Pretoria is somewhat misguided in directing scarce resources to bolster border security measures.

The impressive Norex fence—an electrified wire roll set at the non-lethal level and sandwiched between two high game fences—uses sophisticated computer systems situated at 10km intervals which immediately detect attempted cross-

ings within an accuracy zone of 10-100m. Once the alarm is activated troops are deployed from the nearest base. The army claims a success rate of about 90% in apprehending illegals crossing the fence. Following fingerprinting by the police they are mostly returned home the same day, only to try again.

More significant is the fact, often overlooked by government, that large numbers of immigrants enter SA legally and only later acquire illegal status by overstaying the validity period of their temporary residence permits. This figure was estimated at 750 000 people last year by the Central Statistical Service. The challenge remains how to deal with these people.

To begin with, this implies that in addition to existent border controls, stronger inland controls are required. These measures might include tamper-proof identity cards for citizens and a system to ensure that illegals are not employed in the underground economy. Instituting such a system raises many chal-

lenges in itself.

Secondly, in exploring the causal link between illegal immigrants and crime, police figures claim that about 14% of general crimes recorded in 1994 involved unaccounted-for immigrants, ie illegals.

In breaking down this figure police make reference to Mozambican and Angolan weapons smugglers, drug-dealing Nigerians, diamond-smuggling Zaireans, shellfish-smuggling Taiwanese/Chinese and smuggling Thai prostitutes. Besides contributing to derogatory national stereotypes, this breakdown fails to account for the public perception that illegals are largely involved in more common criminal activities.

According to police statistics 12 403 illegal immigrants were apprehended for serious crimes during 1994. As a percentage of total recorded crimes for 1994, only 1.5% of these crimes can be calculated as having been perpetrated by illegals.

If illegals involved in criminal activity are taken as a percentage of all illegals in the country (3- to 8-million) this means that fewer than 0.15% are involved. Yet the popular perception exists that illegals are

overwhelmingly responsible for crime. How can this perception be counteracted if illegal immigrants as a group are held responsible for crimes (other than their prima facie status) committed by a minority?

Strategic perspectives to address the root causes which fuel population movements are required. In the southern African context this would entail focusing on regional economic development—a long-term project.

As long as it is a relative oasis of plenty in a sea of poverty—and as long as civil strife, violence, ethnic chauvinism and a general lack of respect for human rights continues to spect for human rights continues to victimise the region—SA will continue to be a Canaan for illegal immigrants in southern Africa.

As it was succinctly put by Peniel Maduna, home affairs minister: "History has shown us time and time again that hunger and fear are driving forces which are much stronger than even the most sophisticated aliens control measures. SA has become the country of survival for many people."

The authors are researchers at the Institute for Defence Policy in Midrand.

LETTERS

Govt throws its weight behind anti-crime plan

HENRY LUDSKI
POLITICAL WRITER

THE government has thrown its full weight behind a national crime-prevention strategy on which it is pinning its hopes for stability and prosperity in South Africa.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) — expected to be endorsed when it goes before the cabinet tomorrow — puts forward the most comprehensive battle-plan yet for tackling crime in South Africa.

But the long-awaited 88-page crime-prevention blueprint — which draws heavily on inputs from six key central government departments, local authorities, communities and local and international experts — still needs a concrete and detailed implementation plan that will put the country's worst crime fears to rest.

The strategy is viewed as a "long-term" solution, and it could take several months before any of the specific proposals are implemented.

The plan includes the introduction of a new national "fraud-resistant" identification system, a crackdown on corruption, tougher regulations for motor-vehicle licensing and the reduction of the time between the reporting of crimes and sentencing.

It also proposes to reduce the burden on prisons resulting from the conviction of minor offenders by providing meaningful alternatives to prison sentences. It aims to speed up crime-prevention legislation and to introduce tougher border controls.

CT 21/5/96 (34)
The strategy argues strongly for a more integrated inter-departmental approach to crime prevention. Its success — once it has been approved by the government — will depend on the success it enjoys at a community level.

The NCPS, drawn up by a high-powered committee consisting of representatives from the departments of Justice, Safety and Security, Correctional Services, Intelligence and Welfare, acknowledges that the causes of crime are not limited to socio-economic factors.

It goes on to outline how the problems of general criminality can be tackled through a tough system of deterrents, public and school education programmes and a completely revamped and energised criminal justice system.

Underpinning the strategy is a clearly evident commitment by the various departments to come up with a co-ordinated approach that cuts across the criminal justice system.

The plan, to be unveiled tomorrow, also argues for a review of priorities in resource allocation to meet the public needs and expectations about crime.

It states that affirmative action is essential to building legitimacy within the criminal justice system.

It also states that it is "vitaly important" that the system be seen to be effective, and "equally imperative" that it is transparent, accountable and humane and upholds the fundamental rights of all population groups.

Greater engagement with community concerns is highlighted in the document.

THE greatest strength of the national crime prevention strategy — its inclusive and comprehensive nature — also holds the potential to be its greatest weakness. The very complexity and wide-ranging ambit suggests that co-ordination and leadership will be critical success factors.

While the strategy provides a vision for a society which has begun to confront the problem of criminality eating at its core, what needs to be demonstrated now is an ability to manage the process and structures that the strategy seeks to create.

The strategy — an 88-page document in small, single-space type — aims to draw together a number of key role players in government in an attempt to provide more effective crime prevention programmes. The document provides a detailed analysis of the reasons for the growth of crime in the country — seen (correctly) as a complex intermeshing of a diverse array of factors — and outlines steps under way in various government departments to counter crime.

Four key areas — the criminal justice process, preventing crime through environmental design, education and transnational crime — are suggested as being crucial to intervention to reduce crime. In addition, the strategy lays down 17 nationally driven programmes to be implemented. These are diverse, ranging from improving information systems, victim empowerment and support and mechanisms to counter organised crime.

What seems notably absent from the list of new programmes are specific preventative strategies related to drug use and the proliferation of small arms. While both are covered either directly or indirectly within various sections of the document, it would be worth consolidating current initiatives and developing specific strategies to form two additional (and high profile) prevention programmes. Both areas are of increasing concern given that they hold the potential to spawn wider criminality.

Success of crime strategy is vital for ending disorder

34
BD 23/5/96

MARK SHAW

The development of the new strategy involved six core government departments: correctional services, defence, intelligence, justice, safety and security and welfare.

This in itself is an important development — a holistic (as opposed to sectoral) approach to crime prevention which has been sorely lacking. What is also clear from the document is the reorientation of the intelligence community which now, increasingly it seems, will assume a crime-combating role in relation to specific types of crime.

At a different level, the strategy indicates another significant shift in the discourse of safety and security in SA. From "community policing" (which is barely mentioned in the document) to "crime prevention" and the building of "partnerships" both between government agencies and with outside organisations in civil society in an effort to stem the tide of crime.

Given the number of players involved, the complexity of the strategy should not be underestimated. Apart from, and in conjunction with, the 17 programmes initiated through the strategy, there will be various initiatives in line function departments, as well as the drawing together of actors at local and provincial level. Add to this inputs

from civil society groups such as non-governmental organisations and business and the picture is blurred further.

In this framework it is a pity that the strategy does not contain a more detailed section on initiatives by local government. International experience suggests the key to crime prevention often lies at the city level. The process and debate at local level substantially had the issue of crime prevention in SA at a metropolitan level, for example, been emphasised. A useful mechanism in other countries has been the establishment of city forums to compare experiences and determine joint guidelines for crime prevention.

What the document does correctly suggest, however, is that local-level initiatives will be able to take account of local conditions and circumstances in tailoring individual programmes.

But not clear are the consequences should local authorities stray outside the broad boundaries delineated by the strategy.

On a related level, the document is silent on community forms of self-policing. This is increasingly a re-

ality in some areas and the strategy could have suggested guidelines to contain or, where necessary, focus these initiatives.

Equally, while the document calls for more research into expenditure on private security, no specific initiative is identified to allow an in-depth investigation of the industry and its role (if any) in crime prevention.

The key to success of the strategy is co-ordination — otherwise it simply becomes a reflection of a wide variety of programmes which may eventually, in any event, have occurred in one form or the other.

Another problem with such a large and complex initiative is that at a national level it is virtually immune to measurement — there is the danger that success will simply be equated with a flurry of activity rather than any real decrease in crime.

While the document makes allowance for monitoring at departmental and programme level, it is not clear the extent to which the whole enterprise will be subject to review.

While it would be inappropriate, given the difficulty of interpreting crime statistics, to suggest that hard targets should be set for the programme — say the cutting of the

crime rate by a set percentage by 2000 — in some cases, programme deliverables need to be more clearly outlined.

So, it is of concern that the strategy, despite the fact that it is a framework for implementation, contains virtually no time frame (although in some cases it appears that these are still to be determined) for the completion of the various programmes.

And management is by committee — an interministerial committee will supplement the Cabinet committee on security and intelligence and will be made up of the ministers of safety and security, defence, justice, correctional services and intelligence (but not, apparently, welfare). The committee will meet only quarterly, or can be convened on an ad hoc basis should it be required.

Underneath the ministerial committee will be a committee of directors-general which will also be chaired by the lead department, which is safety and security.

A national crime prevention strategy co-ordinating mechanism — hosted by the safety and security department — made up of senior members of the various departments will serve as a full-time secretariat. It is not clear whether an individual will be given responsibility for the secretariat.

Given the number of departments involved, the cross-cutting nature of the strategy and the importance of the problem, one alternative could have been to site the strategy in the office of the deputy president.

The success of the strategy is critical. Failure will bring growing disillusionment with conceptions of proactive crime prevention which is central to the long-term solution of disorder in SA society. And, instead, there will be a growth in reactive, self-help and increasingly violent solutions to crime.

□ Shaw is co-ordinator of the crime and police policy project at the Institute for Defence Policy.

New anti-crime strategy unveiled

POLITICAL STAFF

ACTING President Thabo Mbeki yesterday unveiled a government plan to combat crime, a problem which the government believes "poses a serious threat to our emergent democracy".

Flanked by Deputy President F W de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mbeki said the National Crime-Prevention Strategy (NCPS) had been approved at yesterday's fortnightly Cabinet meeting.

The document, which draws together a range of government departments to develop an holistic approach to crime fighting, has been a year in the making and is the first comprehensive plan to halt the crime wave.

ET 23/5/96 (34)

It signals a new approach in policing — from crime control to crime prevention — and highlights seven areas of crime that will come under scrutiny.

These are crimes involving firearms; organised crime; white collar crime; gender violence and crimes against children; violence associated with inter-group conflict; vehicle theft and hijacking; and corruption within the criminal justice system.

Mbeki said the plan was one of the six pillars of the government's national growth and development strategy and set out a long-term vision of dealing with crime in conjunction with short- and medium-term measures.

The strategy was welcomed by most political parties yester-

day. The ANC said in a statement that the NCPS was a "quantum leap forward in the ongoing fight against crime".

"A well-rounded strategy capable of preventing crime in the long term is far more valuable to South Africa than hastily-prepared measures which are piecemeal and unsustainable."

Deputy President F W de Klerk also welcomed the NCPS.

"Crime and violence have been hanging like a dark shadow over our country for much too long," De Klerk said.

He said the NP would give the NCPS all its support, but would watch over its implementation like hawks.

Buthelezi said the IFP endorsed the plan and he would do

everything in his power as Home Affairs Minister to promote it.

But DP safety and security spokesman Mr Douglas Gibson, said he did not believe the NCPS "holds out any prospect of curbing crime in the near future". He said it was long on analysis and short on solutions.

The Business Against Crime initiative welcomed the NCPS, saying it was a "major step towards a coherent government approach on the prevention of crime".

The NCPS suggests a set of national programmes which will kickstart and focus the efforts of government departments.

It highlights crime intelligence as being central to a successful crime-fighting effort.

New plan to foil criminals

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

(34)

SA ARG 23/5/96
represented the greatest threat to economic progress.

SCHOOL-based education against crime and security features for new mass housing developments are among the initiatives the government is considering as part of the long-awaited National Crime Prevention Strategy which has been adopted by the cabinet.

The cabinet approved the strategy yesterday, 14 months after its initiation, and warned that high levels of crime posed a serious threat to democracy.

"This is not a philosophical dream we are trying to project," Acting President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday as he unveiled the new strategy at a media conference where he was flanked by Deputy President F W de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr Mbeki said the strategy was a long-term vision of how the government intended to deal with crime, but it also encompassed short-term and medium-term measures, some of which were being implemented by the criminal justice departments.

Mr De Klerk said violent crime had been "hanging over our country like a dark shadow" for far too long, and the new strategy was as comprehensive as the National Party had wanted it to be.

He said his party did, however, have a few misgivings, such as the omission of the death penalty as an option in extreme cases.

Chief Buthelezi also welcomed the new strategy, saying crime

The African National Congress and the Freedom Front supported the strategy, but the Democratic Party voiced disappointment, and said there was no real prospect of crime being curbed soon.

The strategy prioritised seven key crime categories which are already being given special attention by the police, defence force, the National Intelligence Co-ordination Committee and the departments of justice, correctional services and welfare.

The categories are:

- Crimes involving firearms - to be addressed through an inter-agency effort to improve the legislative controls of firearms, track smuggling routes and tighten controls on state-owned weapons, and restrict illegal importation of arms.

- Organised crime - being targeted through focused intelligence-gathering on crime syndicates and gangs.

- White-collar crime - scrutiny to include the introduction of laws to curb money laundering, special co-operation between police and business, as well as a programme by business to develop codes of conduct within the private sector.

- Gender violence and crimes against children - being addressed through the establishment of specialised police units and the creation of victim aid centres offering assistance.

- Violence associated with

inter-group conflict - a presidential task team to address violence in KwaZulu-Natal is co-ordinating intelligence gathering, and another task team is supporting the cabinet committee on taxi violence.

- Vehicle theft and hijacking - short-term strategies are the introduction of vehicle tracking systems, partnerships to mobilise the community to help locate stolen vehicles, and the establishment of a border control unit.

- Corruption - police anti-corruption units are being set up at national and provincial level and an independent complaints directorate will process complaints from the public.

Jeanine Rauch, convenor of the Secretariat for Safety and Security, said there was roughly a 50-50 split between measures that were already being implemented, and those that had yet to be developed.

One of the anticipated actions would be to promote the design of urban development, transport systems, residential buildings and complexes, shopping centres and residential areas in ways that would reduce the opportunities for crime.

So, for example, new housing estates that required state funding would have to have adequate street lighting so that women and other vulnerable groups could move about safely at night.

At schools, video training would be used to educate children about respect for the rule of law, the legislative process and human rights.

New tactics to roll back crime

(34) Star 23/5/96

Cabinet approves strategy that was year in making to change focus of police from control to prevention in seven critical areas, including firearms and white collar offences

By PATRICK BULGER
Cape Town

Acting President Thabo Mbeki has unveiled a masterplan to combat crime, a problem which the Government believes "poses a serious threat to our emergent democracy".

Flanked by Deputy President FW de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mbeki said yesterday that the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) had been approved at the fortnightly meeting of the Cabinet.

The document, which draws together a range of government departments to fight crime and develop a holistic approach to the problem, was a year in the making and is the first comprehensive national plan to roll back the crime wave.

It signals a new approach in policing - from crime control to crime prevention - and highlights seven areas of crime that will come under scrutiny.

These are crimes involving firearms, organised crime, white-collar crime, gender violence and crimes against children, violence associated with intergroup conflict, vehicle theft and hijacking,



Thabo Mbeki ... "we've inherited a terrible legacy".

and corruption within the criminal justice system.

Mbeki said the plan was one of the six pillars of the Government's National Growth and Development Strategy and set out a long term vision of dealing with crime in conjunction with short and medium term measures.

"Crime is not something new in our country. It is public knowledge that our democratic Government inherited a terrible legacy from our past, of which crime is just one aspect," Mbeki said in a statement.

The NCPS identifies four pillars of a co-ordinated strategy against crime: the criminal justice system, environmental design, public values and education, and transnational crime.

The directors-general of several government departments will monitor and implement the NCPS.

The strategy was welcomed by most political parties.

The ANC said in a statement the NCPS was a "quantum leap forward in the ongoing fight against crime".

"A well-rounded strategy capable of preventing crime in the long term is far more valuable to South Africa than hastily prepared measures which are piecemeal and unsustainable," the party said.

National Party leader De Klerk also approved.

"Crime and violence have been hanging like a dark shadow over our country for much too long," he said, adding the NP would give the NCPS all its support but would watch over its implementation "like a hawk".

Buthelezi said the IFP endorsed the plan and he would do everything in his power as home affairs minister to promote it.

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P.T.O.

Illegal aliens 'fuel crime rate'

CT 29/5/96 (34)

CRIME WRITER

THE ANC has called for the immediate redeployment of police members to South Africa's borders after a report that the lack of adequate border control is a major contributor to the staggering crime rate.

Police have told the safety and security portfolio committee that illegal immigrants are involved in about 14% of all serious crimes. There are an estimated 5,5 million illegal immigrants in this country.

Last year less than three percent of these were traced and repatriated, divisional commissioner Daan le Roux told the committee. Police are currently deployed at only two out of 350 registered airports.

Firearms, illicit drugs and hijacked cars are being smuggled across the borders with alarming ease, he said.

South African industries, including the textile and electronics industries, were suffering because of the illegal importing of grey products.

"Businessmen talk openly of how they are bringing in goods and being able to make a 'killing' on the market."

The ANC said it was deeply concerned by the "arbitrary" way personnel were withdrawn from border policing after the unbanning of organisations in 1990.

"We call for ... the immediate redeployment of sufficient personnel to protect the borders.

"We know that the moratorium on recruitment has implications for deployment of personnel, but there must be a reprioritisation of tasks."

Border policing is expected to be discussed at a sub-committee meeting soon.

State plan to improve women's health

(34) CT 29/5/96

WOMEN around the world yesterday remembered women who had died during childbirth and from other women's health problems, as part of the Day of Action for Women's Health.

Welfare Minister-designate Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi announced the government had embarked on a wide range of

programmes to improve women's lives.

They focus on building self-esteem, providing education and employment, preventing violence and promoting secure family and community life. She also congratulated the Women's Health Project on the launch of the South African Women's Health Book. — Health Writer

South Africa 'a country where you can literally get away with murder'

PRETORIA: Almost 18 000 murders in South Africa remained unsolved, police said this week.

The figure was an accumulated one, and included murders committed as far back as the 1920s, National Crime Investigation Services spokesman Senior Superintendent Faizel Kader said here.

Experts said the total was unacceptably high and blamed the country's "ineffective" judicial system.

"South Africa has to a large extent become a country where you can literally get away with murder," University of SA criminologist Professor Johan Prinsloo said. "If you look at statistics, you have at least a 50% chance of getting away."

Of 6 519 people prosecuted for murder in 1993/1994, 3 558 had been found guilty, just over 50%.

"The others (accused) just disappeared," Prinsloo charged.

The murder conviction rate for 1992/1993 was 53%.

Ms Lorraine Glanz of the Human Sciences Research Council said police claimed

64% of the 18 983 murders reported last year had been solved.

"This compares well with the 66% in America for 1993, but what is disturbing are the discrepancies between the murder rate, the percentage that go to court and the percentage finally convicted," she said.

Prinsloo cited the recent case against "Kaalvoet Thysie" de Villiers — charged with murdering former CCB member André Klopper in May last year — as an example of "police not doing their work properly".

De Villiers was acquitted after presiding judge Mr Justice Smit criticised the conduct of investigating officer Const Dennis Janse and described his evidence as "mendacious".

De Villiers had also been questioned in connection with another unsolved murder, that of Dutch Reformed Church moderator Prof Johan Heyns in November 1994.

Supt Kader stressed a murder docket was never closed. Once all avenues of a murder investigation had been exhausted, the docket was filed away and thereafter re-examined every two to three years. — Sapa

34

CT 31/5/96

White-collar crime costs SA about R2,8-bn yearly

Star 5/6/96 (34)

Police said accurate statistics were limited by the fact that some financial institutions were embarrassed to report fraud

BY DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

White-collar crime is continuing to sap the country's economy and although a decrease was reported in 1995, police are still not convinced they have the measure of this form of crime.

Official police statistics released by the crime research component of the National Crime Information Management Centre reveal that white-collar criminals cost South Africa R2,79-billion in potential losses last year, a R1,9-billion decrease from 1994 figures. Similarly, 2 324 fewer cases were reported than the 53 441 cases investigated in 1994.

But while the significant drop in reported cases and amounts involved should be good news, SAPS analysts are guarded in their assessment of this apparent success.

Police said accurate statistics were limited in that many financial institutions and companies still refrained from reporting "embarrassing" fraud cases.

Also, criminals are increasingly making use of highly sophisticated methods to conduct their illicit business, thereby evading detection.

The centre's report attributed the apparent decline to two causes: good police work and under-reporting.

"The positive crime-combat-

ing strategies employed by the SAPS, the private sector and other interested parties, as well as increased media coverage, have resulted in greater restraint being shown by white-collar criminals," the report stated.

The latter is reinforced in a study of the business community by KPMG International Forensic Accounting (SA), which said only one in five respondents had indicated that detected fraud had been reported to the police.

"A study undertaken by the department of criminology of the University of South Africa in 1994 indicated that more than half (55%) of all cases of employee fraud had not been reported to police," the report said.

The real facts on SA crime

Crime correspondent **Angella Johnson** gained exclusive access to Nedcor's 'top secret' report on the increasing levels of crime in South Africa



CRIME is costing South Africa an estimated R41,1-billion per year, according to a confidential report, to be released on June 11, by banking group Nedcor.

The survey — said to be the largest and most comprehensive ever compiled on crime in the country — has taken a year and cost a staggering R3-million to compile.

It reveals that, contrary to previous reports, the level of violent crimes is five times higher than the average rate on the international crime index.

Murder increased more steeply than in any other country except the Bahamas, Swaziland and Lesotho, but other crimes are in line with world trends.

The study found that a reign of sexual terror was being waged against children and teenagers, who are seven times more likely to be victims of rape.

Although the current "crime wave" eclipses even unemployment as people's prime concern, the document argues that the problem was gathering strength even during the 1980s. The 43-page document (compiled

MTG 7-13/6/96

Headed by Professor Robin Lee, the dean of faculty management at the University of the Witwatersrand, the research team concluded that businesses suffered an average 1,2 crimes (of all types) over the past 24 months.

Weaknesses in the South African Police Services and the Department of Justice have "allowed the crime wave to increase above the level it might otherwise have operated at", warned the report. It said the public percep-

Nedcor hopes it will act as a working document alongside the government's Crime Prevention Strategy, published last month, and the police commissioner's crime fighting plan due to be published soon.

An executive summary of the "top secret" document has been sent to Minister for Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi.

doing document alongside the government's Crime Prevention Strategy, published last month, and the police commissioner's crime fighting plan due to be published soon.

tion was that government was not doing enough to put things right. About 80% of all households had experienced some crime over the same period, costing a total R1,5-billion.

On the business front, up to 60% of fraud cases are found to be orchestrated by management.

Although the perception among most business organisations surveyed is that crime and violence are reducing confidence and diminishing investment, the truth is that foreign money entering the country has exceeded R30-billion between July 1994 and February 1996.

Angella Johnson

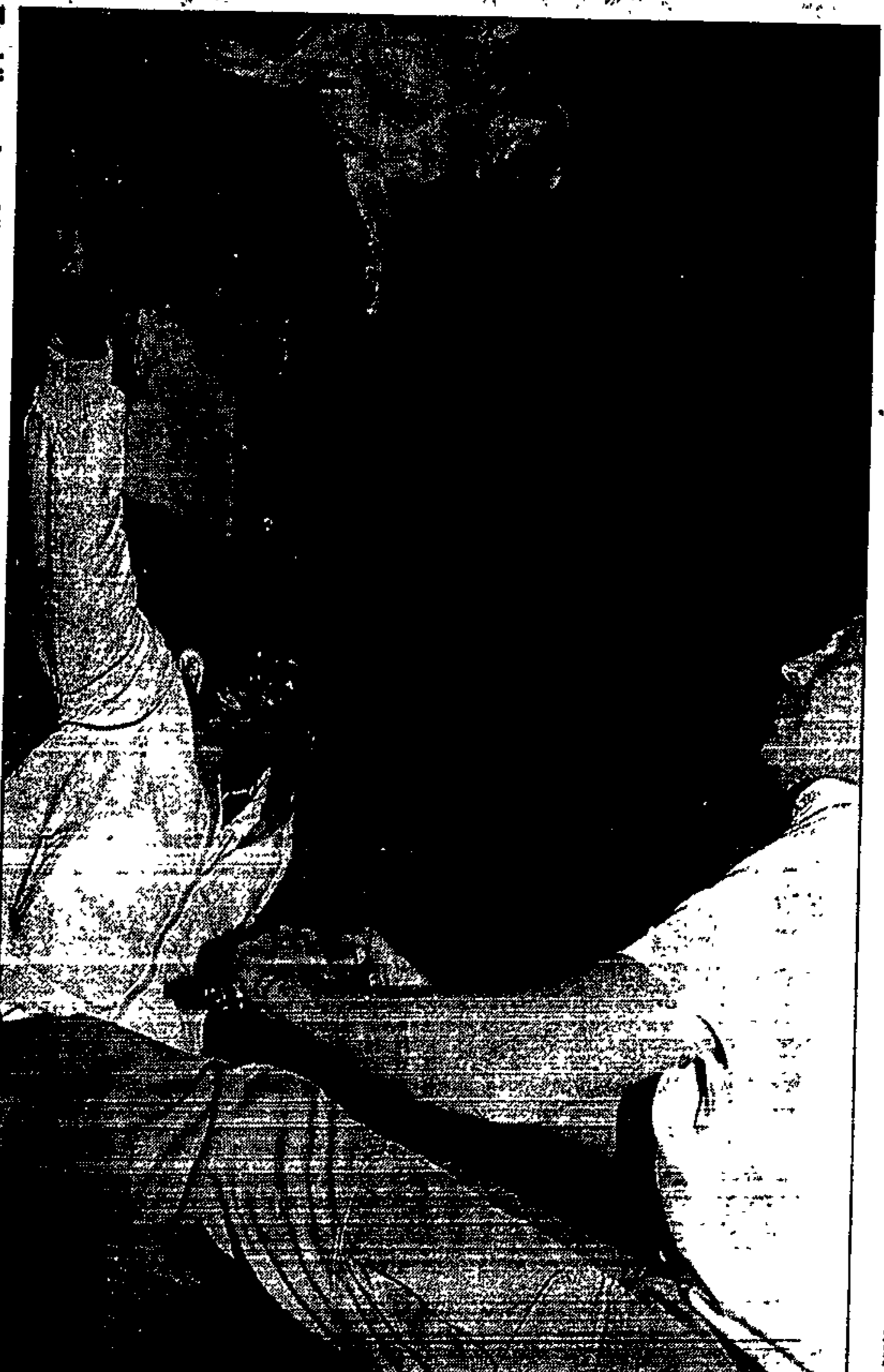
CORRUPTION among police officers has increased by 8% in the past year, and remains a major obstacle to tackling crime, says Stef Grobler, director of the national anti-corruption unit aimed at cleaning up the service.

Grobler disclosed that more than

and former Brixton policeman, Gerrit Marais are said to have offered to have the charges withdrawn, or that the man be given early parole, for R20 000. They are expected to go on trial in Pretoria in September.

The unit started out with seven people in September 1994, but it soon became clear the level of work would require many more investigators.

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD



Tackling crime: Violent crime is five times higher than the average rate on the international crime index

Crooks in uniform under investigation

MTG 7-13/6/96

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

Fivaz sounds alarm in war against crime

(34) ST9/6/96

By PETER De IONNO

THE fight to turn back the rising tide of crime must be won this year, says Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

"You could call it a turning point for the nation," he said in an exclusive interview after a week of doom-laden police briefings to Parliament and claims by senior officers that crime was fast running out of control.

An average of 52 people were murdered every day, a rape was committed every 30 minutes, a car was stolen every nine minutes and an armed robbery was committed every 11 minutes, Commissioner Wouter Grove, head of the Crime Investigation Service, told the parliamentary safety and security committee.

He said detectives had dealt with two million serious crimes last year. Some investigators handled up to 30 case dockets at a time — more than their British counterparts would see in their entire careers.

"The burden of case dockets is unbearable," he said.

Coming hard on the heels of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's warning that South Africa's culture of crime, corruption and moral decay threatened the transition to democracy, the police gloom sounded like an admission of defeat.

Commissioner Fivaz refused to disclose details of a plan to be officially released on Thursday.

The first annual policing priorities plan, required by the new Police Act, is the commissioner's ace. He will play it at a critical moment when all the cards appear stacked in favour of the criminals.

The release of the police plan will be preceded on Tuesday by a shock Nedcor report that says crime is costing the country more than R41-billion a year.

The survey of more than 4 000 households and businesses says violent crime in South Africa is more than five times higher than the international average and claims that 80 percent of households have experienced crime in the past two years.

The report says weaknesses in the police and the Justice Department have contributed to the increase in crime and the

widespread belief that the government is not doing enough to crack down on criminals.

Commissioner Fivaz said the plan had the potential to transform both the effectiveness of the police and community-police relations.

"For too long we have had a situation where the criminal has run amok. We have let our citizens down. Our people have a fundamental right to be free of crime. The threat of crime has made people in many areas afraid and insecure, and we cannot allow that to go on," he said.

"I expect positive results and more stability by the end of the year. You cannot stop crime in three or four months, but I expect the rise in serious crimes to be flattened out very quickly.

"You have a number of factors working against you. You are not working under ideal conditions, there are socio-economic problems; high unemployment and widespread illiteracy work against this being a crime-free society. And we have an ingrained culture of violence. It is especially true in Kwazulu Natal."

He said the success of the crime plan, with its emphasis on community policing and a policy of "hunting down criminals", required a "mind-shift" by police and the community alike.

"We are going to ask senior people inside and outside the police service to commit themselves publicly to making sure that this new approach works," Commissioner Fivaz said. "They will be responsible for implementing the plan and driving it home."

The "shotgun approach" of the past, in which the police were spread too thinly, allowing criminals to take the initiative, would be replaced by focusing resources on targeted areas or types of crime.

Commissioner Fivaz said his plan was closely linked to the government's National Crime Prevention Strategy, which co-ordinates programmes by the police and the Justice and Correctional Service departments.

Crime cost South Africa R31,3-bn

(34) *Someban 12/6/96*
By Noxolo Kweza

CRIMINAL acts committed in South Africa last year cost the country more than R31,3 billion.

Nedcor chief executive Mr Richard Laubscher told a Press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that this represented 18,02 percent of the 1996/7 national budget. Such statistics were alarming for a developing country like South Africa.

He said incidents of crime experienced by business were three times higher than crimes committed against individuals.

"For every 1 000 crimes committed, only 77 criminals are convicted with eight sentenced to two or more years imprisonment."

Eighty two percent of large corpo-

rations have been victims of crime over the past two years.

"Most of these crimes are robbery and burglary which make up to 60 percent followed by car hijackings with 39 percent," he said.

For a long-term crime prevention plan to be successful, short-term successes against crime have to be achieved first.

He said high levels of commitment from government, businesses and community were needed. There was also an urgent need to find effective methods of fighting crime.

Some of the methods business was proposing as a way forward included the expansion of the police force, re-introduction of death sentence, stiffer sentences, crime awareness campaigns and increasing the police budget.

Crime 'ripping social and psychological fabric of SA'

Stephen Laufer

CRIME and violence are exacting a huge human and financial toll and South Africans regard this as SA's biggest challenge despite a more sanguine attitude by foreign investors, a Nedcor study shows.

Children and teenagers suffer most, the survey by a team under Wits University management school dean Prof Robin Lee indicates. They are two-and-a-half times more likely to be raped than adults, with rape accounting for 59% of all incidents in which children and teenagers were victims.

Unlawful activity cost the country more than R31bn last year, equal to 18% of the current national budget or 5,6% of this year's projected GDP. The losses were unsustainable, Lee said, threatening to wipe out any chance of achieving the 6% to 7% growth rate targeted by government.

Crimes against households had cost R1,7bn, against business R15,8bn and commercial crime had cost R13bn. At least one crime had been experienced by 18% of households last year.

More than 45% of South Africans see crime as the country's most serious problem, way ahead of unemployment, regarded by 18% as most serious, po-

litical violence (7,6%), the need for economic growth (3,7%) and housing (3,6%). Similarly, 45% believe crime is increasing, while 22% think it has remained the same.

Nedcor CE Richard Laubscher said the study had been commissioned in a spirit of co-operation rather than criticism of government. Crime and violence were "tearing the social and psychological fabric" of SA, and there was a need to create a positive mood which was fundamental to growth.

Nedcor would continue to fund a crime-monitoring database which would track a variety of crimes to assess independently the SAPS's and other government agencies' progress. Figures would be released regularly.

Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Mathews said at the launch the statistics were stark confirmation of the crisis. Government had no illusions about the scale of the problem and welcomed publication of the statistics.

However, any discussion needed to consider the woefully inadequate reporting of the past. What appeared to be a dramatically higher incidence of some crimes might simply mean they were being reported more frequently.

Continued on Page 2

Crime

Continued from Page 1

Government should launch a national crime prevention communications programme, Lee said. It should be at least as large as programmes run to popularise the work of the Constitutional Assembly.

The Nedcor project had attempted to overcome shortcomings in official crime data by representative independent surveys of individuals and businesses, Lee said. Urban and rural ar-

reas and businesses of all sizes had been surveyed and he was confident that the figures given in the report were an accurate reflection of the situation in SA.

Hostel residents were most likely to have been affected by crime (36%) with residents of suburbs least directly affected (24%).

The 82-page report contains several suggestions to government, the SAPS, and business on combating and preventing crime, many of which dovetail with government's national crime prevention strategy.

See Page 14

Public fears war on

(34) Star 12/6/96

Survey reveals half of us expect to be victims sooner or later: but investors more worried about political violence

By Anso Thom
Crime Reporter

Battle-weary citizens are giving up on the unending fight against crime which cost households R1,7-billion last year and the country R31,1-billion, according to an authoritative comprehensive report released yesterday.

The Nedcor Project on Crime Violence and Investment reports that 68% of the population believe nothing can be done to prevent crime. And children are increasingly victims, with incidents of child rape rising sharply.

The Nedcor report was released by Prof Robin Lee on the eve of today's presentation of a national growth and development strategy to Cabinet.

However the project found that common crime was not a significant factor influencing foreign investment decisions. European and US companies interviewed for the survey found it was political violence, specifically in KwaZulu/Natal, that was of greater concern.

Lee said it was the first time in 20 years that surveys had reflected crime to be a greater problem than unemployment, education and housing.

The project warned that the Government's perceived inability to deal with crime and violence represented its greatest challenge to date.

"The first step towards a culture of crime becoming thoroughly meshed in the structures of society is when the population becomes apathetic towards crime," Lee said.

Safety and Security deputy minister Joe Matthews welcomed the project as an "intellectual and intelligent response to the crime problem".

He said the report was a stark confirmation of the problem and "may even be worse than reported. All of us have a distinct feeling things are getting out of hand, but

the Government has no illusions on the scale of the challenge."

The conclusion that crime was viewed as "here to stay" was drawn from about 68% respondents saying "nothing could be done about crime". About 28% said additional security, weapons and/or insurance might have an impact while 2% said they were considering emigrating.

The study also showed that a high percentage of the population now believed they were vulnerable to crime - 18,8% felt it was highly probable they would be a victim of crime, while almost 50% more believed it was probable.

The report makes a number of urgent recommendations to reverse the spiral, most importantly urging the Government to state unequivocally that effective crime prevention, and the control of violence associated with crime, was its single most important priority - and act on it.

The report recommends the Government makes crime prevention and control a Presidential responsibility exercised through a Crime and Violence Prevention office and calls for greater financial resources.

It further says:

■ The government should dramatically accelerate implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS).

■ The office should assist all metropolitan and local authorities in creating public/private sector "crime prevention funds", with contributions from Government, business, funding agencies in SA and abroad, as well as individual citizens.

■ The President should personally give top priority to the improvement of the criminal justice system.

■ A programme should be implemented to boost the retention of experienced staff in the criminal justice system, public prosecutors, experienced judges and

► ... To Page 2

Crime 'already lost'

P.T.O.

SA losing its fight against crime, says new report

68% of survey respondents say 'nothing can be done'

ARG 12/6/96 (34)

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - Crime has become a way of life and South Africa is giving up the fight, believing the war is lost, according to an authoritative report.

"The first step towards a culture of crime becoming thoroughly meshed in the structures of society is when the population becomes apathetic towards crime," said Robin Lee, leader of the Nedcor Project on Crime, Violence and Investment when the study was released yesterday.

The project - a survey among 2 163 scientifically-selected adults of all races and including city dwellers and rural residents - identified crime as South Africa's single biggest problem and called on the government to recognise it as such.

The conclusion that crime was "here to stay" was drawn from about 68 percent of respondents saying "nothing could be done about it".

About 28 percent said additional security, weapons and/or insurance might have an impact while two percent said they were considering emigrating.

The report made urgent recommendations to reverse the spiral, most importantly urging the government to state unequivocally that effective crime prevention was its priority - and acting on it.

The report recommended that:

- The government makes crime prevention and control a presidential accountability,

exercised through a Crime and Violence Prevention office.

- There should be an increase in financial resources available to departments in the criminal justice system and crime prevention agencies.

- A national communications programme should be launched to emphasise the need for universal participation in crime prevention.

The report also says:

- The government should dramatically accelerate implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS).

- The office should assist all metropolitan and local authorities in creating "crime prevention funds", with contributions from government, business, funding agencies in South Africa and abroad, as well as individual citizens.

- The president should personally give priority to the improvement of the criminal justice system.

- A programme should be implemented to boost the retention of experienced staff in the criminal justice system - public prosecutors, judges and magistrates - as well as increasing the rate of appointment of new experienced staff in all senior positions and using professionals on contract to alleviate staff shortages.

- The strategic emphasis within the police should recognise that community policing could not produce short term results in specific crime and violence prevention.

- The increased police

salaries, training and professionalisation would have the effect of increasing the service's numerical strength.

- International experience indicated that cooperative programmes between the police and other stakeholders could be effective.

- As far as possible, all administrative, computer, communications, logistical and other specifically non-professional police positions in the SA Police Service should be filled by civilians, releasing all police officers for specific policing duties.

- International evidence indicated that increases in crime could be prevented and combated by use of state-of-the-art technology.

- The government and the private sector should jointly establish and fund a National Crime Prevention Institute.

- Business should identify one organisation only to represent it nationally and provincially in the NCPS.

Business should also enter into campaigns with other stakeholders to boost crime prevention on borders, prevent white collar crime and close all markets for stolen goods.

The Nedcor Project, which cost R3-million and took a year to complete, supported the NCPS conclusion that virtually all government departments had roles to play in crime prevention.

Departments should be obliged to show in their annual plans and budgets exactly what they were doing in this regard,

Government lauds report on crime project

Political Correspondent

THE government has applauded Nedcor's project on crime, violence and investment as a valuable initiative and accepted criticism levelled at the state by the report.

Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Mathews said the government considered Ned-

cor's project to be a significant and well-reasoned analysis of the severe crime problem affecting all South Africans.

He said the analysis and conclusions reached in Nedcor's study were in alignment with the government's two-pronged attack on crime.

"The report correctly emphasises the complementary nature

of the Nedcor project with the short-term Police Plan, which is to be released by the National Commissioner of Police this week.

"The project also complements the longer-term National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), which was approved by the cabinet in May," Mr Mathews said.

Counting the cost victims pay

(34)
IN the survey, people who had been victims of crime were questioned in detail about the costs of the most recent instance of crime of which they personally had been the victim.

They were asked to take into account loss of earnings, medical costs and costs of extra insurance, as well as the losses through theft. They were then asked to estimate the costs of all the other crimes committed against persons in the same household since the beginning of 1995.

After the results had been applied to the entire population as estimated for 1995, the costs of the crime committed in the first eight months of 1995

CT 12/6/96
amounted to R1,7 billion.

This figure of nearly R2 billion in eight months amounts to a hefty public "tax". This would amount to an average of over R40 per adult person in the country. These are, however, "ballpark" figures.

Among people with household incomes of less than R500 a month, nearly 80% felt nothing could be done.

Disturbing is the fact that among independent professionals nearly 9% said they were considering leaving the country because of crime. And among respondents with incomes of R2 500 a month and over, some 18% had acquired a weapon, a figure that reached 21% among whites.

Handling of police, justice crises blamed

CT 12/6/96

(34)

THE new government's handling of the police and Justice Department's funding and staffing crises must be seen as having contributed to the rate at which crime has increased since 1994, the report said.

In the Department of Justice, internal appointment policies have led to grave staff shortages, the resignation of experienced staff and a failure to function successfully in many areas.

As a result, the conviction rate is low and many criminals are freed for a lack of a coherent case against them.

As criminals perceive that their chances of being convicted are becoming slimmer, they are likely to continue or increase their criminal activities. This applies especially to organised crime syndicates that have access to data and can calculate the low chance of their being convicted.

In the case of the South African Police

Service, extremely low salaries, violent working conditions, understaffing, community scepticism and other factors have led to many resignations and, in turn, to low rates of detection and arrest.

According to one commentator, even the real increase in the police budget for 1996/1997 does not mean that the SAPS will be able to hire more staff.

The "criminal justice funnel" shows up the weaknesses in the criminal justice process. On average, of 430 criminals arrested, only 77 are convicted and, in spite of the huge number of serious crimes of violence committed, only eight are sentenced to two or more years of imprisonment.

Further, it is estimated that South Africa has a 94% recidivism rate — that is, 94% of all persons released after serving a sentence become involved in crime again. Only one of the eight gives up criminal activity.

Crime 'cost country R31bn last year'

CF (BN) 12/6/96 (34)

By Sean Feely

FINANCIAL SERVICES EDITOR

Johannesburg — Last year crime cost South Africa R31,3 billion, or 5,6 percent of this year's estimated GDP, threatening the country's future economic growth and social stability, Nedcor said yesterday.

"Crime is tending to tear the social and psychological environment," said Richard Laubscher, Nedcor's chief executive, who released a comprehensive research project on crime, violence and investment that was sponsored by the bank.

Robin Lee, the chairman of the report's research panel and dean of the Wits management faculty, said the report highlighted not only the escalating incidence of crime but also the low efficiency of the criminal-justice system.

"It shows a relentless rise in the levels of crime and violence in our society ... as well as a (criminal's) relatively low chance of (being) arrested, convicted and imprisoned," he said.

For each 1 000 crimes committed last year, only 450 were reported, leading to the imprisonment of 36 criminals, of whom only eight served a prison term of two years or longer. In addition, 94 percent of those criminals who did serve prison sentences were convicted and imprisoned for a

second time. That meant prisons had little success with rehabilitation.

"The criminal justice system doesn't act as an important deterrent against crime," Lee said.

The report said about 82 percent of large corporations were affected by crime last year. Almost all sizes of domestic business said crime was a major deterrent to their investment decisions.

More than two-thirds of large, small and so-called cluster businesses, small retailers and flea-marketers, said they did not find the government's commitment to combating crime convincing, it said.

"Business is hurting badly from crime and domestic investment is decreasing," Lee said.

He said the R31,3 billion cost of crime was based on conservative estimates and could be substantially higher because only about one-fifth of commercial crimes were detected and reported. Serious economic crimes represented only those cases being investigated by the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

The report recommended that the government's national crime prevention strategy should focus on short-term measures to provide immediate relief from crime and that businesses should unite behind a single agency to help the state in its efforts.

Govt warned to curb crime or sink

CRIME IS SOUTH AFRICA'S most serious problem and it will destabilise the country and the new democratic order if the government fails to take urgent steps to deal with it, according to an in-depth study of the problem.

Crime Writer **JACKIE CAMERON** reports.



(34) CT 12/6/96

On the eve of a major announcement by Police Commissioner George Fivaz of a blueprint to combat crime, a shock report has warned the government to act now — "or we will sink".

The Nedcor Project on Crime, Violence and Investment — which took three years to compile — warns that crime is South Africa's most serious problem and that it will destabilise the economy and the new democratic order unless the government takes urgent steps now.

The report also rams home a political message: South Africans from all walks of life are saying crime is the most serious problem in the country — far outstripping concerns about unemployment, housing, education and the need for economic growth.

Professor Robin Lee, of the University of Witwatersrand, who headed the research project, told the Cape Times he believed this country may be only two to three years away from an irrevocable state of lawlessness.

The report also warns that time is running out: "Our society is close to a situation where crime and culture are so thoroughly meshed that there is no other way of living."

In response to the escalating crime problem, Police Commissioner George Fivaz is to announce a new 13-point strategy tomorrow. Earlier this week he said that part of the national crime prevention strategy would be to hunt down 250 000 known criminals.

Meanwhile, the Nedcor report says government's biggest failing to date is its inability to take decisive, effective action against crime. It appeals for nothing less than an RDP-style government strategy.

The report, which cost about R3 million, also stams the crippled criminal justice system which "is not functioning at a level where it constitutes a credible deterrent to criminals". For every 1 000 crimes committed, only 77 people are convicted and, of these, only eight are jailed for two or more years. Ninety-four percent of all people released from prison become involved in crime again.

The report says the government lacked the ability to "grasp" that there is no ethical conflict whatsoever between the commitment of a gov-

SA SOCIETY AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST VIOLENT

— Page 6

ernment to human rights on the one hand, and the strongest action against criminal violations of law on the other. The government tended to "emphasise the rights of perpetrators rather than the rights of the victims".

Meanwhile, Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Mattheus said yesterday at the conference in Johannesburg at which the report was released: "Where the report is critical of the government, we receive that criticism in the clear spirit intended — as a constructive contribution towards improving the admitted inadequacies in the past approach to the crime problem."

"The statistics reported in the Nedcor document offer a stark confirmation of the seriousness of the crisis we face. The government has no illusions about the scale of the challenge." But he denied that the government placed more emphasis on the rights of offenders than victims, and said: "In fact the national crime prevention strategy emphasises the critical need for improved services for crime victims."

Mattheus said that the government had not gone soft on crime because of its commitment to human rights, and "in the light of our new emphasis on community policing, we know that we cannot afford to use tactics that will alienate the very community we are now relying on to improve our crime intelligence at a grassroots level".

The government could not agree that the co-ordination of the crime prevention strategy should fall in the domain of the President's office. "We have opted for a co-ordinated effort driven by the Ministry of Safety and Security ... (which) has been designated the lead department responsible for ensuring that all the government agencies who have a role in the National Crime Prevention Strategy will carry out their assigned tasks."

Mattheus that said the provincial police plan, which is expected to be announced in Parliament tomorrow, would substantially address the concerns about short-term crime strategies.

COUNTRY HAS FOURTH HIGHEST MURDER RATE

SA Society among world's most violent

CT 12/6/96 (34)

CRIME IS THE NATION'S WORST PROBLEM and if the government cannot get it in check within three years we will sink as a country, according to a major study on crime in South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA is one of the most murderous societies on earth, according to the project report, which covers the increase in violent crime from 1980 to 1995.

In the decade 1980-1989 — when rates in robbery, murder, assault, rape and housebreaking were much lower than today — there was already a steady increase in violent crime.

"Nearly, the crime rate was gathering strength during the 1980s," says the report. The violence associated with South African crime was also beginning to assert itself over a few years ago.

From 1990 to 1995 crime rates showed a relentless upward trend. Rape, serious assault, robbery and vehicle theft increased every year. Rape almost doubled, housebreaking went from nearly 159 000 cases to over 214 000 and robbery from 61 000 to more than 102 000 cases.

All stories by JACKIE CAMERON who reports from Johannesburg on the Nedcor Project on Crime, Violence and Investment

The incidence of crime in South Africa is well above the world average. However, the country is in some distinguished company. The recorded crime rate of 5 651 (all rates per 100 000 of the population) compares with an international average in 161 countries of 2 662.

This puts the SA crime rate at roughly the same level as Norway (5 563), the US (5 820) and France (6 169). The following figures illustrate the

TYPE OF PROBLEM	RACIAL GROUP				
	All	Black	Coloured	Indian	White
Crime/ Specific Crimes	45.60%	41.10%	50.00%	58.30%	58.30%
Unemployment	18.10%	19.60%	18.30%	16.60%	12.30%
Political Violence	7.60%	9.10%	4.50%	9.80%	2.40%
Need for Economic Growth	3.70%	3.10%	3.70%	1.40%	6.60%
Affordable Housing	3.60%	4.30%	4.70%	3.00%	0.20%
(Reverse) Discrimination	2.30%	0.70%	2.80%	5.90%	7.60%
Poor Education	2.00%	2.50%	0.80%	0.00%	0.90%
Other Diverse Answers	17.10%	19.60%	15.20%	5.00%	11.70%

stark reality that South and Southern Africa are probably the most murderous societies on earth, even with likely under-reporting (rates per 100 000):

South Africa	45	Holland	15
Swaziland	88	Lebanon	13
Botswana	20	Sri Lanka	12
		Russia	11

USA	9
Germany	4
UK	2
International Average	5.5

Only the Bahamas, Swaziland and Lesotho have higher murder rates than South Africa. The propensity for crimes of violence in South Africa is also reflected in comparisons of rates of assault. The South African rate is 840, compared with an international average of only 142.

In 72 countries for which a full range of crime statistics is available, murder and assault make up about three percent of all reported crime. In South Africa the figure is 16%.

A possible explanation for this pattern is that South Africa's violent political conflicts have infected civil society with murderous intolerance. But this cannot be the full explanation. Other societies that have been exposed to equally violent political conflict, such as Sri Lanka and Lebanon, do not reflect the extraordinary pattern of brutality found in South Africa.

'Iron Fist' unveiled for a total war (34) Star 14/6/96 on crime

42 task forces set up to track down SA's 10 000 most wanted criminals: courts ordered to set tougher bail conditions

By DEREK RODNEY AND PATRICK BULGER

Thousands of hardened criminals will be targeted in the long-awaited "iron fist" police plan unveiled yesterday - and Justice Minister Dullah Omar has called on magistrates not to grant bail to dangerous suspects.

Police National Commissioner George Fivaz, supported by SAPS senior management, yesterday announced a "very aggressive" police plan, saying he took responsibility for the firmest and most decisive action to be taken to prevent a slide to anarchy.

Gauteng Commissioner Sharma Maharaj said the plan had already started rolling in the province with a number of crack-downs in and around Johannesburg, codenamed Operation Rooikat.

"Everything is in place and we have already started a number of operations although we tried to keep a low profile until the commissioner's announcement, but now the real work starts," he said.

In Parliament yesterday, Omar moved to allay fears that a deficient justice system - particularly the easy manner in which suspects are given bail - could be the downfall of anti-crime strategies.

Omar said he was again calling on magistrates not to release violent criminals accused if they were a danger to the public.

"People who commit crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, etc. should not be let loose on the public. The interest of the community in such situations overrides the right of the individual."

The constitution gives all accused the right to bail, but legislation introduced last year sought to close any loopholes in the judicial interpretation of the relevant clause.

The plan consists of a two-pronged "sword and shield" approach in which police, closely supported by other state departments in the framework of the National Crime Prevention Strategy, will take the offensive by immediately hunting down 10 000 of the country's most wanted criminals inside the first month.

The "sword" is the mobile striking force of the SAPS in which specialised units dealing mainly (but not exclusively) with identified priority crimes will hunt down criminals.

Priority crimes include hijacking and other vehicle-related

crimes, gang-related crimes, taxi violence, possession and trafficking in illegal weapons and drugs, political massacres, and robberies.

Simultaneously, the "shield" will protect communities by aggressively taking back and dominating streets and rural areas.

"The SAPS will take the initiative from the criminals by turning them - and not law-abiding citizens - into the prey to be hunted," Fivaz said at a briefing in Pretoria.

In a detailed briefing, National Standards and Management Service head Divisional Commissioner André Pruis sketched the operational (on the ground) layout of the plan, which includes:

- The establishment of 42 additional task forces to trace and arrest 10 000 of the country's most wanted suspects by July 13.

- Introduction of hi-tech electronic and camera surveillance of certain central business districts in SA, nationwide computerised fingerprinting and vehicle-tracking systems.

- Partnership policing with sectors such as the business, agricultural, hawkers and security industries.

- Breaking down police station areas into sectors as part of the National Safety Network with up to 10 000 sector sweeps.

- At least 15 theme-driven initiatives to focus the public's attention on specific problem areas such as drugs, hijackings, child abuse and political massacres.

- The hunting down of criminals within the police. About 180 members had so far been arrested and another 800 cases were under investigation.

- Increased co-operation with the SANDF, particularly helicopters from the air force.

- Discussions with the Government to ask for the lifting of the moratorium on recruiting new staff. Parliament would also be approached for more funds.

- Mobile mini police stations will be built into shipping containers, complete with a holding cell, safe, communications and charge office.

Fivaz's blunt warning received a cautious response from National Safety and Security Secretariat head Azhar Cachalia.

"Although excited (by the announcement), I am cautious about expectations and we in the secretariat will be watching the implementation of the plan closely to ensure that the police do not infringe on the rights of all citizens."



Our hero... Everest conqueror Cathy O'Dowd is welcomed home by girls from her old school, S leader Ian Woodall and other members of the first successful SA expedition. The children shower world's highest mountain.

Marketing 'ambush' hangs over Comrades

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Angry fingers were being wagged early today as a marketing ploy threatened Monday's Comrades Marathon which could, in certain circumstances, lead to many disqualifications.

The row started when sports goods company Nike SA announced it would raise cash during the marathon to help the South African team to compete in the Atlanta Paralympic Games. The company pledged a R25 sponsorship to the team for every Comrades runner who crossed the finish line in Pietermaritzburg with the company's "swoosh" logo on their face.

However, the Comrades

SA to cancel the campaign as could infringe the advertising code of the International Amateur Athletics Federation.

The plan also becomes a clash of interests with one of the CMA product sponsors, Reebok, said CMA vice-chairman Adria Stowell.

"The CMA have no objection to the raising of money for such good cause but when it comes to wearing a logo like that, it is in conflict with the commercial interests of the race and the IAA rules on advertising."

The CMA are faced with a tricky problem because if the plan goes ahead and thousands of runners wear stickers on their faces it is not hard to imagine how muc

TV SPORT	
	Currie Cup Natal vsTVL, Sat, MNet, 3pm Ntwe vs W Prov, Sat, SABC1, 3.20pm
	US Open MNet, 7pm Fr, 11pm Sat, 10pm Sun, 10.30pm
	COMRADES SABC 1 Monday 5.45am - 5.30pm

WORLD CUP

Fivaz unveils a back-to-basics plan to crack down on criminals

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — A back-to-basics policing plan, starting with the hunting down of the 10 000 most wanted criminals in 30 days, was unveiled by SAPS national commissioner George Fivaz yesterday.

The plan would simultaneously protect communities by taking back and dominating the streets and rural areas and by deflecting cross-border and international crime, he said.

"The tightening stranglehold, both physical and psychological, of crime on SA must be broken now if our democracy and economy are to survive and prosper. The firmest and most decisive action must be taken against crime to prevent SA from plunging into the abyss of becoming another anarchic basket-case country," another anarctic Fivaz said in the existing police budget and manpower. However, he might approach Parliament for extra funds if necessary. Meanwhile, discussions were taking place to lift the moratori-

um on police recruiting. The plan comes into effect immediately and will "radically" reassess and reorganise policing at grassroots level. It will be revised yearly in accordance with performance tests.

"The SAPS will take the initiative from the criminals by turning them and not law-abiding citizens, into the prey," Fivaz said. Serious and petty crime would fall into the ambit of the plan to establish respect for the law.

Primary objectives include reducing car hijacking, violent crime, illegal

firearm possession, organised crime and police corruption.

The SAPS would form alliances with sectors such as business and agriculture, shopkeepers and hawkers and gathering would be key. Intelligence rest of SA's most wanted 10 000 criminals, special teams would locate about 237 000 suspects. The plan includes:

- Establishing 42 additional SAPS task forces;
- Emphasis on permanent presence rather than task-force operations;
- Units at police stations;
- Superintendents and captains appointed to SA's 1 100 police stations to manage crime;
- Monthly sweeping operations in every police station area and joint clean-up operations every three months;
- Urban, rural border, regional and international safety networks;
- The plan also features hi-tech measures such as electronic and camera surveillance of certain CBD areas.

As Fivaz delivers his plan this week, police task forces, working closely with crime intelligence, were engaged in an intensive operation to hunt down the 237 000 people on the police "wanted" list. That may sound good but the results could be chaotic. "If we arrest even 50 000 . . . can Justice and Prisons cope?" asks police strategy chief Divisional Commissioner Andre Pruis rhetorically, knowing that the answer is: no.

Even if the police manage to overcome their own handicaps (shortage of trained manpower, low morale, corruption, old methods), the next links in the chain — prosecution, courts and prisons — are swamped and ill-equipped to perform even their present routine tasks.

Nor can the police. Ironically, when Pruis met journalists last week to brief them on the police plan, he did so at the SA Police Training College in Pretoria, which has been dormant more than a year because lack of funds has forced a moratorium on recruitment. So as policemen (mostly trained officers) leave the force at the rate of 10 a day, there is no new blood to fill the gaps.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy prioritises the need to improve co-ordination, not only within the criminal justice system, but across the spectrum of government departments to fight crime's social causes. Justice Minister Dullah Omar outlined the challenge succinctly this week when he said the key reason for SA's high crime rate is "a lack of deterrence." HSRC criminologist Lorraine Glanz estimates that barely 45% of every 1 000 offences are reported to the police, who "solve" roughly half, of which less than half come to court, ending up with only eight criminals being imprisoned for two years or more.

Fivaz's plan focuses mainly on the need to: improve the quality of the police service; reduce violent crimes; restrict organised crime, drugs, gun-smuggling and border crime; reduce hijackings; improve fingerprint technology; combat police corruption; raise the capacity of commercial police; target syndicates and develop commercial crime skills; boost crime intelligence; intensify police training and improve distribution of resources within the police service.

None of this, however, can hope to strike at the root causes of crime or high rate of recidivism. The Nedcor Project finds that 94% of released prisoners return to crime immediately.

One of the project's most interesting

CRIME FIGHTING

(34)

A LACK OF DETERRENCE

FM 14/6/96

Police Commissioner George Fivaz is hellbent on persuading government to raise the police budget by up to 50% and active manpower by 20%-30% next year. But this alone is not the answer.

To support his case, Fivaz will this week release a detailed police plan for 1996-1997 — as he is obliged to do annually under the new Police Act — outlining 13 policing priorities for the year. This in itself is an improvement on previous police budgetary procedures.

In another development this week the Nedcor Project on Crime, Violence & Investment slammed government for indecisiveness in tackling crime, which it estimates is costing SA over R31bn a year — 5,6% of projected GDP.

"Government's inability to deal with crime represents its greatest failing to date and could have noteworthy political consequences in the general elections of 1999," says the project in a comprehensive report. It makes 20 recommendations for government, police and business to follow (summarised further on).

accelerate implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy and others such as the Police Plan; metropolitan and local authorities should be helped to create "crime prevention funds." ■

that crime prevention and control of violence are its most important priorities; it must establish a crime and violence prevention office with Presidential accountability; increase budgets of the departments involved in criminal justice;

findings is that even high levels of "ordinary" crime do not deter foreign investors, to the extent that political or industrial conflict will. Among the Nedcor recommendations are: That government must clearly state

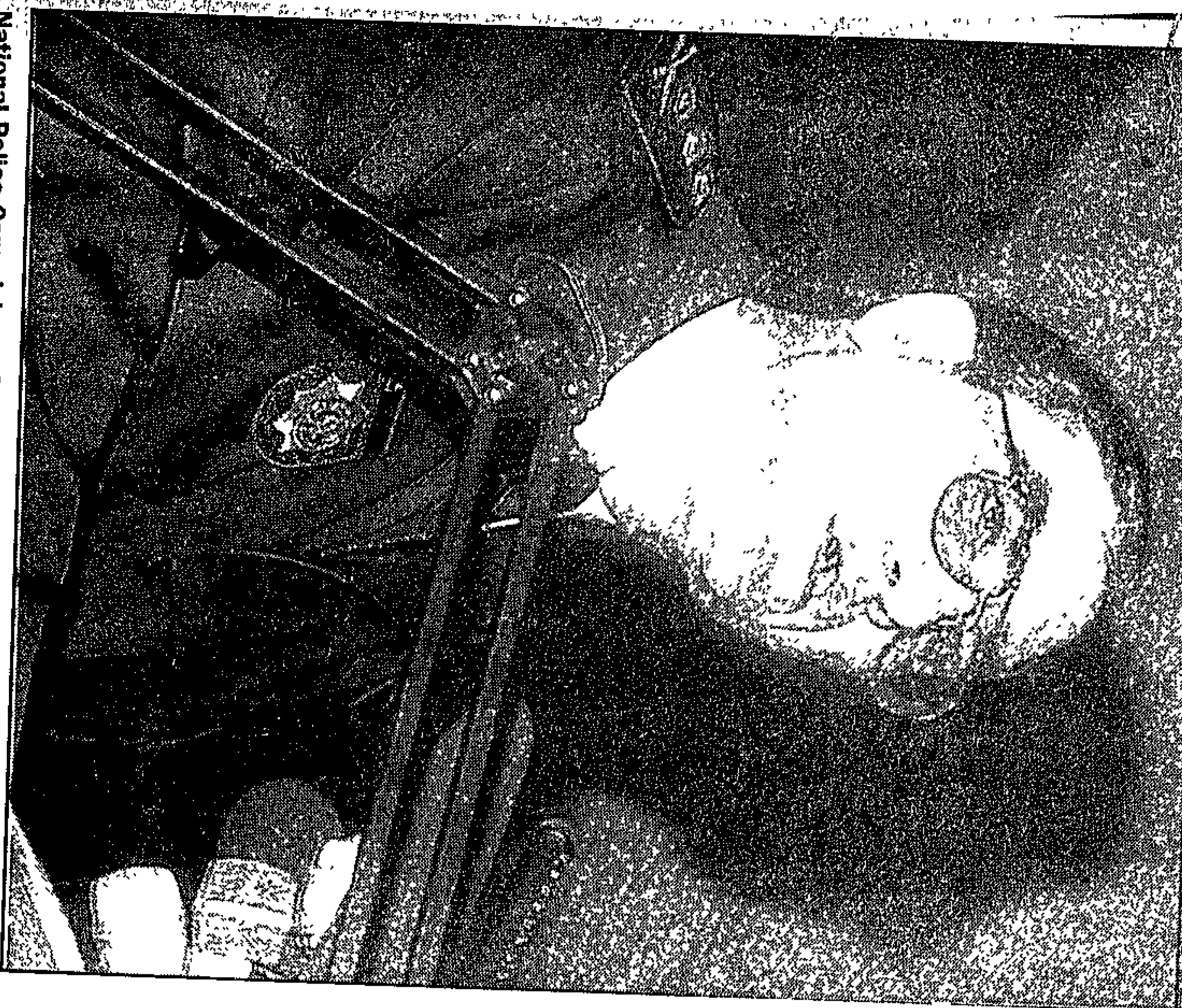
46 CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sword and shield

Plan to hunt down SA's 10 000 most wanted crooks

By Josias Charle

Sowetan 14/6/96



National Police Commissioner George Fivaz announces new tough measures.

NATIONAL POLICE Commissioner George Fivaz yesterday announced a new "sword and shield" plan to help combat escalating crime in the country.

According to the plan, priority will be given to tracking down and arresting a list of 10 000 of the most wanted criminals while systematically reclaiming streets and rural areas from criminals.

Addressing a media briefing at the police training college in Pretoria West yesterday, Fivaz said the South African Police Service would take the initiative from the criminals by turning them - and not law-abiding citizens - into the prey to be hunted.

Identified categories of crime to be concentrated on are: car hijackings and motor-related crimes, gang-related crimes, taxi violence, possession and trafficking in illegal weapons, narcotics-related offences, political massacres and robberies.

Flashpoint provinces

Special attention will be paid to three flashpoint provinces - Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape.

"The sword and shield approach will simultaneously break the psychological and physical grip of crime and systematically reduce the capacity and room for criminals to operate," Fivaz declared.

He said 42 additional police task force units had been set up with a specific role of tracking down criminals and identifying suspects.

"Their first aim is to track down and arrest South Africa's 10 000 most wanted suspects - already identified - within 30 days of the launch of the police plan," Fivaz said.

He said the "sword" was the mobile striking force of the SAPS by which specialised units dealing with crimes prioritised in the plan would relentlessly hunt identified criminals "day and night".

In terms of the "shield", Fivaz said criminals would be protected by aggressively taking back and don't leaving the streets and rural areas and rural areas defective to be held by international crime.

Shield is a passive process but one in which police aggressively establish control and dominant specific geographic areas to create a policing shield for communities.

He said the following safety networks would be implemented:

● An international safety network with Interpol to fight international crimes such as fraud, counterfeit currency, gun smuggling, narcotics and money-laundering;

● A regional southern Africa safety network with the police services of Lesotho, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Swaziland;

● A border safety network within South Africa aimed at preventing cross-border criminal activity;

● Urban safety networks to reclaim the streets from the criminals; and

● Rural safety networks, especially in KwaZulu-Natal, to combat political violence and rural crimes.

The police themselves will not escape the new tough measures. Fivaz announced that parallel and ongoing measures to root out police corruption and to improve police discipline and service were also part of the plan.

He disclosed that in the past six months, 10 anti-corruption units had been established and so far 180 policemen had been arrested and were facing charges. He said about 800 other cases were being investigated.

Fivaz said the new measures would be implemented under the existing 1996-97 budget and, if necessary, additional funds would be sought from Parliament.

No additional manpower will be required but units will be set up to reassess and reposition current police officers to equal the task at hand.

Fivaz' 'arrest 10 000' plan slammed by crime experts

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

THE POLICE plan unveiled this week by national commissioner George Fivaz promising to put South Africa's 10 000 most wanted criminals behind bars within a month has been described as unrealistic, unattainable and disruptive of the criminal justice system.

Criminology experts told City Press that although the plan was well-intended, it would only work in the short term at the expense of the country's justice system.

The director of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cape Town, Professor Wilfried Scharf, said: "Simply rounding-up 10 000 known criminals in 30 days will cause a big disruption of the justice system.

"Massive arrests is a short-term strategy and the fact that there are already 27 000 people awaiting trial, adding 10 000 more in 30 days will create unbearable pressure on the courts and the prisons."

Scharf said the police would not be able to cope considering that

every prosecution needed prior criminal records before a magistrate or judge could pass sentence.

"It takes about three months for the police to provide the courts with such information and if an additional 10 000 people are added, magistrates and judges are simply going to release criminals because they can not keep them awaiting trial for a long time," he said.

He warned that arresting criminals and prosecuting them were two different things.

Scharf said it did not seem the po-

lice were ready for this initiative considering that they did not have adequately trained detectives.

"I sympathise with the police sentiments about unsuccessful prosecutions, but this rests in poor investigations. This puts police capabilities in the spotlight," he said.

Nick Smith, a specialist in criminology at the University of the Witwatersrand's law department, asked why police had not arrested the 10 000 suspects long before the announcement of the plan by Fivaz.

He said police had always com-

plained of lack of resources to deal with crime effectively and asked where the resources to arrest the 10 000 hardened criminals had suddenly come from.

Smith said he was sceptical that with at least 75 percent of police detectives not trained, 10 000 arrests of most wanted criminals in a month was impracticable.

He said poor police investigations resulted in many criminals being acquitted and the danger was that this gave criminals a wrong signal that even if arrested, chances of acquittal

34

were great.

Although upbeat about the plan, Fivaz conceded that it faced many difficulties. He said for it to succeed, they would need help from various stakeholders, including the business community as well as other organs of civil society and the public.

Minister of Safety and Security Sidney Mufamadi said: "The plan's most significant shortcoming is that the identification of strategies to address the priorities has not been completed prior to the plan's being made public."

(ii) (aa)

	1994	1995
January	0	1 109
February	64	633
March	0	453
April	4	541
May	10	478
June	6	492
July	21	371
August	13	380
September	10	314
October	1	344
November	9	353
December	0	350
Total	138	5 818

1994 1995

sioners of the SAPS. No assurance can, however, be given that the above statistics are completely accurate.

Deaths due to political violence

526. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

How many deaths due to political violence were recorded in (a) each month in 1994, (b) each month in 1995 and (c) each of the first four months in 1996 in (i) Gauteng, (ii) KwaZulu-Natal and (iii) the rest of the Republic?

N889E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a)

1994	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
January	144	83	14
February	97	134	11
March	129	170	39
April	97	238	18
May	70	83	5
June	36	55	5
July	57	71	6
August	33	63	10
September	34	28	7
October	38	45	19
November	25	56	10
December	16	76	7
Total	776	1 102	151

(b)

1995	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
January	26	117	24
February	21	47	14
March	16	47	28
April	24	55	23
May	23	85	30
June	34	74	6
July	70	88	12
August	37	83	9
September	44	135	20
October	39*	126	14
November	29	65	17
December	35	145	15
Total	398	1 067	212

(c) 13 (since the beginning of 1996).
Note: The statistics reflected above were received from the various Area Commis-

(c)

1996	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
January	25	67	20
February	38	68	19
March	30	76	31
April	17	79	18
Total	110	290	88

Drugs confiscated

529. Mr R H GROENEWALD asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

What quantities in kilograms of (a) LSD, (b) cocaine, (c) heroine and (d) any other specified drugs were confiscated at each of the Republic's (i) ports, (ii) air terminals and (iii) other ports of entry in each of the latest three specified years for which information is available?

N892E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(Period: 1 January 1994 till 6 June 1996)

- (a) (i) 0
- (ii) 3 048 microdots and 250 units
- (iii) 0
- (b) (i) 0
- (ii) 100,816 kg
- (iii) 0,010 kg
- (c) (i) 0
- (ii) 7 kg
- (iii) 0,721 kg
- (d) (i) Mandrax: 2 000 tablets
Cannabis: 973 kg
- (ii) Mandrax: 402 460 tablets
Cannabis: 102,644 kg
Speed: 2,2 kg (methamphetamine)
Hashish: 4 kg
Ecstasy: 900 tablets
- (iii) Mandrax: 316 474 tablets
Cannabis: 102 231,639 kg

Note: Due to the magnitude of the question, more time would have to be granted to process the information to supply the desired statistics separately for each year. No statistics are readily available prior to 1 January 1994.

Crime syndicates in SA

531. Mr F J VAN DEVENTER asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(34)

(a) What is the estimated number of crime syndicates operating in South Africa, (b) how many of these syndicates are suspected of being involved in (i) narco-trafficking and drug-dealing, (ii) vehicle and weapons smuggling, (iii) foreign exchange fraud and (iv) trading in (aa) illicit gemstones and (bb) ivory and rhinohorns, (c) how many of these syndicates originate from (i) Eastern Europe, (ii) Russia, (iii) other African countries, (iv) North America, (v) South America and (vi) Far East countries and (d) how many (i) prosecutions were instituted and (ii) convictions were obtained in (aa) 1994 and (bb) 1995 in respect of each of the offences referred to in paragraph (b) above?

N894E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) 481

Note: The number of syndicates known to the SAPS, and that are under investigation, differ from day to day. Although in questions (b)(i), (ii) and (iii) statistics are mentioned, it must be kept in mind that the same syndicate can be involved in a number of operations, because organised crime is interrelated with various crimes and does not focus on one specific crime. Although the SAPS only registered a number of projects, it must be kept in mind that in one given project a number of syndicates can be investigated because of their interrelatedness.

- (b) (i) 136
- (ii) 112
- (iii) 85
- (iv) (aa)

Statistics are not available. It must be taken into consideration that organised crime syndicates by nature do not concentrate on one specific category of crime, but instead it is evident that a syndicate can be involved in various types of crime simultaneously. Motor vehicles are hijacked and exchanged for drugs, etc.

- (bb) Statistics are not available. It must be taken into consideration that organised crime syndicates by nature do not concentrate on one specific category of crime, but instead it is evident that a syndicate can be involved in various types of crime simultaneously. Motor vehicles are hijacked and exchanged for drugs, etc.
- (c) (i) Statistics are not available.
 (ii) Statistics are not available.
 (iii) Statistics are not available.
 (iv) Statistics are not available.
 (v) Statistics are not available.
 (vi) Statistics are not available.
- (d) (i) (aa) 14 277
 (bb) 7 995
 (ii) (aa) Statistics are not available.
 (bb) Statistics are not available.

Note: The SAPS is not investigating specific syndicates originating from other countries. If, however, during the course of an investigation, a syndicate originating from another country is identified, it is dealt with in the same manner as any other crime syndicate.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Villages in Nebo and Sekhukhuneland areas supplied with water

1. Mr M J MAHLANGU asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether any planning is being done towards ensuring that villages in the Nebo and Sekhukhuneland areas in the Northern Province will be supplied with water from the Mokgoma Matlala Dam or any other source of water as part of the Arabic Presidential Lead Project; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in respect of the minimum level of service that is to be provided and the target dates that have been set in this regard;
- (2) whether the local communities in these areas are involved in the planning process; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1122E:INT

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY: Madam Speaker, this is a messy business. Let me say by way of introduction that the marine disposal of primary-treated sewage through long offshore pipelines is an internationally recognised and acceptable practice, because the sea usually breaks down the sewage. Apart from the area directly above and around the outfall point, the effect, I am told, is negligible. This is only true if the outfall is properly designed. Outfalls are provided with the ... Oh, I beg your pardon. [Laughter.] This is terrible. I am mixing water with sewage. [Interjections.]

Madam Speaker, I had two interpellations today. I would therefore like to apologise to the people in Nebo and Sekhukhuneland, as well as to the people in Durban. With your permission, Madam Speaker, may I begin with the first interpellation? **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Please do so.

THE MINISTER: I apologise for this, Madam Speaker.

In response to the question as to whether any planning is being done to ensure that the villages

in the Nebo and Sekhukhuneland areas will be provided with basic water supply, the answer is yes. A very complex and important series of programmes are being initiated. The greater Nebo and Sekhukhuneland area, now known as the southern district of the Northern Province, covers about 550 communities with an estimated population of two million people.

The strategic assessment which the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry completed recently confirms that some 85% of the population's water supply and 95% of the sanitation facilities do not measure up to the basic RDP level. In 1994 the Arabic Presidential Lead Project was therefore initiated. This will supply 54 villages and 100 000 people of the Nebo area with water from the Mokgoma Matlala Dam. During 1995 the department started two more projects in the Nebo district, namely the Meerlust Dam and the Tafelkop projects, which will supply an additional 105 000 people with water.

Another four projects initiated will supply water to 111 000 people in the greater Lebokgoma area. We are therefore really talking about more than 300 000 people who are in the process of being supplied with water. An additional seven projects, which will supply 62 villages and 277 000 people, have been approved for implementation in 1996-97. Eleven area studies are at present being initiated, which will involve water supply to more than 800 000 people. These studies will guide the priorities and selection for the RDP's fourth programme. A detailed regional study to address the needs of the remaining villages has been approved by the department and will be completed in July 1997, after which further announcements will be made.

The Government's obligation to supply 25-30 litres of good quality water a day within a walking distance of 200 metres is being adhered to. The Arabic Presidential Lead Project will cater for 70 litres per capita for each household per day. The additional funds will be met by the communities themselves and will not come from RDP funds. The Arabic pipelines will be installed by May 1997 and the reticulation will take up to September 1997 to be completed.

Most of the RDP's second projects are scheduled for completion during 1997-98. The RDP's third projects are scheduled for 1998-99. Local communities are integrally involved in the planning

than at present.
One of the constitutional principles

that the association has every
guard the public's interests.

Improved SA conviction rate demanded

(34) (252) PD 18/6/96

Deborah Fine

IMPROVED policing and other crime prevention efforts would not result in a reduced crime rate unless the police and criminal courts simultaneously improved SA's poor conviction and sentencing rate, Human

Sciences Research Council researcher Lorraine Glanz has warned.

In an article in Indicator SA magazine's autumn edition, she said that while the number of crimes reported to the SA Police Service increased each year, the number of convictions

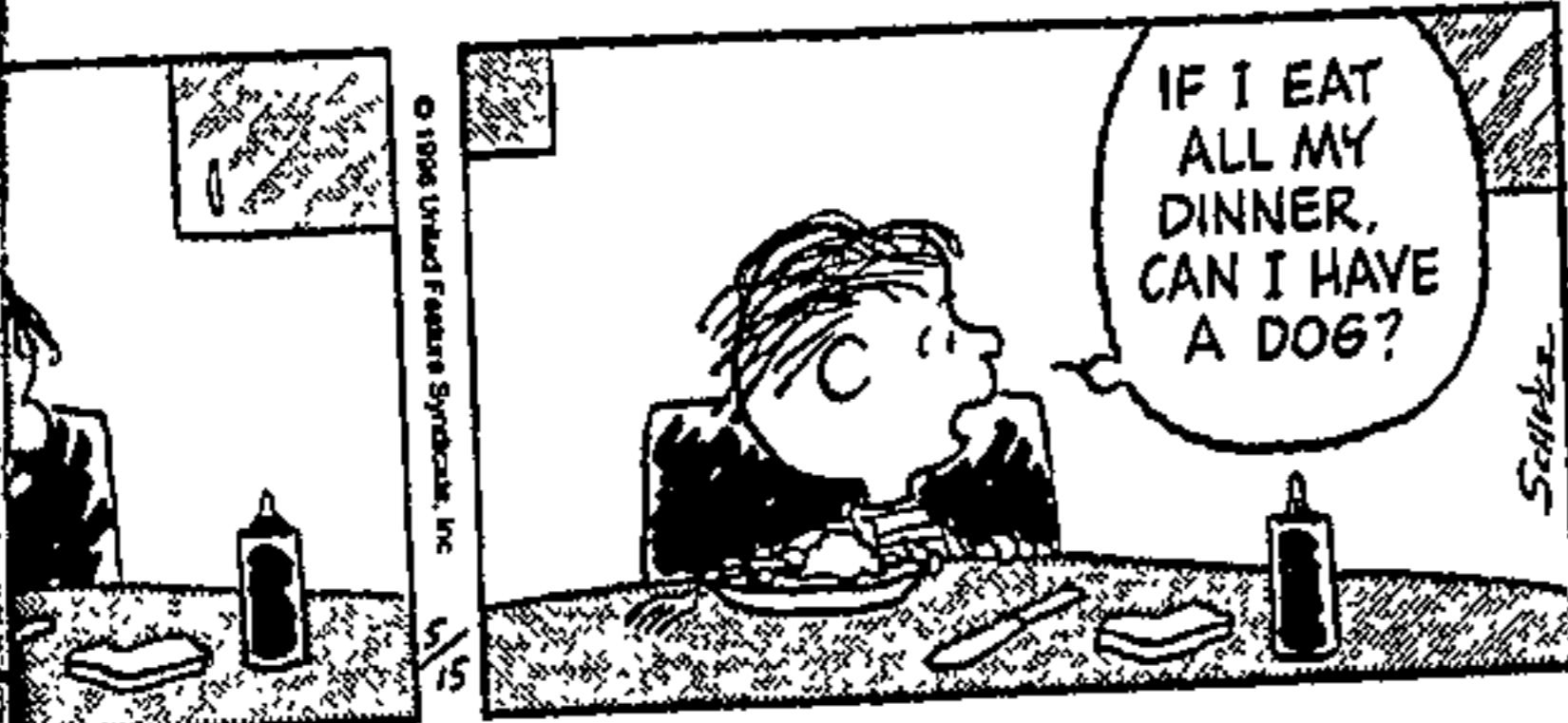
obtained decreased.

Thus no matter how efficiently police prevented crime, serious attention would have to be paid to the functioning of police investigative arms and the courts to enable the system to cope.

She said the problem of poor conviction and sentencing rates began with detectives' case-loads being so great that many cases could not be investigated adequately. This led to a drop in the number of cases solved, inadequate gathering of evidence and shoddy preparation of cases.

Statistics showed the proportion of cases solved by police had dropped from 71% in 1975 to 51% in 1993.

By Charles Schulz



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Hyperbole precedes action in Fivaz plan

Stephen Lauffer

WITH SAPS commissioner George Fivaz promising the arrest of SA's 10 000 most wanted criminals within 30 days of the launch of his policing plan last week, the old query to the shoe salesman arises: it looks good, but do you not have it a couple of sizes smaller?

Because whatever the merits of individual elements of the plan, and there are undoubtedly several, it suffers as a whole from the serious overdose of hyperbole which accompanied its announcement. Police officers say the number of significant arrests in the next four weeks is likely to be counted in hundreds rather than thousands.

Leaving aside that the slogan chosen by the SAPS — "sword and shield" — unwittingly borrows the motto of the former East German Stasi, officers and outside experts agree there is a real danger that enthusiastic promises made and not kept will further demoralise police personnel and the public.

Required under legislation passed last year, the policing plan is the first real attempt at a systematic approach to fighting and preventing crime in SA. Ideally, it should be the cool and reasoned operational adjunct to the policy approach laid out in the national crime prevention strategy adopted by Cabinet in late May.

It comes against the backdrop of the excellent analysis of the causes and varied nature of crime in SA provided by the national strategy and Nedcor's recent project on crime, violence and investment.

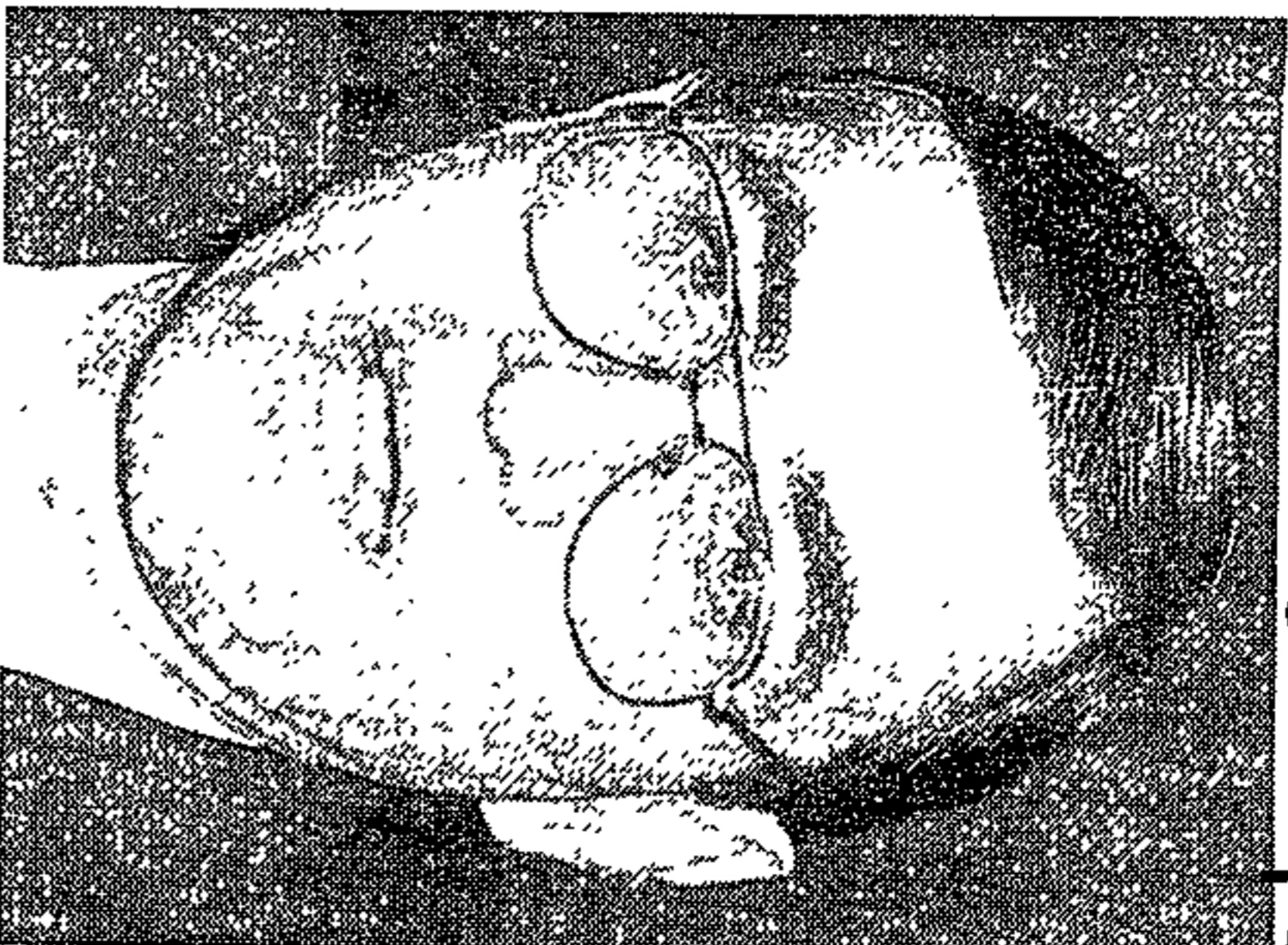
Together, they provide the basis for the police and public alike to move away from the predominant mood of desperation over rising and increasingly violent crime. The less crime is seen as a monolith, as an insurmountable and growing mountain, so the argument of the studies goes, the more it becomes possible to target and combat specific crimes and criminals.

Analysts agree the task now is to build on this sophisticated understanding of crime, using it to develop specific strategies to combat particular types of crime and track down their perpetrators. Nedcor's study made it plain that this approach required major efforts to improve the professionalism and managerial skills of the SAPS.

The policing plan goes some way to addressing these requirements by identifying priority crimes nationally and by area; hijacking in Gauteng, or stock theft in the Free State. It emphasises alliances with business, agriculture, shopkeepers, hawkers and the security industry — good boilerplate stuff in the community policing era.

But local activists and policing specialists involved in the day-to-day battle for understanding between sceptical communities and local police structures say one factor remains critical: trust — the kind of trust in the SAPS which comes only from improved professionalism and an end to corruption.

But Fivaz appears reluctant to place the policing plan firmly within the context of a thorough overhaul of the SAPS approach, including a determination to root out corruption. It was identified by the Nedcor study as the single biggest obstacle to effective policing and popular trust in the SAPS.



FIVAZ

President Nelson Mandela added his voice at the weekend to those calling for a stronger line on corruption.

The plan refers to the need to fight police corruption, but the commissioner runs the risk of opting for compromises wrapped in dramatic rhetoric. At the launch of the plan last week he said the SAPS was "so committed to rooting out corruption, it is unreal".

With 10 anti-corruption units investigating 800 police members, and 180 under arrest, Fivaz said, there was no need to follow the example of the New South Wales government, which has appointed a senior British police officer in an attempt to crack corruption.

The widespread disappearance of dockets — it is often alleged they are bought by criminals — police involvement in hijacking, housebreaking, taxi syndicates and violence suggests that the corruption issue is much larger than just 800 cases in a force approaching 130 000 members.

Despite Fivaz's pledge to hunt corrupt police "as criminals", a nagging feeling remains that anti-corruption efforts will succeed only once they are conducted independently and from outside the SAPS.

With the appointment of the head of the independent complaints directorate imminent, the debate over where the anti-corruption effort should be located will intensify. The provincial police reporting officers currently responsible for handling complaints, including allegations of corruption, deal with 30 000 cases a year.

Even assuming that many complaints are malicious, two questions arise: can the SAPS, coming from a closed paramilitary culture based on the assumption that the force was always right, police itself effectively? More importantly, what is the quickest way to turn public perceptions of the police around?

Fivaz, generally regarded as an honest cop, displays signs of having difficulty in shaking off this old ethos. With a fine line to tread between retaining the loyalty of his officers and exposing the SAPS to the full glare of public accountability, he errs on the side of the corps — to the detriment,

some would argue, of thorough reform.

At the same time, Fivaz and his police are not impervious to the public mood on crime.

But his response — large, visible gestures such as the creation of 42 special task forces to "relentlessly hunt identified criminals", and big promises to "crush crime" and turn criminals "into the prey to be hunted" has something of the small boy whistling in the dark about it.

In implementing the plan, Fivaz says that he is determined to avoid the shotgun approach by intelligence-driven policing.

Rather than searching 10 houses — which could lead to nine complaints and compensation claims — good intelligence would ensure the right house was searched first time.

But given the inefficiencies and tensions relationship to human rights prevalent in the SAPS away from headquarters, the danger of SA's old policing style rearing its head grows with each noisy promise to crack crime.

Less would be more. The SAPS is unlikely to be the most efficient police force in the world by 2000, as much as commissioner Andre Pruis, in charge of the policing plan, might claim it will.

Rather than trumpeting such claims, the SAPS needs to do what its commissioner said it would — get back to basics. The key, says the Nedcor

study, is professionalising the force.

The Fivaz plan does address the issue, and said last week there were 60 courses for detectives ready to start. A detective academy as part of the effort to overcome a situation in which 75% of investigators have no specialised training was being considered.

More is needed if an impact is to be made on the vast body of SAPS members serving at station level.

Senior police officers say the trouble with the plethora of task forces and other special units such as the Gauteng anti-hijacking patrols or the Kwazulu-Natal massacre investigation units — sent into the breach whenever another shock hits the headlines — is that they remove the motivation of police at station level to build consistency in fighting crime.

Perhaps the national commissioner should consider bold gestures of a different type. Like a complete revamp of the police college to include, for an interim period, foreign instructors from countries with a long democratic policing tradition.

Combined with the efforts of better-trained detectives, the uniformed branch will then be in a position to take the determination of the police plan in the direction most needed: cracking cases in a manner which guarantees successful convictions and human rights.

Police reports border controls

(34) (226) SF 23 16/96

By CHRIS BARRON

POLICE investigations have found that it is "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen and hijacked vehicles out of the country.

According to a confidential document drawn up by the Pretoria murder and robbery unit, the payment of bribes at border posts is "the order of the day".

And the recipients are not only customs officials. South African policemen found to have been taking bribes are still at their posts.

A South African farmer from Dendron told undercover police he had been smuggling tons of crayfish and prawns into the country from Mozambique over the past three years. His biggest expense, he said, was the R2 000 he paid in bribes at the border posts.

But most of the time bribes are not needed. The commander of the vehicle theft unit at the Beit Bridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe admitted that no trucks were checked or cargoes searched because of a manpower shortage. Nbr, did his men know how to look for identifying marks such as engine and chassis numbers, he said.

Out of 97 vehicles with South African number plates stopped in a five-day period in Mozambique in March, more than half had been stolen and hijacked from South Africa, or had false registrations.

A report by Senior Superintendent Henk Heslinga said a police investigation in May found that none of the trucks moving across the border to Zimbabwe were being checked, and none of their registration documents were being examined.

On the Zimbabwean side of the border police found two vehicles which had just come from South Africa with false registration numbers.

During an investigation in Mozambique in March, police found that only six out of 152 vehicles from South Africa were

recorded as having passed through South African border posts.

During another investigation in the same country in March, police found that 141 vehicles out of 318 from South Africa had false registration numbers. Twenty two had been stolen or hijacked from South Africa.

Police put a value of R124-million on trucks they identified as having been stolen and hijacked in South Africa during their investigations in March and May.

According to a police informant, who took part in the investigations, a value of R80-million has been put on cars identified in the same period as having been stolen and hijacked.

From pictures, a South African businessman identified six trucks worth R1,4-million which had been stolen from his rental company.

During a two-hour trip from Mozambique to Malawi, police checked the details of 18 vehicles, and found eight of them had false registrations or had been stolen in South Africa.

According to the report, Zambia is "the mecca" for turning over stolen vehicles from South Africa. There is no policing along the routes from the republic into the rest of Africa, the report says.

Out of 20 vehicles stopped in and around Lusaka, 13 had false registration numbers or had been stolen in South Africa. According to the police informant, up to 80 percent of all vehicles in Lusaka are stolen from South Africa.

Once out of South Africa, little attempt is made to disguise the stolen vehicles. They are spray-painted, but all other identifying features such as licence discs, stickers, engine and chassis numbers, are left on. Fictitious registration numbers are often hand-painted on the vehicles.

Police Commissioner George Fivaz said he had only just received the report by Senior Superintendent Heslinga, and had not had time to read it yet.

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Fivaz denies allegations

(34)
Stephen Laufer
BD 20/6/96
NATIONAL police commissioner George Fivaz yesterday denied he had failed to consult Justice Minister Dullah Omar on the police plan announced last week.

Fivaz was responding to a statement by Omar expressing "regret" that he had first come to know of the plan through the media.

Omar said last night his concern was for inter-departmental co-operation in the interest of the success of the plan.

The police plan required joint implementation meetings by the heads of the departments involved. No such meeting had taken place prior to the police plan's announcement.

In a separate development, Fivaz announced the installation of an electronic mail link between the 11 members of the southern African regional police chiefs co-operation organisation.

Sapa reports that Fivaz reassured SAPS members they would receive their improved pay packages from July as announced. Rumours of delays were unfounded.

By Charles Schulz

WELL BE PALS...
CASE STICKS AND
MY WAGON.
TRICKS AND...



Dear Spike,
This was
not my idea.



Millions missing as feeding schemes starve

(34) BD 20/6/96
Drew Forrest
and Linda Ensor

AN AMOUNT of R4,1m had definitely disappeared from government feeding schemes in Mpumalanga and another R4,7m might have gone missing, an independent audit has found.

Sapa reports that the primary school feeding scheme in the province has collapsed.

Mpumalanga health MEC KC Mashego said auditors Deloitte & Touche had found "actual errors" of R2,4m in the province's school feeding programme during the 1994/95 and 1995/96 financial years. "Possible errors" amounted to a further R2,4m.

In the national nutrition and social development programme, a household feeding scheme, actual errors were R2,09m and possible errors R2,29m during the same period.

Mashego said his department had "radically revised" the management of feeding programmes, which would be audited and monitored at regional and provincial levels.

The disclosures came against the background of health director-general Olive Shisana's concession in Parliament yesterday that there was inad-

equated provincial control over feeding schemes worth about R1bn.

Shisana told members of the public accounts standing committee the problems highlighted by the auditor-general in his report for 1994/95 had not been sorted out completely.

There had been "quite a lot" of corruption initially in delivering the R400m household scheme and a number of irregularities occurred, mainly in the period of transition before control of the programmes had been devolved to provinces.

Tenders for external forensic audits of the school programmes in Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Northern Province had been called for, while Mpumalanga and Northwest were conducting their audits at provincial level.

The department's financial officer, Denise Boschhoff, said the biggest problem faced by the provinces with regard to the household scheme was a lack of trained monitoring staff.

The committee also heard that after 18 months no police action had been taken on the 26 cases of misappropriation of funds — 20 of them in Orange Farm, Gauteng — relating to the household programme.

Crime statistics incorrect, says ANC group

(34) BD 20/6/96
Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — SA crime statistics are not accurate and politicians and "opinion makers" who sensationalise these statistics undermine the work done by the police, the ANC study group on safety and security says.

ANC MP Jenny Schreiner, addressing a news briefing on behalf of the chairman of the party's study group, Linda Mti, said the ANC was as concerned about crime as any other party, but felt that "sensationalism and the whipping up of crime paranoia" was of no use to anyone.

She said the National Assembly's committee on safety and security was

perhaps the best briefed in Parliament and this was in the interests of getting the proper picture of crime rather than relying on inaccurate information.

Schreiner pointed out that crime statistics at present were always based on police statistics, and they were not the same thing.

Police statistics were "reported crime, but crime is broader than that".

The ANC was, she said after a briefing on the national crime prevention strategy, considering a national survey of how crime affected people on the ground. This would involve interviewing people and finding out what their personal relationship with crime during a certain period had been.

Omar-Fivaz row over anti-crime drive

(34) of 20/6/96

A NEW anti-crime plan, which police have said will net 10 000 criminals within the next month, has raised concerns as to how the justice system will cope. Crime Writer JACKIE CAMERON reports.

As the justice system braces itself for the 10 000 crime suspects police have vowed to apprehend within the next month, a row has developed between Justice Minister Dullah Omar and National Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

Omar yesterday lashed out at Fivaz for failing to consult the Justice Department about the massive police swoop — and said his department knew nothing about the plan until “we read about it in the media”.

Despite staff shortages and salary “problems”, the Department of Justice would be able to “implement” police plans, Omar said.

However, to deal effectively with the envisaged police operation requires proper consultation and co-operation between the various (government) departments.”

He said his department’s director-general would approach his counterparts to establish proper co-operation at all levels.

Fivaz has denied failing to consult other government departments on implementing his ambitious “Sword and Shield” anti-crime plan and said he believed there was a misunderstanding.

A spokeswoman for his office said the police plan was submitted to a cabinet committee, of which Omar is a member, in April and that Fivaz had consulted all role-players in drawing up the plan.

Fivaz also denied Omar’s statement that he had queried the capability of the courts to handle an increased number of criminal cases.

The Department of Correctional Services, meanwhile, has warned that “money will have to be found to build more prisons, to keep prisoners under circumstances not contrary to human rights practices”.

A spokesman for the department said the organisation was “fully committed” to the national crime prevention strategy and the police plan, but there was already serious overcrowding.

“In the past, the department has always managed to cope with situations caused by previous crime drives. We will do so again in this instance,” the spokesman said.

Reluctant to enter the fray, the Department of Correctional Services could not say whether they had been consulted by Fivaz about the specifics of his police plan, but said they were “aware of things going on” within the national crime prevention strategy committee.

A Cape Times investigation this week found that the Cape Town Regional Court had lost 50% of its experienced prosecuting staff since January and the enormous increase in the Justice Department’s workload had reached critical proportions.

EUNICE RIDDER reports that one prosecutor was transferred to the attorney-general’s staff while the rest, bitterly unhappy with their working environment, low salaries, long working hours and the fact that they have not had a salary increase in nearly two years, are taking jobs — not necessarily legal jobs — in the private sector.

Since March last year, 15 prosecutors have left, taking with them their LL B degrees and 53 years in prosecuting experience. They have been replaced by newly qualified colleagues.

Senior Public Prosecutor Mr Kevin Rossouw said he did not feel these freshly qualified prosecutors had what was needed to keep the wheels of justice turning and he felt they required at least two years of court experience before they could be left to fend for themselves.

In the mid 1980s prosecutors had an average of between 12 and 15 years’ experience each. Six of his most senior prosecutors — all of whom have between five and six years experience — have resigned since the end of January, Rossouw said.

Meanwhile, the crime rate has soared and workloads have increased, forcing the far younger and more junior prosecutors to face up to the “big fish” employed by criminals to defend their cases.

“It’s too easy to get acquitted these days and defence counsel knows that — some are even brazen enough to approach prosecutors before court proceedings and actually tell them that they are ridiculously outweighed and don’t stand a chance, why don’t they ‘just drop their charges?’”

“The community should have the best, not the most junior lawyers holding up their side.

“Some of these defence lawyers, hired by the state through legal aid to defend suspects, charge R1 800 a day and the taxpayer foots that bill”, he said.

Prosecutors on the other hand last had a pay increase in January last year and then it was a mere 3,5% rise. “They were also not paid for hours worked overtime.”

Task force to look into lax border-post control

Star 24/6/96 (34)

According to a police report, it is 'laughably easy' for criminals to drive stolen vehicles out of the country

By Anso Thom
Crime Reporter

National police commissioner George Fivaz has appointed a special task force to look into the lack of tight controls at border posts where, according to a police report, it is "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen vehicles out of the country.

A spokesman for the commissioner says the investigation will also explore the bribery said to be "the order of the day" by the report and check the shortage of properly trained police at border posts.

"The police plan makes provision for liaison between police chiefs on a regional and international level which we hope will address the border problem," said Supt Leon Engelbrecht.

He said the e-mail systems donated by Business Against Crime to 11 southern African countries working with SA Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation organisation would improve communication.

Pretoria Murder and Robbery commander Snr Supt Henk Hellinga last week handed a report to Fivaz in which he addresses the massive problem experienced at some border posts.

Engelbrecht said it could not be denied that corruption existed among some police officers, but that the investigation would attempt to address this problem.

But, he added, more policemen were qualifying for promotion, leaving "no excuse for low police morale".

"We will be coming down a lot harder on police corruption," Engelbrecht added.

According to the report, a police investigation in May found that none of the trucks moving across the border to Zimbabwe was checked and none of the registration documents were being examined.

During an investigation in Mozambique two months earlier, police found that only six out of 152 vehicles from SA were recorded as having passed through the border.

Police also found 141 vehicles out of 318 from South Africa had false registration numbers, with 22 having been stolen from South Africa.

According to the report, Zambia is the mecca for stolen vehicles from South Africa. Out of 20 vehicles stopped in and around Lusaka, 13 had false registration numbers or had been stolen in South Africa.

Special police team to check on borders

(34)
Stephané Bothma

BD 24/6/96

A SPECIAL police team has been appointed to investigate the lack of control at SA's borders, which allows hundreds of stolen or hijacked vehicles to leave the country undetected every year.

In addition, the shortage of properly trained policemen at border posts was also being addressed immediately, a spokesman for the office of the national police commissioner said yesterday.

"We cannot deny that corruption exists among some police officers stationed at border posts, but a special team has already been appointed to look into the matter," Supt Leon Engelbrecht said.

He was reacting to a police report handed to commissioner George Fivaz late last week in which Sen Supt Henk Heslinga found it was "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen and hijacked vehicles out of the country.

The report stated that payment of bribes at border posts was the order of the day; that very few trucks or registration papers were being checked at certain borders; and that in some cases policemen were not properly trained to look for identifying markings such as engine and chassis numbers.

Engelbrecht said a major breakthrough for the SA Police Service had been the initiative last week by Business Against Crime in which an amount of R300 000 had been donated to link the police chiefs of 11 southern African countries by e-mail.

The Heslinga report states that during an investigation in Mozambique in March, police found that only six out of 152 vehicles from SA were recorded as having passed through border posts. Another investigation in the same country found that 141 vehicles out of 318 from SA had false registration numbers — 22 having been stolen or hijacked from SA.

Police put a value of R124m on trucks they identified as having been stolen or hijacked in SA during investigations in March and May.

According to the report, Zambia is the "mecca" for stolen vehicles from SA. Out of 20 vehicles stopped in and around Lusaka, 13 had false registration numbers or had been stolen in SA.

Engelbrecht said part of the plan announced by Fivaz was aimed at transferring police from low-crime areas to where they were needed most.

NEWS FOCUS

Foreign investment not the issue when it comes to rampant crime

Sandy Lewis
and Trevor Woodburn

THE recent Nedcor-commissioned study into crime and violence in SA and its effects on foreign investment found that these factors were not decisive in the reinvestment decision (Business Day, June 11).

However, before we sit back reassured that our worst fears are not about to materialise, let us bear in mind that these factors could still destroy the SA dream, for reasons including and going beyond lack of foreign investment.

In April 1994, in the wake of our "peaceful revolution" and transformation to democracy, for the first time we all dared to think that SA might still become the land of "milk, honey and gold", the mirage of the modern world.

As it has turned out, foreign investment is only trickling in, domestic savings are dropping, unemployment is rampant, the economic growth rate, predicted at an optimistic 6%, may just reach 3,5% but will most likely be even lower, and an air of distinct unease pervades.

Police Commissioner George Fivaz says we are at a "turning point for the nation". If we cannot turn back the rising tide of crime in this year, it is going to

grow "out of control".

Surely at that point our entire society is threatened, never mind our investment potential.

Foreign investors have in general been very wary in their approach to SA. For example, Sylvester Green, the highest-ranking African-American at insurance company Chubb & Sons Inc in the US, and considered to be the very best black senior executive in the field of property and casualty insurance in his country, visited SA last year to assess the country for its investment potential. He turned SA down.

In his final report to the insurance company's senior managers, he wrote: "... certain risk factors in an emerging SA outweigh potential profits at this time..."

Other foreign investors, perhaps slightly less cautious than Green, have entered the SA market, but have avoided making significant capital commitments by appointing local distributors or manufacturing agents, or entering into partnerships and joint ventures with SA businesses.

An interesting comparison can be drawn with China, another newly transformed, developing country which is already well on its way to achieving an economic growth rate of 10% this year, and secured in the first five months of this year more than \$35bn in

foreign direct investment.

Prof Vishnu Padayachee postulates that by focusing on foreign investment alone as the cure for our economic ills we are missing the point.

He says (World Development, March 1995:163): "Although appropriate forms of foreign capital directed at addressing inherent weaknesses in the SA economy may play some role as SA makes the transition from an apartheid to a democratic economy, the country's (economic) development strategy should be geared principally towards the mobilisation of domestic resources."

Padayachee believes that domestic savings are the most important priority for developing countries such as SA.

Evidence suggests, he says, that countries which concentrate their efforts on domestic resource mobilisation, which delineate clearly the role of foreign capital in a comprehensive and coherent development strategy, and which "reduce their reliance on foreign capital as an engine for growth and development, are likely to achieve more productive and sustainable economic results".

Other writers on economic development agree with this. Economist Susan Collins, in a 1992 report to the World Bank, stated: "Disproportionately high attention has been paid to foreign capital inflows in economic development, given that it is domestic savings which make up the major share of total investment in almost every developing country."

The Bank for International Settlements said recently SA's domestic savings were among the lowest of developing nations and could be compared only to countries with the very weakest currencies, like India, Brazil, Argentina and Poland (Business Day,

June 11).

The bank described the rand as being trapped in a "vicious cycle" where the lack of saving and investment meant that the country had to finance the internal demand for cash by importing and borrowing. This means in turn that long-term interest rates remain high, the economy is depressed and foreign exchange reserves and currency are at the mercy of trade deficits and foreign rand bondholders.

SA, with its struggling economy and its domestic savings rate at a pitiful 19,1% of GDP, stands in stark contrast to thriving economies in other newly developed countries like Singapore, with a domestic savings rate at 53% of GDP, and a currency happily caught up in a "virtuous circle", getting stronger and stronger relative to the US dollar.

All of which indicates that we should be looking inwards more than outwards for means to grow and develop our economy. And this is where the real constraints are to be found.

How can our population save when 46% of the employable pool is out of work and another 400 000 young hopefuls are trying (largely unsuccessfully) to enter the labour market each year?

How can people save when around 40% of the total population is living below the breadline, earning an average R600 per family per month?

And how can they save when about 30% of them are illiterate anyway (African Business, December 1995)?

And those more fortunate, who were going to enjoy reduced inflation and lower interest rates, and who thought they could probably both spend more and save more, have now had to tighten their belts. Disinflation and the bond rate are both up. Dispos-

able income is down and so are savings.

And let us not forget the very fortunate who do have the money to save, but who choose to find crafty ways of salting that money away in foreign bank accounts "just in case".

In a country where 80% of all households have experienced crime in the past two years (according to a survey quoted in the Sunday Times newspaper of June 9), how much confidence can one realistically be expected to feel?

When one is constantly afraid and insecure, one is unlikely, if there is any other alternative available, to invest one's entire life savings in the very place that creates that fear.

One is more likely to start looking for ways out. Before we heave a sigh of relief over the findings of the Nedcor report, and wait ever-hopeful for foreign capital to come pouring in, we may wish to remember that our real hopes for economic prosperity lie within ourselves.

And how, one may ask, does one garner hope and muster enthusiasm to build an economy when one is in a perpetual state of fear?

If, when asked "What is your greatest problem?" one has to reply, "Oh, murder first and then the rape of children", as did 81% of the Soviets approached in a recent survey (Business Day, May 30), one probably lacks the energy and optimism to work harder and save more.

Never mind what the foreign investors might think about us; let us get our house in order for our own sakes.

□ Lewis is an executive counsellor and Woodburn the MD of management consultants Woodburn Mann.

(34)

DND 25/6/96

SADC set to combat drug trafficking

Botswana 27/6/96 (34)

Member states will review politics, defence and security development in SA



Sir Ketumile Masire, Botswana president and current chairman of the Southern African Development Community, chairs crucial economic and strategic regional sessions in Gaborone this week.

PIC: PAT SEBOKO

IMMIGRATION AND police ministers from the Southern African Development Community opened three-day talks yesterday in the Botswana capital of Gaborone on combating drug-trafficking and free movement of its peoples in the region.

The meeting is to discuss draft protocols on the issues and will precede a heads of state meeting of the 12-member organisation, which includes South Africa, on Friday.

Friday's meeting, which is also expected to focus on the mounting political tensions in Zambia, will launch the SADC's body - "the security organ" - on politics, defence and security.

"The SADC leaders will also review developments in the region and internationally, with particular emphasis on matters relating to politics, defence and security in SA," the statement said.

The 12-member states of SADC are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Constitutional amendments

passed by parliament and dominated by Chiluba's ruling party, stops former President Kenneth Kaunda from contesting in the presidential elections later this year.

The amendments have triggered political turmoil and freezing of aid by overseas donors.

Sir Ketumile is the current SADC chairman.

SADC information officer Kgosi Mosei said that the "security organ" would effectively combine the activities of the proposed sector for conflict resolution and management, the proposed Association of Southern African States (Asas) and the Frontline States.

It would be coordinated by one of the member states on a rotational basis.

● Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa and several MECs concluded a three-day state visit to Botswana yesterday where accords were reached, including the possible future inclusion of that country in the Mpumalanga-Mozambique-Swaziland-Botswana Corridor. — *Sapa*.

Police flatfooted on Fivaz plan

JOHAN SCHRONEN
Crime Reporter

THE police battle plan to combat rampant crime is faltering, with only two weeks remaining of the 30-day schedule for arresting South Africa's 10 000 most wanted criminals.

So far only a handful have been arrested. Police now say the goal of 10 000 arrests was "figurative".

By today, two weeks after national police commissioner George Fivaz announced his "Sword and Shield" onslaught on crime, no significant results had been released.

A target of 10 000 arrests within 30 days was set at the launch of the programme, but police were criticised for being "slow on the draw" and "secretive" after the initiative was announced.

ARG 27/6/96
A spokesman for police national headquarters admitted that HQ had been bombarded by "numerous" media inquiries and letters criticising the plan.

But police said there was "nothing sinister" about the operation and explained that the target of arresting the 10 000 most wanted criminals should not be taken too literally.

Commissioner Fivaz's original announcement indicated

(34)
there were 10 000 identified criminals who were to be nabbed within one month. After "numerous media inquiries" he qualified his statement by saying the "most wanted" criminals were suspects who at "any given time" were being sought for serious crimes and could not be limited to a fixed list.

In the Western Cape, police have established four task teams to focus on priority crime areas.

Bank robberies on the increase

(34) Sowetan 28/6/96

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

Modus operadi of robbers differs
but violence is not prevalent

BANK ROBBERIES throughout South Africa have not decreased. A staggering 137 bank robberies occurred last year while 44 have taken place in the first three months of this year, Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday.

While statistics on the crime have not changed much, the ways that robberies are carried out vary.

According to Mufamadi, one of the most common ways used by the robbers was overpowering security guards.

"The perpetrators wait for security guards to open the premises's doors at the time scheduled to start business. They then usually push the guard inside the premises and order the personnel to lie down on the floor and keep quiet.

"The assailants then jump over the counter and force the personnel to hand over all the money in the cash drawers," he said.

Another common method was for the assailants to pretend to be customers and do one of two things.

They either stand in the queue and hand over a threatening note or they simply point a gun at the persons on the opposite side of the counter and carry out the crime.

He said the police had learnt that the robbers seldom wear disguises outside the banks. They only put the disguises on when they enter the premises.

Gang of robbers

A gang of bank robbers, Mufamadi said, normally comprised between four and seven people who generally used 9mm guns and AK-47 rifles. Occasionally, they also used grenades.

Of the cases already reported for last year and this year, the police do not as policy, provide the amounts of monies stolen.

"Institutions concerned are reluctant to divulge such information for fear of stimulating this type of crime and harming their professional image," the minister said.

Gauteng was worst hit with 76 robberies taking place between January 1995 and April this year.

In KwaZulu-Natal 53 robberies occurred - making it the second hardest hit province.

Only one robbery was reported in Northern Cape over the same period while none occurred in the Northern Province, he revealed. The Western Cape had three while 31 occurred in the Eastern Cape, six each in the Free State and North West and five in Mpumalanga.

However, violence was not as prevalent in bank robberies. "Research has indicated that violence is more prevalent during robberies of cash in transit and that such robberies are accompanied by a higher mortality rate than bank robberies."

He said that available figures were not a true reflection of the mortality rate and financial losses that accompany bank robberies. This also applies to the number of arrests that have been made.

Crackdown on syndicate crime

Secrets of the sea unearthed



Professor Bruno Werz and archaeology student Mr David Horwitz at Milnerton beach with bits of a wrecked sailing ship that could date back to 1780. The wreck was in the municipal workers who saw some nails sticking out of the sand. ● See Page 3

WHITE COLLAR CRIME is undermining the economy and tough measures to combat it should be in place by early next year, said Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar yesterday. Report by **FRANÇOISE BOTHA** and **OWN CORRESPONDENT**.

(34) CT 28/6/96

JOHANNESBURG: Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar yesterday announced that tough new measures to combat white collar crime and money laundering would be implemented before the end of the year or early next year.

And in Cape Town, Customs and Excise officials announced that they had smashed a huge smuggling syndicate responsible for fraud totalling about R180 million.

The minister announced that proposed legislation on money laundering to combat organised commercial crime would form part of the government's national crime prevention strategy.

Omar was speaking during a national conference hosted by an accounting firm held at the Eskom Conference Centre in Midrand.

"This form of crime does not only have an insidious corrupting effect which stimulates the growth of an underground economy, but it also debilitates the legitimate financial sector," he said.

Omar said criminals evaded detection by making use of highly sophisticated methods to conduct their illicit business.

He warned that every financial institution should regard itself as a potential target for money laundering schemes.

One effective deterrent to laundering was the imposition of appropriate sentences on culprits, he added.

The conference was held to discuss the recommendations by the South African Law Commission charged with establishing a legal

framework to combat money laundering in South Africa.

The commission has proposed the establishment of reporting methods which will allow financial institutions to report any suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Centre which will then disseminate the information to the investigative authorities.

Protection overriding any privilege or obligation to secrecy will be given to institutions who breach confidentiality. Omar said money laundering facilitated the penetration of legitimate business by organised crime.

The conference was attended by officials from the Office for Serious Economic Offences, bank representatives, SA Law Commission researchers, police investigative officers, and the KPMG Investigative Group from London and Canada.

Meanwhile, it was reported that fraudulently imported goods, conservatively valued at more than R180 million, were seized when customs officials and a police task force cracked what is believed to be one of a number of Cape-based import syndicates.

A six-man specialist task team put together by the department and the commercial crime unit of the South African Police Service, seized 11 containers of goods on Wednesday and arrested two Cape Town men.

The men, a Mr Franzen and a Mr Shimmim, who appeared in court on Wednesday, are not thought to be the leaders of the syndicate.

☐ Turn to Page 3

Border controls still a laugh

(34) By CHRIS BARRON
ST 30/6/96

THREE days after the Sunday Times ran a major article on the lack of control at South African border posts, a stolen Engen petrol tanker with false Mozambique number plates passed through the Lebombo border post into Mozambique, one day after it had been reported hijacked.

Police arrested the original driver of the fully laden truck and trailer on Tuesday, after he claimed he had been hijacked by five armed men. Members of the police truck hijacking unit recovered the trailer the same day near Bapsfontein in Gauteng.

They found that the 38 000l of petrol the trailer had been carrying had been

delivered to a petrol station in nearby Tembisa.

But the truck itself, valued at R1,1-million, was driven through the border post the next day.

The driver appeared in court on Friday to answer charges that he had sold the truck and trailer with its R79 000 load to the "hijackers". Police say he was due to be paid about R15 000.

Last week the Sunday Times quoted a confidential police document to the effect that the lack of border controls made it "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen and hijacked vehicles into neighbouring countries.

According to the document, bribery at border posts was "the order of the day".

BRAGGING LEADS TO RECAPTURE

'Klopjag' brigade hunts down parole-breakers

(34) CT/7/96

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES has its own force to bring back prisoners who abscond on parole. Crime Writer **JACKIE CAMERON** reports on how they operate.

It's a chilly 1am. The group of khaki-clad men with bullet-proof vests and pistols surround the neatly painted Claremont house swiftly and silently.

One man bangs on the front door, while another finds the back entrance unlocked. There is no reply, so they storm through the back door and into a bedroom, to find the man they are looking for waking in a daze.

"Correctional Services. We have a warrant here for your arrest. You have failed to comply with your correctional supervision conditions. You must come along with us. Do you understand me?"

A concerned older man, who was sharing the bed with the wanted man, pipes up: "Can I run a bath for him, first?"

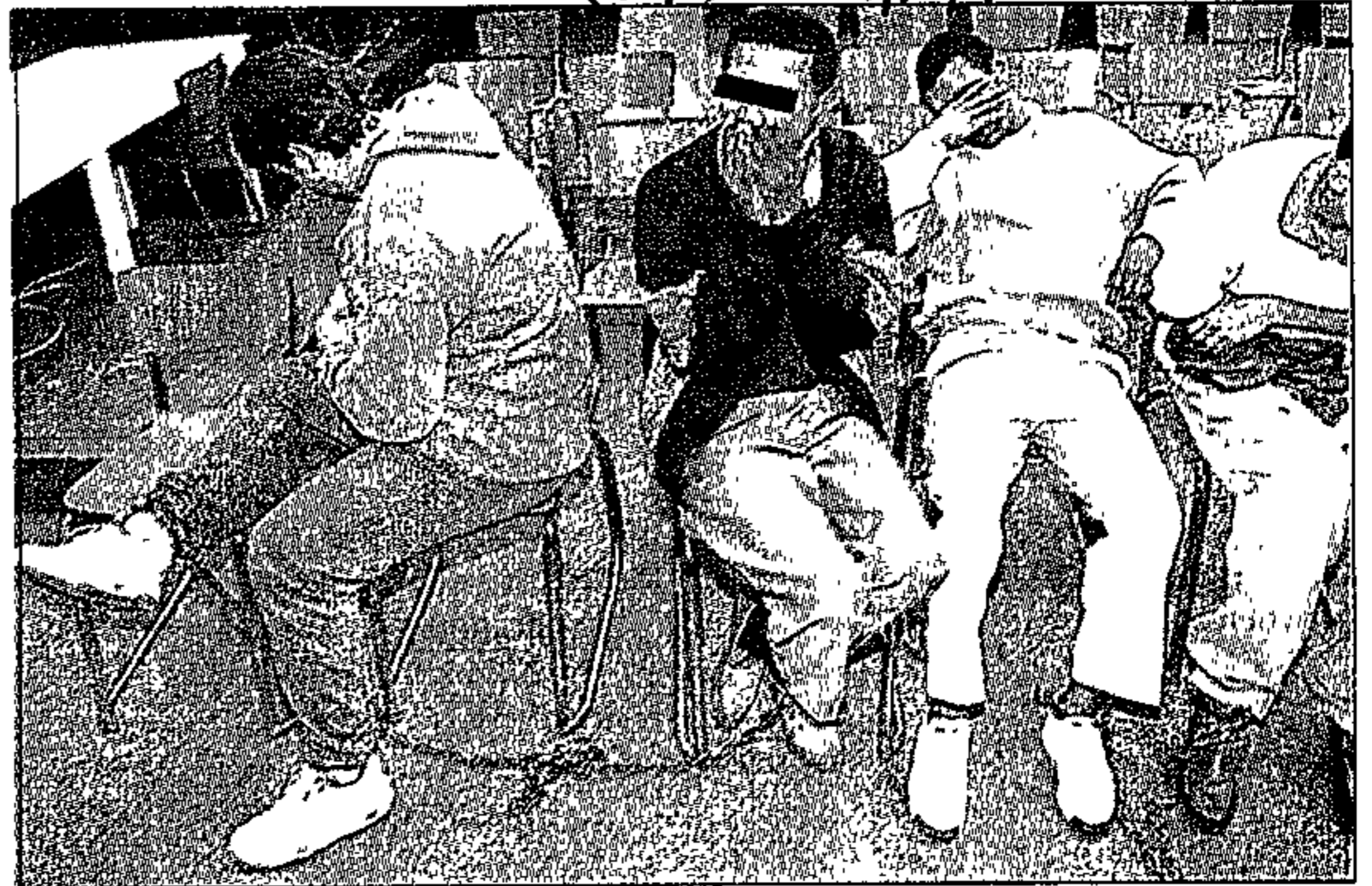
The answer is "no", and within minutes the convict is frog-marched out of his house and into the back of a prisons' van.

The man is one of many convicts who break their stiff correctional supervision requirements — a last chance for them to serve sentences while trying to live a normal life — and eventually end up in jail, making the prospects of reintegration into society grim.

The 35-year-old man was arrested at the weekend with at least nine other people tracked down after contravening their parole or correctional supervision conditions.

"We've been after this man for a while. He was bragging to his friends about how he's been managing to avoid us. He's almost certainly going to jail to serve his sentence for theft," senior correctional officer Mr Dirk Odendaal said.

The Department of Correctional Ser-



SHACKLED: Convicts wait for daylight at Correctional Supervision offices in the city after being arrested in a swoop on parole and correctional supervision offenders, who now will probably serve out their sentences in jail. **PICTURES: GARTH STEAD**

vices conducts midnight blitzes on the homes of offenders almost weekly.

"We have to nail them for the small things, like breaking contact with their officer for seven days or longer, failing to show up for community service or not staying home at night when they are under house arrest," Odendaal tells the Cape Times on a weekend "klopjag".

"We won't leave a guy in the community if he is not sticking to the rules."

The teams go out at night to "maintain the element of surprise" and record extra contraventions when offenders have broken 7pm to 7am house arrest.

"About 80% of people don't give us any problems. Over the last five years we have issued about 2 000 warrants for the arrest of offenders in the Western Cape. We catch up with them eventually, even if it takes years.

"Strangely, many people abscond when they have only a few months left to serve. Then we have to incarcerate them for not seeing things through."

While many believe correctional

supervision is lenient punishment, warders believe it is "lengthening the arm of the law".

"People are serving stiff sentences for offences for which they may have received fines in the past. For example, a number of our people have been sentenced to correctional supervision for drunken driving or failing to pay maintenance," Odendaal says.

It costs the taxpayer R14 a day for each convict the government keeps tabs on. It costs R40 a day to hold someone in jail.

Like other government departments, Correctional Services is drastically understaffed. There is one officer for every 200 people who require supervision.

They are also short of vehicles and radio equipment. There are no holding cells in the city. They have to guard manacled prisoners through the night if they cannot get them to police cells.

They are often the target of gunfire in gang-infested areas and get bitten by vicious dogs during raids.

Number

Household employment	0
1 - 20	21 - 40
41 - 60	61 - 80
81 +	Total

Notes:



PRE-DAWN RAID: Correctional Services officers searched three Athlone houses for a robbery convict who broke his correctional supervision terms, but failed to find him. Mr Stephanus Scheepers looks on as Mr Johan Vorster launches himself into a roof from Mr Anton van der Merwe's back.

Household employment rate(2) and Household expenditure quintile, metropolitan dwellers

Omar promises speedy legislation to combat organised commercial

By KOLUSA VAPI

Justice Minister Dullah Omar says proposed legislation on money laundering to combat organised commercial crime will become law before the end of the year or early next year as part of the government's national crime prevention strategy.

Omar was speaking during a na-

tional conference hosted by KPMG Forensic and Investigative Accounting Group at the Eskom Conference Centre in Midrand on Thursday.

The conference was held to discuss the recommendations by the South African Law Commission tasked with establishing a legal framework to combat money-laundering in South Africa.

Laundering is regarded as a host

of criminal activities, including organised crime; tax evasion; drug trafficking; and white collar crime.

The commission has proposed the establishment of a combination of reporting methods which will allow financial institutions to report any suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Centre which will disseminate the information to the investigative authorities.

(34)

Protection overriding any privilege or obligation to secrecy will be given to institutions for breaching confidentiality. These institutions will be protected from any liability for breaching confidential relationships, the proposals say.

Omar said money-laundering facilitated the penetration of legitimate business by organised crime.

"It is clear that this crime form

Star 1/7/96

does not only have an insidious corrupting effect which stimulates the growth of a secondary, underground economy, it also debilitates the legitimate financial sector," Omar said.

He said criminals were using sophisticated methods to conduct their illicit business and warned every financial institution to regard itself as a potential target for money-

laundering schemes.

A deterrent was apprehension and imposition of appropriate sentences for culprits, he added.

The conference was attended by officials from the Office for Serious Economic Offences; banks; SA Law Commission researchers; police investigative officers; and the KPMG Investigative Group from London and Canada.

crime

■ More staff appointments are expected soon to relieve the overworked and overburdened Western Cape police force.

LINDSAY BARNES
Staff Reporter

NEGOTIATIONS are under way to lift the three year moratorium on recruiting members to the understaffed and overworked Western Cape police force.

The plan to boost staff levels is part of a tough new police strategy, announced by Western Cape Police Minister Gerald Morkel as a declaration of war against crime and to make the province safer for everyone.

The plan aims to put President Nelson Mandela's national crime prevention strategy into action and is in line with the government's national growth and development programme.

Negotiations for more staff will take place between the national police commissioner George Fivaz and local commissioner Leon Wessels.

"En masse appointments" are expected shortly to relieve the Western Cape's 17 per cent manpower shortage.

Station commissioners, detective commanders, information managers, sector commanders and commanders of branch and tracking teams are expected to be appointed.

In the meantime, a recruitment programme has been set up in the Eastern Cape to train Xhosa-speaking people to work for the police in the province.

Criminals will be hunted down and crime will be combated to ensure a safer environment for people.

On the cards, in terms of the new strategy, are information units, hunting teams, tracking operations, roadblocks, crime prevention operations and clearing operations.

Task teams to deal with taxi and gang violence and robbery reaction units will be set up.

Four larger area-hunting teams will support police stations and sector policing will be established.

Regular tracking operations to hunt suspects will occur in every police area.

A large clearing operation will take place in every area on a quarterly basis and sweeping operations will be held in every police area on a monthly basis.

This will be achieved with the help of the South African National Defence Force - including the Air Force - and traffic authorities.

Sixty police vehicles will be equipped with tracker devices to trace stolen vehicles.

Priority crimes such as murder, rape, gang violence, drug abuse, housebreaking and theft from residences and businesses, robbery, assaults, theft and stock theft, would get special attention.

The illegal possession of firearms, commercial crime, violent crime and organised crime had been targeted on a national level.

Awareness programmes to promote the plan will be initiated and partnerships will be set up with schools, businesses, hospitals, retirement centres and security companies.

Closed circuit television will be set up in central business districts, shops and taxi ranks.

A project entitled "Own

Pride", in which police members were consulted on problems they faced, had been successful and issues such as low salaries, poor working conditions and the poor distribution of resources could now be addressed.

The investigation service has been re-organised to concentrate on fraud, taxi violence, gangs, drugs and syndicate offences.

An anti-corruption unit has been established in the province and will be increased in size and capability later.

Commissioner Wessels appealed to people not to allow offences to be committed on their premises and also to report crime to the police.

"This will prevent confrontations between the police and the community," he said.

He also requested the cooperation of nightclubs, liquor premises, entertainment centres and businesses, to assist in establishing an anti-crime culture.

"It is to be expected that the police will sometimes be forced to act, in which cases the minimum violence will be used to enter premises or effect arrests," he said.

When the police was asked by the community to take action, it was unacceptable that the same community sometimes attacked police staff when they responded, he said.

Mr Morkel said he was prepared to take ultimate responsibility, as the MEC for police, as long as he had the powers necessary. But the new plan would mean nothing if he did not have the cooperation of all other government departments and the community.

He is to meet with communities in "strategic areas" such as the townships and Cape flats, which present police with the biggest crime headache.

Next week he and four representatives from the police are to meet with Bavarian police to discuss their methods of tackling crime and drug smuggling. With the massive increase in the number of flights into the country, the latter problem has assumed huge proportions.

While the gang units were understaffed they had made great strides in curbing gangs.

Commissioner Wessels said the Attorney-General's cooperation had been sought and he had agreed to advocate being appointed to assist with the investigation into gang members.

A redistribution of police manpower would mean more members to tackle the escalation in gang activity.

While 828 criminals had been arrested since the launch of the strategy, the process was rendered pointless and the morale of police members was knocked when criminals were released back onto the streets shortly after their arrest.

So far in the Western Cape, 150 people have been arrested for assault, 12 for murder, 23 for rape, 166 for housebreaking, 34 for dealing in drugs and 28 for robbery. Also in the Western Cape, 132 police forums have been registered and are now operational.

WORLDWIDE REPORTS TO COMBAT CRIME

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25 (34)

SWOOP NETS THOUSANDS

Cops strike blow at heart of crime

CT 17/7/96 (34)

POLICE MORALE has been raised by their success in arresting 7 099 of the 10 000 hardened criminals they aimed at nabbing in the first 30 days of the Sword and Shield campaign, reports Crime Writer **JACKIE CAMERON**.

POLICE have achieved 71% success in their campaign to arrest South Africa's 10 000 most wanted criminals within 30 days — the first phase of the Sword and Shield plan launched by Commissioner George Fivaz last month.

This was announced yesterday by Acting Commissioner Morgan Chetty, who said 7 099 hardened criminals had been arrested countrywide since the campaign was launched on June 13. All had been formally charged.

The figure includes 241 suspects wanted for murder, 274 for rape, 41 for hijacking, 1 196 for housebreaking, 292 for vehicle theft, 421 for serious robbery and 244 for theft from vehicles.

More than 1 700 of the suspects were arrested in the Western Cape. Of these, 356 were wanted for theft, 296 for assault, 307 for burglary and 63 for robbery, Senior Superintendent John Sterrenberg said yesterday.

More than 50 are suspected rapists and at least 26 are murder suspects.

The 7 099 are included in a total of 46 641 persons arrested nationally between June 13 and July 13.

Over the same period, police recovered 1 029 stolen vehicles and 1 429 unlicensed firearms.

They also arrested 5 493 illegal aliens.

Chetty told reporters at a Johannesburg news conference that the year-long Sword and Shield campaign was "well within the ambit" of normal police duties, but said police needed more staff.

According to a statement handed out at the conference, 1 649 suspects were arrested in Gauteng, 1 092 in the Free State, 659 in North-West, 799 in Eastern Cape, 528 in Northern Province, 180 in Northern

Cape, 197 in Mpumalanga and 292 in KwaZulu-Natal.

Chetty said the campaign had not been launched under ideal conditions, especially in KwaZulu-Natal, where police had been involved in security operations during last month's local government elections.

He said he was not in a position to answer questions on how many of the criminals had been positively linked to serious crimes, how many were out on bail, or how many headed syndicates.

But a police source said the majority of those arrested for repeat offences would not be granted bail. They had prior warrants out for their arrest and their chances of getting bail were "very slim".

In the Western Cape it was discovered that two of the men on the province's most-wanted list of nine should not have been on the list.

Mr Cginikaya Myendeki, wanted in connection with robbery, died in a car accident before the list was compiled and robbery suspect Eric Nama is serv-

ing a lengthy jail sentence, Sterrenberg said yesterday.

Mr Sadekar Clark, wanted in connection with rape, was arrested.

Among the arrests by tracing teams in Gauteng are Mr Lenny Nhlanhla, the son of deputy Intelligence Services Minister Mr Joe Nhlanhla, who appeared in the Wynberg Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of attempted murder. He had allegedly opened fire on police when they went to arrest him in connection with a vehicle theft in Bramley in 1985. He has been let out on bail.

Also arrested were eight members of a gang who had been terrorising small-holding residents in Walkerville, south of Johannesburg, since last year. The gang is linked to 25 charges of murder, armed robbery and rape. The leader of the gang was listed as one of the 15 most-wanted criminals.

Chetty said: "We are not claiming an unqualified triumph for the 10 000 campaign.

"But, all things considered, the results have created a huge bridgehead from which the SAPS can further intensify the war against crime."

One of the most significant effects of the 10 000 campaign had been to raise police morale.

Insurance issue mars stolen vehicle recovery rate

Ingrid Salgado

(34)

THE insurance industry's 15% recovery rate of stolen vehicles was substantially lower than the 50% rate claimed by police because the majority of stolen vehicles were uninsured, police said yesterday.

Only 21% of SA vehicles were insured, police spokesman Supt Sharon Schutte said.

Earlier this week the SA Insurance Association alleged it did not know the whereabouts of thou-

sands of vehicles that the police claimed to have recovered, saying the SAPS would not give the industry access to information on recovered vehicles. Police expected the industry to buy the information from a private company, association CE Barry Scott said.

Schutte said the company, Unicode, was awarded a 10-year contract last year to manage information on vehicles because police did not have the advanced technological capability to collate the data.

The insurance industry could purchase the information it needed from Unicode. The SAPS stopped rendering this service itself because information on stolen vehicles was not secure and had led to misuse of data. The insurance industry was not entitled to make use of all information because only a fifth of vehicles were insured. Police had been willing to help the association install a similar system but the association "never came back to us".

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Omar orders probe into Sword arrests

(34)
(21) Nov 22/7/96
Justice Minister Dullah Omar has ordered a departmental probe into the number of prosecutions resulting from the more than 7 000 arrests police say they have made since the launch of their Sword and Shield anti-crime plan.

This comes in the wake of Omar's finding at the weekend that the courts' case load in the Western Cape had not increased since the launch of the plan, despite police saying they had arrested more than 70% of the 10 000 criminals they had targeted.

Omar's spokesman, Paul Setsetse, said yesterday queries by the minister to the chief magistrate of Cape Town – the Western Cape's largest magisterial district, where the most arrests reportedly were made – revealed no increase in the number of new cases since the launch of the anti-crime blitz last month.

A spokesman for the department, Adv Pieter du Randt, said in Pretoria that although no marked increase in case loads had been noticed, the arrests would not mean "a sudden increase of 1 000 criminals" appearing in court.

It would be a staggered process, noticeable only over a period of time, he said.

In addition, the work-to-rule action embarked upon by prosecutors countrywide could also lead to a backlog in caseloads.

According to senior public prosecutor for Johannesburg, Brink Ferreira, arrested criminals have to appear in court within 48 hours. If there had been an increase in the number of arrests, it should be reflected in an increase in the number of court cases, he said.

Police commissioner George Fivaz's office said they could not comment on Omar's finding that police may not have arrested as many criminals as they claim until they had "studied the justice department's figures". – Staff Reporter.

sceptics

Fivaz answers crime-blitz

(34) Swan 23/7/96

Police to produce list in response to minister's query that courts seem under no extra pressure after 7 099 arrests

BY HELEN GRANGE

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz has lashed out at people trying to "denigrate" the Sword and Shield anti-crime blitz, and promised to end doubts about its success by producing a list of when and where the 7 099 arrested suspects appeared in court.

Fivaz's undertaking follows Justice Minister Dullah Omar's request for more details of the number of prosecutions resulting from the arrests.

Omar's spokesman Paul Setsetse said at the weekend that queries by the minister to the chief magistrate of Cape Town - the Western Cape's largest magisterial district where the most arrests were made - revealed no increase in the number of new cases since the launch of the anti-crime blitz last month.

Fivaz responded yesterday by saying he had directed SAPS sub-structures countrywide to list when and where the 7 099 suspects appeared in court, and in which cases bail was granted.

Referring to Omar's remarks and his contention at the outset of the blitz that the courts would not be able to deal with extra case-loads, Fivaz said: "I am glad it has now been realised that 7 099 arrests in a monthly total of 46 641, will not place a burden on any specific court, as these courts are spread across the country."

Omar reportedly said at the weekend that police corruption, the loss or theft of dockets, the

failure of witnesses to arrive at court, and inefficiency in preparing dockets for prosecution were reasons for cases being dismissed and "guilty parties getting away scot-free".

Fivaz said the 71% success rate of Sword and Shield's first operation had impressed the decision-makers he met in Belgium and the Netherlands, and convinced them of South Africa's commitment to fighting crime.

"I am proud of the achievements of SAPS members who pulled out all the stops in the 10 000 campaign to kickstart the Sword and Shield police plan.

"If KwaZulu Natal had not been prevented by local elections from participating, the target of 10 000 suspects could very well have been attained," he said.

Statistics provided yesterday by Fivaz's office showed that, of the 7 099 arrests, 1 703 were in the Western Cape, with Gauteng following at 1 649.

Setsetse said there was no attempt to undermine Fivaz's plan; the issue had arisen out of media queries concerning numbers of prosecutions.

■ The work-to-rule action by prosecutors countrywide looks close to being resolved.

Prosecutors' Association of SA chairman Blackie Swart said should minister Omar make a written commitment to follow through with his proposals to re-vamp salaries, "we will certainly reconsider our action".

For the time being, however, the work-to-rule was continuing.

Economic crime costing region dearly — Manuel

(34) 00 22/7/96

Susan Russell

SOUTHERN Africa as a developing region could not afford the billions of rands lost through economic crime, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said on Friday.

Manuel was addressing delegates at the second African Conference on Economic Crime in Midrand which this year focused on cross-border crimes and corruption in southern Africa.

Delegates at the three-day conference included international economic crime experts, business leaders and senior justice officials and police chiefs from SA, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Swaziland, Kenya and Zambia.

Manuel reiterated the call by other speakers for mutual regional co-operation.

Without that, he said, Southern Africa would not be able to start addressing the effect crime was having on the economy.

The role customs and excise had to play in this was vital, as was the need for links between customs officials and other law en-

forcement agents, Manuel said.

Manuel endorsed the proposal by a number of senior justice and police officials that law enforcement agencies should be given the authority to act across the jurisdiction of a particular country.

"Within each country of the region," he said, "there is also a need for co-operation between the various functions and departments that control the movement of goods and people across borders."

He said SA's customs and VAT law enforcement task group, which brought together customs and excise, inland revenue, the SAPS, the Reserve Bank and the department of trade and industry had already had quite a large measure of success smashing smuggling syndicates and closing in on VAT fraud.

Manuel emphasised that co-operation had to go beyond treaties and protocols between the various governments.

"The ability to eradicate crime depends on the commitment from other institutions — the banks and business in general," he said.

"This is the origin of success; it starts within civil society."

He pointed out that banks in the UK were obliged to report transactions which appeared extraordinary, and it was only then that government responded.

"On our part we need at that stage to introduce a more rapid response and investigate speedily."

"We recognise there are problems with our criminal justice system which have led to delays," Manuel said.

He said there was also a need for "re-engineering" society.

"Morality or ethics are not driven by law."

"For as long as morality is missing, no government co-operation, treaties, protocols or cross-border raids are going to be worthwhile."

Manuel said fortunately the region was at a point where crime and corruption had not yet reached the levels they had in some other parts of Africa and the world, but SA needed to act now to prevent crime from escalating beyond control.

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Police plans for diplomatic protection unit put on hold

Ingrid Salgado

BD 26/7/96

(34)

PLANS for police to establish a special diplomatic protection unit to protect foreign diplomats in SA against high crime levels have been put on ice until the lifting of a moratorium that prevents more officers being employed.

Police spokesman Supt Leon Engelbrecht said yesterday the SAPS had instead undertaken to increase visible policing around embassies and consulates in the short term. Police would also provide extra assistance to foreign diplomats upon request.

A special protection unit was mooted last month after a meeting between the foreign diplomatic corps and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi. This followed a spate of crimes directed at diplomatic staff and property, in particular the armed robbery of Lebanese ambassador to SA Charbel Stephan.

Engelbrecht said the unit could not be established yet because the service was understaffed.

However, "we will definitely be looking at it in the future". In the meantime, station commanders across the country had been instructed to upgrade visible foot and vehicle protection of embassies and consulates.

Areas most affected were Waterkloof, Arcadia, Sunnyside and Brooklyn in Pretoria and Sandton in Johannesburg. Dean of the diplomatic corps and China's ambassador to SA I-cheng Loh said yesterday that security around diplomatic residences had already been stepped up. There had also been an improvement in liaison between police and diplomats.

But Swiss consul-general Leo Renggli said that increased patrols had not led to a visible decrease in crime levels. In the past six months, there had been 10 incidents of robbery and vehicle hijackings directed at Swiss embassy and consulate staff.

Just recently, Swiss businessman Edwin Roth's truck was hijacked — for the fifth time — while Swiss national Marcel Barlogis had three armed robberies directed against his business, three car hijackings and five burglaries at his home.

Swiss diplomats in SA had sent a letter to the Swiss government informing them of the "dangerous situation" they faced.

Swiss media were already warning travellers to SA of the high crime rate. Tourism and investment in SA would suffer substantially if current trends continued, Renggli said.

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Crime study disproves racial prejudice perception

'Focus on children to fight crime'

Criminologists question stereotype which suggests that only one population group offends exclusively within a particular category of crime

(34) Star 29/7/96

By NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

The perception among some white South Africans that black people are the worst offenders when it comes to crime has been given a resounding thumbs down by criminologists. They have found in an extensive study of the habits of the country's criminals that white men as well as women of all races are just as guilty, more so in many instances.

Out of 4,2-million people of all races featuring on police records, more than half (55,3%) will again commit a crime after having been sentenced for an earlier offence.

The Institute for Criminology at Unisa, and the research unit of the police's Criminal Record Centre in Pretoria have found from a sample survey of 4 832 offenders,

that 82% had been convicted at least once by the time they were 25 years old (60% before age 19).

An analysis of their crime histories, published in the Unisa publication "Acta Criminologica", questions any notion or stereotype which suggests that only one population group offends exclusively within a particularly category of crimes, and also "leaves one with the distinct impression that women's criminal activities are under-rated and it was found that women also engage in a diversity of crime, including physical and violent behaviour."

The recidivism phenomenon (the habit of relapsing into crime) in South Africa is regarded by the researchers as one of society's most puzzling features, particularly when a person first commits a crime after the age of 40.

"Although the extent of this category of offenders is not sensational, what forced a person who supposedly led a crime-free life up to that stage to resort to criminal avenues?" the researchers ask.

The criminologists have identified 10 common crimes, the top three being those relating to communal life, personal relations and property (including fraud and embezzlement). The other seven are dagga offences, rape, common and serious assault, burglary and theft, other theft, and malicious damage to property.

One of the most interesting results of the study is that persons convicted for ideological crimes (politically-motivated activity) do not act purely in that regard but also commit crimes across the spectrum of criminal and statutory law.

By NORMAN CHANDLER

A 3-year-old boy or girl abused by their parents will probably turn out to be tomorrow's criminal, according to Unisa criminologist Professor Sandra Joubert.

"Families are the training ground for violence," she says in a published paper on the imperativeness of a long-term crime prevention strategy for South Africa.

She recommends a study of early childhood experiences because criminal activity, she says, has its roots in those years.

"A quarter of abused children eventually abuse their own children. It is imperative to invest in children from the pre-school phase as an effective long-term crime control policy. Even at an early age, high-risk children should be identified."

Joubert argues that the uniform educational system being introduced in SA is ideal "to (help) implement the school as the major role player in the socialisation of the younger generation. An awareness of the pitfalls of criminal actions can be instilled" as part of a subtle approach in the war against crime.

500 arrested for theft of R22-m

By McKeed Kotlolo

THE South African Police Service's "Operation White Collar", has had a successful weekend in that more than 500 suspected commercial criminals involved in the theft of more than R22 million were arrested.

Head of the commercial crime unit Assistant Commissioner Manie Schoeman announced yesterday that the operation was conducted country-wide from Friday to Monday.

Spokesman for the detectives communications service Director Reg Crew said there was no public figure among those arrested. He said the detainees

would appear in courts countrywide.

Schoeman also disclosed that 539 suspects were arrested in cases involving a total of R22,1 million.

About 2 000 premises were searched for suspects during the operation and all those detained were being sought by the commercial crime unit.

Gauteng, with 391 arrests, was the highest among the nine provinces with a total R19 183 098 involved. Eastern Cape was second with 28 arrests and R89 484 involved.

Schoeman said the operation was in line with the aims and objectives of the National Commissioner's recently announced police plan.

Sowetan 31/7/96

two men in a red Vauxhall Astra the Kent house. Phillips found the

Staff shortages hamper crime-fighting

Angella Johnson and Stuart Hess

CRIME fighting in South Africa is being hampered by a 22 479-person staff shortage in the South African Police Service, according to a study carried out by the SAPS.

Research conducted by the police human resources division found that the ideal national headcount for the SAPS to function effectively should be 161 755.

But there is little chance of meeting that optimum figure: a government financial freeze in recruitment means that no new entrants will be enlisted into the SAPS this year. In some provinces there have not been any new recruits since 1994.

"The situation is reaching a critical point. We desperately need new blood, but at the moment we make do as best as possible," said Johan Deyzel, provincial police commissioner for the Northern Cape.

He would like to see more "bobbies on the beat", but resources are stretched enough. As it is, he relies on his officers to work overtime to meet the shortfall.

"It's not good for morale and it is not the best way to use our limited resources, but there is no alternative when we are unable to recruit."

The area has 85 stations staffed by some 3 670 police officers. "Ideally I need another 800 to deal with the large number of violent knife-related crimes in the area," said Deyzel.

His was one of several provinces to insist that personnel shortfall was straining the SAPS's crime-fighting capabilities and hampering attempts to halt the country's crime scourge.

KwaZulu-Natal communications

officer Bala Naidoo described how visiting police officials from the UK usually expressed amazement that there is only one police officer per 445 people.

"We have about 20 000 and we need 26 000. It means our response times are not as quick as they should be, that patrols have to cover huge areas and that in some cases people are not getting the service they should," said Naidoo.

In North West province, the ratio is one officer to every 630 people. "We are 70% understaffed,"

complained director of management Marius Dippenaar.

He argues that there are fewer policemen now than before the 1994 elections. Hardest hit are Johannesburg police station (39% understaffed) and Klerksdorp police station (45% understaffed).

Gauteng, which shoulders the burden of most of the crimes committed nationwide, estimates that it has one officer per 249 civilians — and that does not include illegal immigrants. According to representative Azwindini Nengovhela: "We have not replaced any of the

officers lost since the election through death or retirement."

So far this year alone nearly 700 officers have left the SAPS. Nengovhela says that only by relying on the army and private security firms to supplement personnel can the police maintain high visibility and carry out certain duties.

"In normal circumstances we should be able to stand on our own, but for some operations we find ourselves increasingly relying on backup from the army. That is not the way for a democratic police service to operate."

How bad is it, really? The SAPS's figures

EASTERN CAPE

- 205 police stations in the province
- 13% of the national police force serving 16% of the population
- 18 500 policemen, including those from Transkei and Ciskei
- Total manpower shortage in the province estimated at 2 589

FREE STATE

- 109 police stations; 36 satellite points
- 287 civilians per policeman
- Individual stations have shortages since police budget to Free State was cut

GAUTENG

- 24 906 police personnel in Witwatersrand region before 1994 elections
- Today there are 31 804 in the Witwatersrand and Pretoria

KWAZULU-NATAL

- Each police officer has to serve 445 people
- 20 223 police officers; need 26 000
- 179 police stations

Financial shortages, need funds

MPUMALANGA

- 6 596 police personnel in the province; needs 9 720 officers
- 32% understaffed
- 95 police stations. All of them are understaffed
- 499 civilians to every policeman
- Budget for the area has been cut by R40-million compared to last year
- Too few vehicles, but they "have learnt to manage"

NORTHERN CAPE

- Working within a restricted budget. Situation could become critical despite a slight decrease in crime
- No recruits since April 94
- 85 police stations in province
- 44% understaffed
- 3667 police officers, with 237 civilians per officer

NORTHERN PROVINCE

- 9337 policemen for 90 police stations

23% understaffed

Ratio of police officers to civilians is 1:578

No recruits since 1994

NORTH WEST

- 9 337 policemen, about 630 civilians to one policeman
- 90 police stations in the province and they are 70% understaffed
- 3 700 vacancies

WESTERN CAPE

- 12 104 policemen serving over 1000 civilians each
- 153 police stations serving a population of nearly 5-million
- Figures indicate that after reorganisation of resources in October 1996, the force will be 17% understaffed

SOUTH AFRICA NARCOTICS BUREAU

- Currently have 30 members in Johannesburg, at John Vorster Square. Needs at least double

Probes into white-collar crime come a cropper as more staffers quit unit

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

(34) Star 3/8/96

A fraud investigation into shipping transactions involving R5,6-billion approved by the South African Reserve Bank has collapsed as the Office for Serious Economic Offences battles with a shortage of manpower.

With many poorly paid investigators leaving the OSEO to go into private practice or to take up promotional opportunities, it is unlikely that the colossal fraud investigation will be resurrected in the near future.

However, the Reserve Bank and its appointed auditors are continuing with the investigation into the sale of the shipping vessels in an attempt to recover funds, according to Deputy Attorney-General Dawie Fouche.

The shipping vessels were purchased by foreigners through financial rands and other transactions approved by the Reserve Bank, on the understanding that the vessels would become South African assets.

Allegations are being investigated that false information about the identity and value of the vessels was given to the Reserve Bank, Fouche said.

"There are allegations that some of the vessels never even existed and there were also allegations that the prices were inflated," he said.

Fouche, who travelled overseas to investigate the case, said the OSEO had been investigating the shipping transactions with the Reserve Bank "for a short while" until the case had been dropped because of a lack of manpower.

"Nothing much is being done on it now by us. We just don't have the time to attend to it. The Reserve Bank and its auditors are looking at it but in a totally different way to how we would look at it. They are trying to get their money back. We would be looking at getting the crooks behind bars," said Fouche.

OSEO director Jan Swanepoel said his office was unable to take on new cases or cope with its huge workload. Out of a staff of 14, five people had left the OSEO for pro-

motional opportunities. Two of these posts were once filled by senior state advocates. The manpower problem was further compounded by the fact that half of the staff in the OSEO's Cape Town office had applied for the severance packages currently on offer in the civil service.

"The severance packages are quite attractive. Many people are concerned about affirmative action. People feel the merit component does not count much any longer," said Swanepoel. Poor salaries were also encouraging people to take the packages, he said.

"These people can earn a lot more elsewhere. In the Department of Justice, there have not been salary increases for three years for certain ranks, and people are getting poorer every year."

He believed that not all the people in the Justice Department who applied for severance packages would be able to take them.

"But what does that leave us with - a negative person who is frustrated with his lot?" he asked. The OSEO was handling 34 investigations, with 21 being conducted by the Pretoria office.

"Some of them we have just had to leave. People have complained to us about why the

cases are not getting attention, but now we often have to refer cases to the police commercial branch."

Swanepoel said fraud cases had to be set aside and the shipping case had not been tackled for more than 18 months, although it was hoped it would be resurrected at some stage.

Swanepoel said it was a widely accepted fact that fraud in South Africa was "bad" - and fraud and corruption went hand in hand.

A meeting had been held with Minister of Justice Dullah Omar and it was hoped this might help to iron out existing manpower problems in the Justice Department, he said.

White-collar criminals, who were shaken when the special high-level investigation squad was formed in 1992, cannot relax just yet.

Following a meeting with the minister of justice, it is hoped some of the problems will be resolved

SA not under-policed, crime conference told

Shaw 7/8/96

(34) ~~(281)~~

Researcher says that we should take heed of trends overseas

By **Derek Rodney**
Crime Reporter

The South African Police Service is not understaffed, and policy makers should heed trends abroad and focus crime prevention at city level while provincial and national bodies concentrate on countering organised and white collar crime.

Mark Shaw, a senior researcher at the Institute for Defence Policy (IDP), said on Monday that the National Crime Prevention Strategy did not make adequate provision for city or major metro participation in the strategy.

Delivering a paper at a conference entitled "War and Peace in Southern Africa: Crime, Drugs, Armies and Trade", Shaw also criticised city councils for being too reliant on national initiative:

"What is needed is a plan for safer South African cities which seeks to develop linkages be-

tween cities (as in Europe) to share experiences and ideas."

He drew attention to the "Broken Window" initiative instituted by former New York city commissioner William Bratton, which since its implementation several years ago has resulted in a marked decline of most crime in the the world's former crime capital.

Shaw was speaking at the conference organised by the South African Institute of International Studies, the World Peace Foundation and the IDP, and held at the University of the Witwatersrand.

He added that city crime prevention initiatives would be the logical outcome of locally developed forms of "partnership" policing, such as the Business Against Crime initiative.

Shaw targeted organised crime and white collar crime as crimes requiring tailored solutions and investigative strategies.

"Comparative evidence from other states in transition suggests that unless organised crime operations are countered quickly after their formation they have the potential to harden, penetrate the state and form parallel and competing forms of power," he said.

Shaw said that South Africa was not under-policed, and that although police concentrated strongly on the front end of the criminal justice system, very little work has been done by the new order relating to detecting crime.

A major overhaul of the detective branch was required.

Shaw said the number of police personnel (140 000 in total) compared favourably with international figures when measured per head of population - 328 people per police officer compared with an international average of about 1 014.

The conference ended yesterday.

Organised crime overwhelms undermanned detective units

By DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

Organised crime investigation units (OCIU) – severely restricted in manpower and resources – are only investigating 32 of the country's 481 identified syndicates.

At present, the organised crime division consists of 28 OCIU offices nationally, offering scant resistance against the activities of an estimated 136 drug syn-

dicates, 112 vehicle related syndicates, 85 commercial/fraud rackets and 71 diamond and gold related syndicates.

Gauteng alone has 45 identified drug, 51 vehicle related and 65 commercial crime syndicates operating on a national and in some cases international level.

The OCIUs consisting of specialised investigators and other specialist units have been thrown together to face the onslaught.

National Organised Crime Unit head Assistant Commissioner Neels Venter told a conference at Wits yesterday the only solution was a multidimensional approach demanding multiprofessional assistance.

He expressed deep concern about the massive influx of hard-core drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, which had already started to take root in the country.

"Since SA emerged from inter-

national isolation, it has increasingly become a transit point and now a consumer market for many types of 'rich man's drugs'," Venter said.

Detectives arrested 7 995 people last year for dealing in and/or possessing illegal substances, while 886 959 tablets and 237 tons of illegal substances were seized.

There had been a significant shift from drugs like LSD and Nexus in 1994 to drugs like cocaine and heroin last year.

(34) STAN 7/8/96

SA firms expect increasing fraud

Dave Marrs

20 8/8/96 (34)

NINE out of 10 SA companies expect to experience increased fraud in the coming months, citing as reasons rising economic pressures, an erosion of society's values and the perception that the criminal justice system is inefficient, with sentences too lenient.

This emerged from KPMG's 1996 fraud survey, which showed 66% of South African companies had fallen victim to fraud over the past two years, with 74% of the losses resulting from white collar crime perpetrated by employees.

KPMG Forensic Accounting SA director Petrus Marais said the perceived increase in fraud risk in SA was high compared with other countries, but the fact that almost three quarters of losses were caused by employees meant tighter internal controls could reduce that risk.

Marais said: "An effective fraud prevention policy revolves around raising the level of awareness of the risk of fraud; minimising temptation, motive and opportunity; and adopting an approach that is perceived as an investment by the organisation, and not as a cost."

Firms should go out of their way to know the personal circumstances and backgrounds of employees and trading partners to help reduce the incidence of fraud and limit losses, he said.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE NEEDED

FM 9/8/96

Alterations are in store for building and construction company Stocks & Stocks as it moves to control rising debt. A proposal to list the property and hotel and leisure interests as separate companies springs from a desire to cut borrowings

FRUITS OF EXPANSION

Year to April 30	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	1,489	1,563
Operating income (Rm)	62,9	85,3
Attributable (Rm)	34,5	55,8
Earnings (c)	43	69
Dividends (c)	12	15

Fox 95

and increase access to capital — both property and leisure development are capital-intensive activities by nature.

Group chairman Reg Edwards contends that the move would also "realise some of the value on the balance sheet" now tied up in assets. Stocks has begun retaining an interest in developments it considers high-quality, such as Sandton Square, which has boosted the carrying value of investments.

It makes sense, given the trend developing on the balance sheet. Gearing of about 40% is pushing on the discomfort zone, but worse is the net interest charge of R24,4m off operating income of

R85,3m — 29% of the total. The debt is a restriction on further expansion.

There's no plan for a change in ultimate control, however. And Edwards emphasises that diversification is still a strategic goal, largely to reduce dependence on "the vagaries of the construction industry." To that end, management wants to boost the leisure division's contribution to earnings from its 11% this year to 25% in the future.

Construction contributed 56% of turnover and 32% of income in 1996 — still substantial, though income dropped from 44% in 1995. An improvement in operating margins to 5,5 (4,2%) speaks of

better-quality earnings. Edwards says civil engineering has a "nice order book" for this year, including "a chunk of the structural work at Saldanha Steel" in a joint venture with WBHO.

Toll roads figure large, as well as airport work and various housing developments. Group-wide, orders total about R1,5bn — "a little up on last year." Property development, presided over by CE Bart Dorrestein, maximised its profits last year, accounting for nearly half the total income and a fifth of turnover.

The balance sheet shows a 47% increase in accounts receivable, which Edwards attributes in part to the changed

96 Fox

nature of the business. "Contractors tend to receive payment in 30 days, but in the leisure industry, people pay more slowly." Some big payments outstanding on the sale of buildings have since come through, reducing debtors considerably.

EPS were boosted by the switch to comprehensive deferred tax (with year-ago figures restated on the same basis) and a low tax rate for the year. This heady rate of growth is unlikely to be

sustained next year, but the company expects real growth.

Stocks celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Since its inception it has not made a loss, says Edwards, himself a 32-year veteran of the group.

The share price has come off to 525c from 580c last week. On a p:e of 7,6, it stands at a considerable discount to the sector average of 12,5 and appears undervalued on the historical performance

— but the share rating clearly indicates that the market has reservations about this company. *Margaret-Anne Halse* ✓

Prowl the empty streets — on foot

(34) (1991) AR 4 10/8/96

■ Former New York police commissioner William Bratton, currently visiting South Africa, believes this country's police members need to show themselves far more on our city streets.

ROSS HERBERT
Independent Foreign Service

JOHANNESBURG. — Three years ago New York city was like Johannesburg and other South African cities are today: consumed with crime stories that raced through dinner parties, newspapers and kitchen-table conversations.

Violent protests had flared over attempts by Korean green grocers to stop petty thefts at their tiny shops. Gunfire haunted the night. Drug needles and discarded vials for crack cocaine crunched under foot in city housing projects.

Today New York has undergone a remarkable transformation from crime capital of America to one of its safest major cities.

From 1994 to 1996 crime fell by 27 percent. Homicides dropped 39 percent and robbery by 30 percent. Since 1990, murder is down by 50 percent.

The man who gets more of the credit for the change than any one else is former police commissioner William Bratton — arguably the most influential policeman in the United States. Mr Bratton spoke this week at a conference on crime and violence, hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg.

One of Mr Bratton's first guidelines is that South African police need to show themselves far more on city streets. This conviction stems from what was a fairly radical idea in the US before Mr Bratton took over as New York police commissioner in January 1994: instead of down playing public



□ **WILLIAM BRATTON:** Helped transform New York from crime capital to safe tourist destination.

fears of crime, police need to directly counteract public fear — by showing their presence and promoting a sense of public order.

In Mr Bratton's view, fear had set off a vicious cycle of citizens going to live in safer suburbs and taking with them their taxes — and over the long term thousands of jobs — which provoked more desperation among the jobless.

One of Mr Bratton's first and most controversial acts was to focus on what he calls "quality

of life" issues: people engaged in public drinking, aggressive begging, or homeless people sleeping on trains and in doorways were persistently moved on their way by the police, a large proportion of whom were redeployed from patrol cars to foot patrols.

Mr Bratton also targeted what were known as "squeegee men" who would wash the windshields of cars stuck in traffic. Drivers couldn't refuse and were often intimidated into paying for the unwanted wash.

A common joke at the time was that the torch in the hand of the Statue of Liberty should be replaced with a squeegee, to better reflect New York.

"In the early 90s you could not get into the city without going through a phalanx of these guys."

"By allowing that kind of disorder we were contributing to the fear," he said.

When policemen began stopping people for public disorder, drinking and fare-jumping on city trains, they began rou-

tinely checking ID numbers using portable radios.

This practice apprehended many wanted criminals and people carrying illegal weapons. Before then, police and the public had come to believe crime stemmed from underlying economic causes that no one could really affect.

This thinking stifled crime-fighting creativity and led police to shrug off public complaints. However, Mr Bratton argued the police could change public behaviour, by preventing small

crimes that could, unchallenged, lead to bigger ones.

Most policemen spent their days in patrol vehicles and rarely spoke to ordinary citizens. By pushing policemen out of cars onto foot patrol and showing tangible success on issues that mattered to ordinary people, trust in the police improved.

Mr Bratton also applied disciplined business management to the police. "My competition was the criminals."

"They were out working seven-days a week, 24-hours a day."

"We were working only five days, from nine to five," said Mr Bratton.

Information and automation were critical: crime statistics had previously taken three months to compile. Mr Bratton pushed administrative and computer staff until they were able to produce daily reports, plotting precisely where crimes were committed. Twice a week, top policemen

from eight city zones were brought together into computer-statistical meetings, at which they were grilled about any sudden increases in crime — and asked what action they were taking.

Commanders shared information on which tactics were working. Mr Bratton demanded continuous follow-up and rapid response.

He also demanded large decreases in crime as mercilessly as business executives demand higher profits.

At the same time, authority was pushed down to the lowest level.

If commanders could not perform, they were replaced: 50 of 76 precinct commanders lost their jobs in Mr Bratton's 27 months in office.

"In the first year we demanded a 10 percent reduction in crime and everybody's eyes rolled," Mr Bratton said.

Despite doubts, commanders exceeded the target by two percent — only to face new targets for deeper reductions.

As Mr Bratton took the police reins in New York, many critics predicted disaster, as mostly white policemen confronted the mostly black and hispanic population. Blacks had long complained of police racism and excessive force, but blacks were also the victims of the vast majority of crimes.

In Johannesburg, Mr Bratton was short on specifics about how to handle racial tensions, but advised that police commanders have to be very diligent about police corruption and enforcement of the rules for using physical force.

Some critics argue that crime has fallen across America and part of the credit should go to Mr Bratton's predecessor, who began the drive toward community policing and supervised the expansion of New York's police force from 31 000 to 38 000. But police procedures have changed so thoroughly, it is hard to avoid concluding that Mr Bratton was the prime mover in New York.

Police need to allay fear, says top cop

ROSS HERBERT

JOHANNESBURG — South African police should be far more visible on city streets, said William Bratton, arguably America's most famous and influential cop — who this week completed a five-day visit to South Africa.

Bratton, former police commissioner for New York City, radically changed the way police are deployed and managed in New York and is credited with cutting crime by a third and murder by 39 percent in two years. Bratton argued that combating the public's fear of crime directly is a crucial job of police, and if police

and politicians downplay fear they risk a vicious circle in which fear of crime kills business investment — leading to fewer jobs, more public disorder and greater fear of crime.

"Whether it is fair or not doesn't matter. The perception is that South Africa is the murder capital of the world. I would stay away from statistically downplaying it. You have to deal with the problem of perception," said Bratton, who applied a similar strategy in New York. Before he was appointed, "New York City had lost about 400 000 jobs in three years.

"Now a lot of money is

pouring back into New York. One of the reasons it is now the place to be is the change in the crime situation."

He cautioned that unless action was taken, based on the American experience it would be only a matter of time before South African gangs coalesced into larger, mafia-style operations.

"You are going to have to expand your business involvement in crime prevention.

"One thing I don't see in South Africa is reports about individual acts of police bravery in the Press. That is very important to public trust and police morale," he said. "I am not pretending this is

a duplicate of New York. I'm not a know it all," he said.

Bratton toured Soweto on Thursday and described it as "one of the most incredibly difficult policing environments I have ever seen — with so few proper addresses, street names and telephones.

"I have not seen anything like it comparable in America.

"In Soweto I think there is the more pressing issue of developing a dialogue between the police and the community. They have already begun that process. I was impressed with the willingness to embrace change by the leaders I met."

IN THE past few years we have seen an alarming increase in crime. Murders, rapes, assaults, robberies and hijackings have all shown significant increases since 1990. While some of these upward trends have stabilised (some have even begun to fall), the net effect reflects a significant increase in crime from an already-high base.

These trends reflect a desperate situation and point to two inescapable conclusions: something is very wrong in South African society; and our young democracy has not, as yet, had the success we would have wished in ending the social processes that lead to crime and victimisation.

Nonetheless, it is my view that we have turned the corner.

Before looking at the steps we have taken to address the problem of crime, it is worth reviewing some basics.

Communities exist because people are social beings and societies create the best framework within which each individual's need are addressed.

Ideally, society should provide the support and opportunities required for each person to realise their potential.

Unfortunately, they seldom do. The effect can be poverty, alienation and frustration which can spill over into criminality.

For this reason, justice systems exist to ensure that individuals who pose a threat to their communities are removed from them and only returned to society when they no longer pose that threat.

Citizens have a legitimate expectation that the justice system "serves and protects" members of the community. This system must identify individuals who have engaged, or who are likely to engage, in criminal activities. It must be able to apprehend those people; try them swiftly, fairly and conclusively; remove them from society, and release them only when they have served a proper sentence and are able to take up a constructive role in society.

Neither South African society nor its justice system has been designed to achieve these results. It is almost as if the society were planned precisely in order to produce crime, and that the justice system was designed to maintain the political structure, rather than to pursue the goals of safety and security for all its citizens.

What is important now, however, is how these systems are being re-designed to provide efficient, effective and appropriate policing, and to make South Africa a safe place to live, work and bring up a family.

The government has embarked on a number of initiatives to ensure that our criminal justice system is well-resourced and well-managed, and that



The government is working hard to make South Africa a safe place to live, work and bring up a family, writes SYDNEY MUFAMADI

Master plan to beat the criminals

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people employed in the departments responsible are committed to delivering high-quality service to the community. These initiatives are consolidated in the National Crime Prevention Strategy and the plans of various departments which aim to implement the strategy.

The new plan is the most comprehensive anti-crime strategy ever developed in this country. Its aims over the long term are to transform the way in which crime is addressed by shifting the emphasis from cure to prevention.

At the same time, it recognises the fact that the present system is failing. Therefore, it focuses on ensuring that the systems available to combat crime are co-ordinated, empowered and managed so as to produce the results the community so desperately wants.

I will give just a few examples of how these policies of re-engineering and restructuring affect the South African Police Services.

- We have established and expanded the capacity of the police to gather intelligence on organised crime;

- We have put in place systems to ensure that police corruption — the necessary adjunct to organised crime

— is curtailed and eradicated;

- We are reinvigorating members serving the communities by ensuring that stations and station commissioners are empowered to play a constructive policing function without being hampered by unnecessary red tape;

- We are re-selecting and retraining members responsible for public order policing;

- By insisting on the need to monitor and evaluate service delivery, we are trying to harmonise the interests of individual policemen with the interests of the community in being better served by the police;

- We are putting in place training programmes for the thousands of detectives who have received no formal training on how to manage their cases successfully;

- We have launched numerous police operations aimed at reducing crime and violence and, while not all have been as successful as we might have liked, we are continuing to learn from those experiences; and

- We are improving the integrity of our border posts, and the borders themselves.

Because the police are not the only leg of the criminal justice system, the National Crime Prevention Strategy emphasises the importance of inter-departmental co-ordination to ensure that the justice, correctional services and welfare departments are prepared to shift into high gear.

The measures I have mentioned reflect the concern of those responsible for the crime prevention strategy with addressing the problems of capacity and management in the criminal justice system. The strategy, focusing on crime prevention, is much broader than this.

The fact that South Africa is a democracy means that the government is driven by the needs of everyone — and society will gradually begin to ensure that sufficient resources are devoted to providing every citizen with a reasonable chance of getting a job and being able to educate their children.

This, in turn, will remove the pre-conditions for criminality.

In addition to this, numerous strategies are being developed to ensure that the services needed to prevent crime are provided by government.

I have no doubt that, for the first time, South Africa has an integrated, coherent strategy for tackling the problem of crime. It is true that the ultimate test will be our ability to implement our plans, but we have undoubtedly developed appropriate strategies for the problems we face.

● Mufamadi is the Minister for Safety and Security

Tourism versus crime

CT(BR)13/8/96(34)(~~34~~)

By Audrey d'Angelo

South Africa's tourism boom is over and has been killed by international television coverage of rising crime and rising prices, travel trade executives said yesterday.

Hotel occupancy rates continued to fall in June, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Service (CSS). The report said room occupancy was down by 4,4 percent to 50,6 percent and bed occupancy down by 7,1 percent to 34 percent compared with June last year.

Roger Mackie, the Association of Southern African Travel Agents president and William Puk, the chief executive of the Sure Travel group of independent travel agents, have until recently blamed rising hotel prices and poor service for falling tourist numbers.

Yesterday they said CNN coverage of gun battles between gangsters and vigilantes in the streets of Cape Town, and international coverage of South Africa's car hijacking problem, were further deterrents to foreign tourists.

Mackie said even though the supposed kidnapping of three British tourists turned out to be a hoax, it was given extensive television coverage and the fact remained that the vehicle really was hijacked. "People's readiness to believe in the kidnapping shows the light in which this country is regarded."

He said millions of television viewers worldwide had heard that Josiah Thugwane, South Africa's gold medal winner in the Olympic marathon, had been shot in the face by car hijackers.

Commenting on the CSS figures, Mackie said they included visitors from neighbouring African countries and last year they did not. The drop was worse than it appeared.

William Puk said the South African tourism industry was on the slippery slope to nowhere. "There is a tremendous price war between the airlines who are trying to make up for the drop in foreign passengers with special offers.

"Our crime levels have dealt a death blow to tourism and I believe it will stop this country from get-

ting the Olympic Games. Why, with all the attractive destinations available to them, should people come to a destination perceived to be as dangerous as South Africa?"

Puk expected airlines, which had increased their capacity earlier, to cut back on capacity if passenger numbers failed to improve.

Meanwhile, Arthur Gillis, the managing director of Protea Hotels, has mounted a spirited attack on suggestions that high hotel prices and low service standards have discouraged foreign tourists.

He produced figures showing that South African hotels were among the cheapest in the world in dollar terms and, he said, their service compared well with that in five-star hotels he had stayed at in other parts of the world.

"Our airports are as good as those abroad. The Airports Company has done wonders in transforming them," he said.

Gillis said it infuriated him to hear people in the travel trade accusing South African hotels of pricing themselves out of the market and alienating tourists by poor standards of service.

He said hoteliers had been forced to increase prices because wages and other costs had risen in line with the need to give more training to the black labour force, uplift and empower them.

Gillis said he had stayed at five-star hotels in many countries and found service levels below those at their South African equivalents.

Gillis said Johannesburg came 70th in a cost comparison of large cities in the June edition of the British magazine Business Traveler. The comparison gave the average daily living cost in each city, including a single room with bathroom in a four-star hotel, with continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, taxi fares and incidentals.

Tokyo was the most expensive, costing \$493,85 a day compared with \$176,76 in Johannesburg and \$246,26 in Sydney. Bombay was the cheapest at \$158,54 a day.

Mackie said rather than compare our five-star hotels with those

in a Third World country such as Turkey, Gillis should compare them with those in Australia, which are light years ahead of ours.

Mackie did not dispute the fact that South African hotels have been faced with rising wages, but they must modernise service standards. "People don't mind paying more if service levels are extremely high."

"Besides, Gillis is looking at the cost in dollars to foreign travellers. South African hotels are certainly pricing themselves out of the reach of local people. And even foreign visitors are asking for accommodation in good guest houses which offer better value."

Gillis said service standards in Australia were excellent, but they cost 40 percent more in dollar terms. "What I am saying is that South Africa offers the foreign traveller better value for money."

Hans Enderle, the City Lodge group's executive chairman, said suggestions that high South African hotel prices were driving foreign tourists away overlooked the fact that foreign tour operators negotiated big discounts.

A spokesman for the five-star Cape Sun Intercontinental said the rate for individuals without discount was R675 a night for a single room and R915 for a double, both without breakfast. A brochure for a conference to be held at the hotel in April, however, quoted a discounted rate of R480 a person for a double room with breakfast.

The CSS figures so far this year have shown rising hotel incomes and lower occupancy rates, except for ungraded hotels.

Income received by ungraded hotels was still going up in June, when it soared 23,4 percent, but bed occupancy slipped marginally by 0,6 percent.

Mackie and Puk have said in recent months that rising hotel income and falling occupancy rates spoke for themselves, and so did a move from four- and five-star hotels to ungraded establishments. The latest figures suggested ungraded establishments, too, may be becoming too expensive.

'People don't mind paying more if service levels are extremely high'

Johannesburg: rapid rail transit system
*28. Mr L D CHUENYANE asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether a decision has been taken on the introduction of a rapid rail transit system for Johannesburg; if not, why not; if so, what was the decision?

N996E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

This question is similar to a previous question asked on Wednesday, 1 March 1995.

The Department of Transport commissioned a feasibility study into a mass transit system for Johannesburg (the MASSTRAN study) which was completed in August 1991. A rapid rail transit system (which is basically a heavy rail system) was considered as one of four rail systems investigated, but—based on a combination of economic, financial, operational and environmental considerations—not recommended as a preferred alternative.

In the intervening years, the perspectives of the department have shifted and developed in new directions. We are currently looking at a total change in rail passenger transport policy which, while accepting the reality of tight budgetary constraints, seeks to make much more effective and efficient use of existing infrastructure and facilities.

The general framework which we wish to establish is as follows:

- regulated competition for public transport modes;
- ownership of rail infrastructure, rolling stock and land associated with rail reserves to be retained by the transport authority;
- rail operations to be based on operating and maintenance concessions, awarded by transport authorities at provincial or metropolitan level, based on a comprehensive and efficient transport plan;
- The ongoing development of Johannesburg's rail transit system will take place within this basic framework.

Minibus taxis: statistics
*29. Mr Z D MNGUNI asked the Minister of Transport:†

Whether his Department has any statistics with regard to minibus taxis; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so (a) how many minibus taxis were registered in 1995 and (b) (i) how many minibus taxis are currently being operated illegally and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

N997E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(a) Yes, the total number of legal minibus taxis in the Public in 1995 was 73 323. This figure, however, excludes the number of legal minibus taxis of the former TBVC countries and self-governing territories. A legal minibus taxi in this case is defined as a minibus taxi with an operating permit and a valid certificate of fitness.

(b) (i) The total number of illegal minibus taxis is estimated to be approximately 50 000 for the Republic. This figure includes the minibus taxis of the former TBVC countries and self-governing territories.

(ii) For the period up to 31 December 1995.

New questions:

Gold smuggling

*1. Mr J C N WAUGH asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) Whether any cases of gold smuggling were reported in the past financial year; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the monetary value of the gold involved in such smuggling;
- (2) whether the South African Police Service is currently undertaking the planning or execution of a strategy to combat such smuggling; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N1086E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes.

(a) 3 198

(b) R19 686 100

(2) Yes, the Diamond and Gold Branch of the SAPS is continuously investigating illegal gold smuggling. Conventional, as well as unconventional, methods of investigation are used. These investigations are carried out in close collaboration with mine security groups and great successes have been achieved.

(3) No.

Anti-corruption legislation

*2. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether, with reference to certain comments appearing in a certain newspaper, particulars of which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, he intends introducing any anti-corruption legislation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether such legislation will make provision for the (a) forfeiture of pension benefits and/or (b) exclusion of offenders from any public office or position of trust; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1087E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) Yes, legislation prepared by my Department has already been approved by Cabinet for introduction in Parliament during the 1996 session of Parliament. This legislation provides for, amongst other things, the establishment of special investigating units for the purpose of investigating serious malpractices or maladministration in connection with the administration of State institutions, State assets or public money, including the investigation of corruption in the criminal justice system, which includes the SA Police Service, Justice Department and Correctional Services. The legislation makes provision for the establishment of special tribunals which will be able to deal with cases arising out of such investigations.

(2) The legislation does not specially make provision for the forfeiture of pension benefits and/or the exclusion of offenders from any public office or position of trust. It does, however, confer on a Special Tribunal the power to adjudicate upon any

civil law dispute emanating from an investigation by a Special Investigating Unit, including the power to:

- (a) issue suspension orders or interdicts on application by a Special Investigating Unit or any party concerned; and
- (b) make any order which it deems appropriate so as to give effect to any ruling or decision by such Special Tribunal.

An opportunity to improve the Bill will be given during consideration of the Bill by the Standing Justice Committees of Parliament.

Fraudulent RDP congress

*3. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether an investigation has been undertaken into the allegedly fraudulent RDP congress initiated in April 1996 by a certain corporation, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Police Service for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so (a) what amount was defrauded from delegates and (b) what progress has been made with the investigation?

N1088E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Yes.

A case of alleged fraud in connection with the above matter (John Vorster Square CAS 971/04/1996) is at present being investigated by the Commercial Crime component of the South African Police Service's Detective Service.

(a) It has been estimated that at present a loss of approximately R23 000 is involved in this case, but eventually the total involved could be as high as R1,5 million. It is impossible at this time to establish exactly how much money was lost specifically by prospective delegates.

(b) The investigation of the case is still at an early stage. Affidavits to establish whether crimes were committed and who committed them, as well as their possible extent, are still being obtained from witnesses throughout the country. The investigation is complicated further by the pending liquidation of the company involved.

2 099 out on bail after crime sweep

Police commissioner George Fivaz

says the hunt will go on for the

balance of the country's worst 10 000

By LARA SMITH

Of the 7 099 most wanted criminals arrested earlier this year during the first month of the police's Sword and Shield anti-crime plan, 2 099 have been released on bail.

Five thousand of the arrested suspects are still in custody, police commissioner George Fivaz said yesterday.

It was not known how many of those in custody had since been convicted, and how many were awaiting trial, said his spokesman, Joseph Ngobeni. It was difficult to tell, as cases were often postponed to a later date.

Fivaz announced in June that police would arrest 10 000 of the country's most wanted criminals within the first 30 days of the SAPS's Sword and Shield plan.

In this period police managed to arrest 7 099 of the targeted criminals over and above the arrests made in the normal course of their duties.

"If not for the special effort made by Sword and Shield these suspects would not have been arrested," Fivaz said.

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In Gauteng 1 649 suspects were arrested between June 13 and July 13, and 340 of them have been released on bail.

Breaking the Gauteng figure down, Fivaz said 23 of the 217 suspects arrested on the East Rand were granted bail, 67 of the 371 arrested on the West Rand got bail and 19 of the 90 arrested in Johannesburg were released on bail.

In Pretoria 272 suspects were arrested, of which 167 got bail; 90 appeared in court in Soweto and 18 were granted bail; five of the 33 suspects arrested on the North Rand were granted bail and 41 of the 157 suspects arrested in the Vaal Triangle got bail.

In the Western Cape, where the most suspects were arrested (1 703), 646 were released on bail.

Although the 30-day deadline expired on July 13, Fivaz said the Sword and Shield teams were continuing their "unrelenting hunt for the rest of the 10 000, as well as additional serious crime suspects".

Since mid-July Sword and Shield teams have arrested a further 5 000 suspects for serious crimes.

Govt making tough plans to bring rampant crime under control

(34)

Mar 19/8/96

Three ministers presenting ideas on how to halt wave of lawlessness that is engulfing country

OWN CORRESPONDENT, STAFF REPORTER AND SAPA

More prosecutors, a new release and parole policy, tighter gun control, steps to root out corruption and more police in key posts are on the way as the Government gets down to some urgent action to stem rising tides of lawlessness and public despondency.

The ministers of Justice, Safety and Security, and Correctional Services, among others, will meet in Cape Town tomorrow to finalise a series of tough, short-term measures to be presented for approval to the Cabinet on Wednesday.

Apart from steps aimed at addressing the crisis regarding the state's perceived inability to combat rampant crime, a number of urgent pieces of legislation to restore public confidence in the criminal justice system will go before Parliament this session.

Of particular interest to the Western Cape - currently embroiled in a potentially devastating conflict between the militant community organisation People against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and the underworld - was the announcement by Minister of Justice Dullah Omar on Saturday that a tribunal "with similar powers to courts" is to be established to investigate alleged police corruption and complicity with gangs.

South Africa's images as a

tourist destination and a land of investment opportunity were dealt several new, telling blows in the past few days with the murder in Sandton of Erich Ellmer, financial manager of a top German multinational, cautionary US government warnings to would-be tourists to South Africa, and no resolution in sight to the conflict on the Cape Flats.

"This does not bode well for South Africa, or for its economic growth and development, tourism or foreign investment - all so desperately required," Christoph Kopke, head of Daimler-Benz in South Africa, the principle shareholder of Ellmer's company AEG, said yesterday.

Kopke's sentiments echo those expressed by delegates to a weekend workshop in Bellville near Cape Town on improving the role of the community and the courts in fighting crime.

Last week, ministers responsible for the implementation of the national crime prevention strategy were urged by the special Cabinet committee on crime and intelligence to formulate immediate and decisive steps.

But, speaking after the workshop on Saturday, Omar said: "Everyone must recognise that there are no quick-fix solutions. Anyone who thinks we can perform a miracle is absolutely wrong. A solution to the many problems which we are discussing will not be a single event."

Omar said he, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela had agreed last week to make a joint request to the Department of Finance to make money available to allow them to get going.

Omar said the group would recommend that the Government review its spending priorities because law and order were crucial.

Police Commissioner George Fivaz said he had already asked for funds to fill thousands of posts in his department.

Plans are also far advanced for establishing an academy for detectives.

Omar said he planned to appoint 100 prosecutors and give them backup to speed up trials.

Mzimela said the release and parole policy - to be unveiled on Thursday - represented a significant departure from the present system, which had seen a number of early-release blunders.

ANC MP Gregory Rockman, the former policeman who blew the whistle on riot squad brutalities in 1989, has thrown in his lot with Pagad.

Rockman featured prominently in a mass march on the homes of alleged drug dealers in Athlone near Cape Town on Saturday night when he negotiated with police until the early hours yesterday morning to allow a 10-man Pagad delegation to deliver verbal anti-drug warnings at the homes of the alleged dealers.

Parties divided on crime and health during Budget debate

(34) (53)
By PATRICK BULGER
Parliamentary Correspondent

Star 20/8/96
cations to each of the government departments before a final vote on the budget as a whole tomorrow.

Cape Town – Political parties yesterday began a three-day debate on the 1996-97 Budget with sharp divisions emerging over crime and health.

The Freedom Front, Democratic Party and National Party said they would oppose the health budget in the light of the *Sarafina 2* debacle.

The parties are voting on the allo-

NP health spokesman Willem Odendaal said the NP would oppose the health vote because of the *Sarafina 2* issue. He alleged that any money voted to the Department of Health would be squandered by Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma. He was supported by DP health spokesman Mike Ellis who

said he was waiting for Zuma to disclose who had provided the R14,27-million for the ill-fated Aids play.

The DP also gave notice that it would oppose the justice vote.

The NP's Sheila Camerer said the NP supported the justice vote but was concerned at the rate of crime. She questioned where Justice Minister Dullah Omar would find the money for the extra 100 prosecutors he wanted to employ.

Town planning can be weapon in beating crime

(34) BD 20/8/96

IT IS perhaps a truism to say that a relationship exists between town plans and the location of certain types of crime. What is not that clear is the complexity of this relationship. There is no understanding and distinction between those properties of the town plan that can and do affect the potential for crime to take place, and those that do not. Without this understanding, attempts to eliminate crime, and therefore to rehumanise our cities, will be costly hit-or-miss affairs.

How we plan and design cities is a function of our understanding of how they work. Given the problems that permeate our cities — crime, pollution, blight, congestion, etc — it could be argued that our understanding is at best blunt, at worst trivial. We seem to lack knowledge of how the city as a physical entity enables and constrains the city as a functional entity.

Help, however, could now be at hand. Results of research carried out by a colleague of mine at University College London could provide the breakthrough needed.

Professor Bill Hillier and his

team have come up with a computer technique called "space syntax". What this model does is isolate the spatial property of the urban grid. By examining the grid's "configuration", basically the relationship between all its parts, the model exposes and enumerates the grid in terms of how integrated and intelligible it is. This, in turn, provides an accurate window on pedestrian and vehicular movement densities. The measures show segregated areas as relatively quiet, and integrated areas as relatively busy.

Results indicate that good city plans provide a careful blend of integrated and segregated zones, so that quiet areas are not so cut off as to become dangerous. Without this blend, cities tend to be antisocial and therefore dysfunctional.

With this knowledge, it is possible to tease out the deeper, more intractable, structural properties of city form. In the process, the links between functional problems, such as crime, and urban design can be brought to the surface.

Application of the space syntax model allows us to detect problem-

atic areas in the city with respect to certain types of crime. From an urban design perspective, two applications in the fight against crime are possible. Firstly, existing city layouts can be analysed to identify areas in need of some sort of planning intervention, or modification, so as to drive down crime. Secondly, new urban design proposals, in both existing cities and in greenfield situations, can be evaluated so as to predict in advance areas that will be prone to crime. Sketch plans can therefore be revised and re-analysed until solutions are found.

Work currently under way in my practice in which space syntax is applied, confirms many of Hillier's findings. For a start, and as a general rule of thumb, high encounter rates among pedestrians, good intelligibility and optimised relationships between integrated and segregated spaces are associated with low levels of crime. Preliminary results suggest several useful design guidelines which should be applied,

and which could, from the point of view of local authorities, provide the basis for a more urban design-led form of city development.

For example:

- Ensure that all spaces have entrances to buildings facing directly on to them;
- Lines of sight that strike building facades must do so at open angles to suggest movement possibilities and to enhance intelligibility;
- In order to effectively relate new areas to surrounding areas ensure that the heart of the new scheme is linked to the surrounding area in several directions;
- Ensure all circulation networks are linked to the most integrated parts of the overall scheme; and
- Avoid the over-repetition of local parts since this will make the overall design unintelligible and therefore dangerous for strangers to the area, etc.

Because the space syntax model is "intelligent" — in that it has movement volumes and land use built into it — it could play a vital role in attempts to eliminate crime in SA. With its analytically rigorous

approach to our understanding of how city form relates to city function we are provided with one way of factoring urban design into the crime equation.

There are many variables (poverty, unemployment, overstretched police services, etc) in this equation, of which urban design — albeit often neglected but hugely important — is but one. Deploying extra resources and manpower may in some instances reduce crime levels. But unless the urban design variable is brought fully into play and integrated with other forms of intervention, in the way suggested here, solutions will, in the long run, be partial.

Urban design has the potential to be a trenchant weapon in the successful onslaught against crime. But this potential will be realised only if there is deep understanding of how cities actually work.

When something as large and complex as the city will not work, what is needed is knowledge of why it works at all.

□ Dr Mills is a consulting architect and urban designer.

GLEN MILLS

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TREASURY TO RELEASE FUNDS

R700m crime crisis plan

(34)
CT 21/8/96

THE Public Protector's first task in the Western Cape will be to investigate the disappearance of police docketts at Mitchells Plain Magistrate's Court, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said last night. This and other measures come as the Treasury is set to release millions of rands in RDP funds to fight crime. Political Writer **HENRY LUDSKI** reports.

DRASTIC steps, including calling in the Public Protector, bringing in top detectives from other provinces and a ban on the public display of weapons, were announced yesterday as part of the government's R700 million multi-pronged strategy to fight rampant crime.

The drawing in of Mr Selby Baqwa's department to clean up the criminal justice system, coupled with plans to set up an independent tribunal to put a stop to corruption, will for the first time create a powerful independent investigative and prosecutorial division outside existing structures.

Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi last night announced a ban on the open display of firearms in public, following an outcry over the brandishing of weapons by both groups involved in the explosive conflict in the Western Cape — People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and gangsters.

He launched an urgent investigation into the management of public order in the Western Cape and called in detectives

from outside the province to beef up the regional gang investigation unit. They have been instructed to evaluate and collate all gang-related docketts in the region and to investigate the possible withdrawal of firearm licenses.

Further measures expected to be announced in the next few days include major prison reforms, which will include a dramatically changed release and parole policy and the employment of extra staff.

After months of delays, the Treasury is also finally set to make available several hundred million rands of Reconstruction and Development Programme funds to bolster the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) — a comprehensive crime-fighting plan cutting across several government departments.

The deepening crisis around the prob-

lem of crime, which is threatening to spiral out of control, has dire consequences for the economy and the peace and stability so vital for investment and economic growth. It has also raised very real concerns about the government's ability to reduce a frightening level of lawlessness which continues to dominate the lives of all South Africans — and the political arena.

Opposition parties, in a heated snap debate in the National Assembly yesterday that focused on crime and the explosive conflict in the Western Cape, lambasted the government for having failed to come up with workable crime-fighting responses or to crack down on gangsters and drug-trafficking.

The government was urged, even by ANC MPs, to make crime their "number one priority".

ANC MP and the chairperson of Parliament's joint standing committee on defence, Mr Tony Yengeni, said Parliament and the government must send a strong signal that they will be "vicious and merciless" in dealing with violent criminals.

ANC MP Mr Willie Hofmeyr called for

the setting up of a special fund, made up of contributions by taxpayers, the state and private sector, to finance measures which could make the most impact quickly and without the usual red tape associated with the public service.

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar told the Cape Times last night — before going into the crucial NCPS meeting to map out a workable and tough response to crime, which will be presented to the cabinet today — that the first and immediate task of the Public Protector would be to investigate the crisis at the Mitchells Plain Magistrate's Court, where the disappearance of police docketts has continued to undermine the effectiveness of the judicial system.

Omar said additional resources and investigating and support staff would be made available to assist the office of the Public Protector, which has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of complaints in the past few months, particularly since his report into the Sarafina 2 Aids play debacle.

Police Services RDP coordinator Mr Pieter du Plessis said yesterday an estimated R700 million of RDP funds had been allocated by the govern-

ment for the transformation and restructuring of the criminal justice system and for programmes to address the underlying social causes of crime.

The private sector had made financial consultants available to help the police develop the comprehensive business plan, which was given to the treasury, for the allocation of the RDP millions.

A spokesperson for Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel said yesterday the department was evaluating the business plan and it was likely the allocated funds would be made available shortly.

However, she said Manuel was not in favour of making additional funds available to criminal justice departments and had instead suggested that they reprioritise the allocation of their existing budgets to deal with the problem.

Are you responsible
for organising

Conferences?

D...I...L...A...L

Pagad warns off investors 'until SA free of drugs'

CP 21/8/96 (34)

STAFF REPORTERS

A PEOPLE Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) leader has urged foreigners not to invest in South Africa until it is free of gangsters and drugs.

Pagad leader Mr Farouk Jaffer said last night that drugs had infiltrated society like a "supermarket" business and drug lords were earning R2 million a day.

Addressing a press conference at the Gatesville Mosque, he called on foreigners "not to invest a cent in South Africa until Pagad has given the green light".

Late last night, a planned march by about 400 Pagad members was called off as it was feared that it could lead to a violent confrontation with police.

Jaffer said he believed tourists were not safe and investors should not come to South Africa, a view he said would probably upset the government.

He also criticised the police for "failing to play their proper role". He accused them of not wanting to work with Pagad and of trying instead to put the organisation down.

He slammed customs officials at Cape Town International Air-

port, Table Bay docks and border posts for failing to halt the flow of drugs into the country.

He emphasised that Pagad was not a Muslim organisation, but represented every South African.

In the 1980s, "our white fellow neighbours' children" had fallen prey to cocaine, Jaffer said, but in the past three or four years cocaine had been used by Indians, coloureds and blacks.

Earlier, during an often-heated debate in Parliament, Minister of Justice Mr Dullah Omar said he supported Pagad's aims — but warned that opposition to crime was not a licence to kill.

"I want to make it very, very clear that those who fight drug-trafficking, those who fight gangsterism, are our allies," he said.

However, he would not tolerate such actions as the murder of alleged drug baron Mr Rashaad Staggie, co-leader, with his twin brother Rashied, of the Hard Livings gang.

Omar met Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi and other security chiefs later yesterday to draft an anti-crime strategy to put before the cabinet today.

● See Page 7

Jobs 'answer to staying out of trouble'

EUGENE HUGO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Leonard Meyer does not know who his father is. He does not even know what his father looks like. All he knows is that the parent he has never seen is called "Lammie" and that he would like to meet him one day.

"Perhaps he will read about me here at Brandvlei and come looking for me," he suggests wistfully after explaining that he grew up with his grandfather and that his mother is now in Sea Point.

Leonard must have had a reasonable-by-comparison upbringing because, unlike so many of his fellow inmates at the Youth Correctional Centre, he completed Std 10.

But that is where the happiness ended. He still has to serve two

years of a 33-month sentence in Worcester for a drugs-related stabbing offence.

The well-spoken teenager became involved with a gang called the Gunston Kids for "the excitement and the pleasure". There were the women hangers on and they had a lot of fun.

But the good days turned to tragedy when young Leonard got into drugs and alcohol.

"We used to buy Mandrax from a merchant. He charged R30 for one, and he's probably still there pushing. I don't know what happened to this man, I don't even know his name, but as far as I know he was never arrested."

Leonard says that when you are

drunk and smoked-up on drugs you make enemies. "One day I assaulted one of them and stuck his eye out with a knife. I was arrested, charged and sentenced to two years and nine months correctional service. I've now spent eight months at Brandvlei and will be very happy to get out of here one day."

He claims, however, to have completely changed his attitude and learnt his lesson, and when he has paid for his crime he is determined to have nothing more to do with gangs.

"I now feel sorry for them (gangsters) because drugs destroy your life. If I have a chance when I meet them again on the outside, I will encourage them to give up. It's the only way. When I'm sober I am

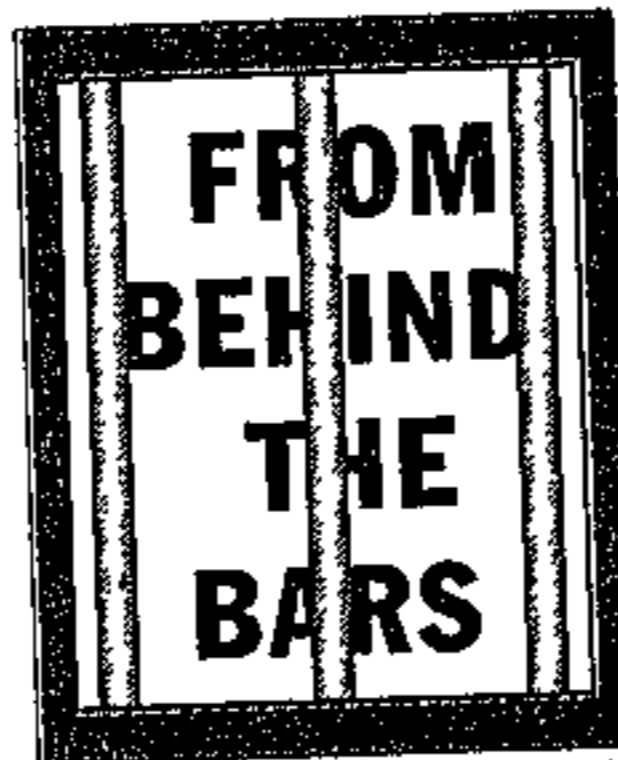
not the same person as I am when I'm under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

He says that he and his fellow inmates follow gangland developments on television, and he is convinced that the only way to combat crime is to get at its roots.

"The police must get rid of the gangs but at the same time young people must be able to get decent jobs to earn a living. That's one of the problems out there, there are not enough jobs and young people get involved with gangs too easily when they've got nothing better to do."

"Today I am very sorry about my past. But I am getting a second chance and I'm tackling as many courses as I can.

"I'm spraypainting, doing needlework and woodwork. I hope that these skills will help me get a job when I am released."



34 CT 21/8/96

Call to bring back hangings, drawings and quartering

CT 21/8/96 (34)

BRING back flogging and the death penalty, say callers. Others suggest the "eye for an eye" approach to crime punishment.

Mr Derek Lyons, Pketheberg: "I feel very strongly about crime. It is entirely the fault of the authorities and the law and the leniency of the law. Bring back the death sentence and hanging, drawing and quartering. And cut off the right hand of continuous offenders. Legalise prostitution, legalise drugs and you will have no problem, you will put the gangsters out of business."

Mr Gulliam Dalvie, Rondebosch East: "My wife works at a service station in Maitland where an armed robbery took place about 9am on Monday. The police were phoned while the robbery was in progress and again at 9.30am. The police station is five minutes walk from the petrol station. At 11am two policemen were sent — apparently counter clerks, who had no expertise. No fingerprints were taken, nor was the video footage at the station taken as evidence. There was more than one helicopter for the Pagad march yet not even a proper detective was sent to this

robbery scene. This inefficiency shows up the police force."

Mr Les Blake, Milnerton: "A few weeks ago, at about 5pm on a Saturday, I dropped my assistant at the station in Cape Town. I went around the foreshore fountain on my way back and about 12 vagrants and several children were beating up one man. I stopped my car as close to this fight as I could and I was fortunate to knock about three of them out. The main instigator was still grappling with this man, who was a tourist from Natal. I put a hold on him and as I pulled him off the man, a police van, with only one officer, arrived. He put the chap I apprehended plus one other in the back of the van but the other vagrants attacked the police van and let them out! What worries me is that this is not the only incident where gangs have let people out of vans. These people have no respect for the law. My suggestion is a kibbutz type system for these people to gravitate to. Create an atmosphere that would attract them and publicise it. Don't load them up and take them there, let them want to go there."

Mr Frederick Nagel, Zee-koevlei: "Why don't we ban all arms? I am an ANC member and my President has banned JFP members from carrying simple weapons. Why is it then that every gangster can parade with a licensed gun?"

CAPE TIMES
CRIME TIME
488 4795

to stop crime today is do things the way Muslim countries do. If you steal, they cut off your hand, and if you look at things you shouldn't, they remove your eyes."

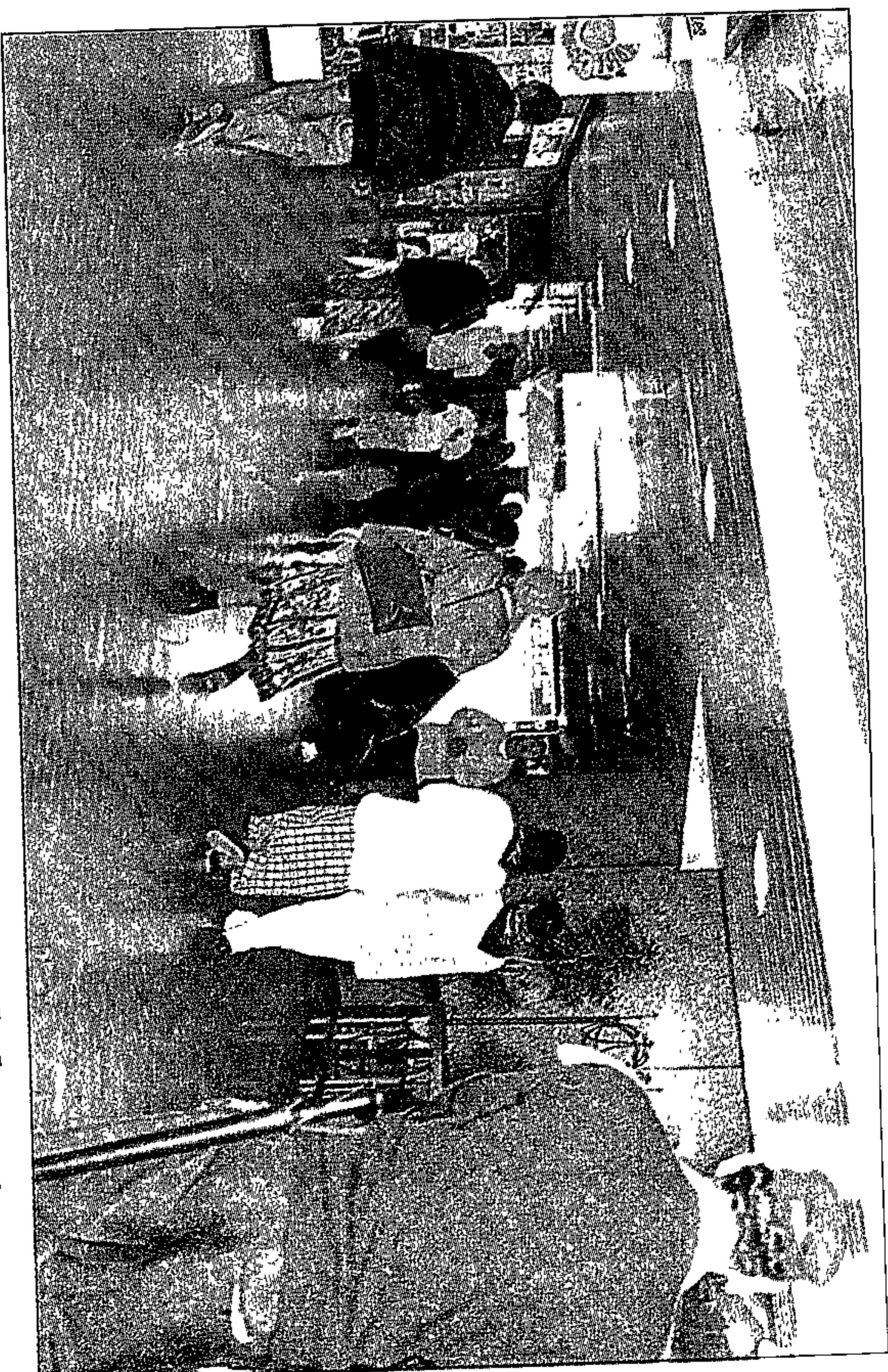
Mr Charles Dowling, Grassy Park: "My late grandfather said the government should introduce the cat o' nine tails as a penalty for a man who rapes a woman: three lashes with nine tails adds up to 27 lashes. See if they will ever do it

again. The same should apply to mugging, burglary and hijacking."

Mrs Wendy Leigh, Tableview: "On the Felicia Mabuza-Suttle show one child said he sold drugs given to him by a policeman. Because policemen are getting big money from the drug people we will not solve the problem. And the criminals should not be given bail — bail is just a Christmas present!"

Mr R Fisher, Claremont: "Police are demoralised because of poor pay and overwork: under these conditions they are easily corrupted. It is a sad reflection on the Christians and the Jews that they have left it to the Muslims to battle against drugs."

ARE you concerned about crime in your community? Phone the Cape Times Monday to Friday on (021) 488-4795 between noon and 2pm and tell us how you feel and what you believe the solution could be. If you have been attacked, mugged, raped, hijacked or burgled, tell us your story. You will be asked to give your name in good faith. You can also write a letter to the editor at P O Box 11 Cape Town 8000 or e-mail cttletters@ctn.independent.co.za. Let's beat this scourge together.



SAFER HERE? A security guard patrols a part of the Golden Acre while shoppers stroll through the shopping centre.
PICTURE: THEMINKOSI DWAYISA

Underground shopping areas 'policed'

STAFF WRITER

THE underground areas from the Golden Acre to Mutual Centre, Pickel Arcade and the Strand Concourse are "policed" by security companies, spokesmen for these centres said yesterday.

They were reacting to inquiries after a reader's story, left, appeared how he and his wife were attacked by youths on their way

back from the station market and crossed Adderley Street by "using the underground route to Rebebeck Street".

Mr Francois Stevens, centre manager for the Golden Acre, said the area he is responsible for is patrolled by Springbok Patrols.

Spokesmen for Mutual Centre and the Strand Concourse said Sabre Security is used to patrol their areas. The Pickel Arcade is patrolled by Gray Security.

diem are, the government must make a plan to stop this."

Mr John Pocock of Green Point: "On Saturday, August 3, my wife and I were in the station market ... we crossed Adderley Street on the way back to our car, using the underground route to Rebebeck Street. As we emerged, we were jumped on by six young adults. My wife was thrown to the ground and my wallet was torn out of my pocket. They cut off my wife's micoonbag ... We fought back like maniacs but they got away with about R800 in cash."

"I ask (Minister of Justice) Mr Dullah Omar when it will be safe to walk the streets and I ask President Nelson Mandela what the sacrifices and deaths of many of his friends to create a better South Africa have been worth. It is of utmost priority that we use whatever resources we can to solve crime. Funds must be made available for police."

Mrs Dorot and Mr ...

The Unwanted People

APR 19/10/95

POLLSMOOR prison is the unchosen home of a group of immigrants. Although most have not been charged with crimes, they have been languishing there for months while immigration authorities try to work out what to do with them. On the day police conducted major raids on illegal immigrants in Cape Town, Staff Reporters COLIN DOUGLAS and ANNELIE'S SMIT paid them a visit.

JAMES John, an 18-year-old Malawian, has spent the past nine months in Pollsmoor Prison.

The soft-spoken young man has not been charged with a crime and he has not been before a magistrate.

He has the subdued, downcast look of someone who is close to losing all hope.

He was arrested as an illegal immigrant soon after his arrival in South Africa, when, he said, he applied to the Department of Home Affairs for political asylum.

Home Affairs officials said they were still investigating Mr John's application and that he would have to stay in jail until their inquiries were complete.

Mr John, huddled in layers of clothes despite the warm weather, granted an interview behind bars in a bleak, grey room deep inside Pollsmoor.

He told a spine-chilling story, saying he had fled his home in Malawi after his parents and sister were murdered by assassins who struck late at night.

He suspected the murderers were officials or supporters of the new government, because his father had been a well-known backer of the ousted president, Hastings Banda.

"I don't want to go back — I'll die," Mr John said. He said he had repeatedly asked Home Affairs officials

to help him gain political refugee status, but they had been slow and disinterested.

Mr John said he hated prison, where he shared a cell with awaiting-trial prisoners, some of whom had tried to rape him and steal from him.

"I've never been in prison before; it's not good in this place," he said, staring blankly across the room. "There's no exercise, no sunshine, no good food."

The Western Cape's chief immigration officer, T H Potgieter, said he was aware of Mr John's application for political asylum, but "it takes months to investigate an asylum case".

There was no time limit for the investigation and until it was complete there was no option but to keep Mr John in prison, he said.

A Pollsmoor official said prison authorities kept immigrants apart from one another because of "language problems".

If immigrants did not wish to be kept with awaiting-trial prisoners they did not have to "but if they don't ask, they won't be moved".

Mr John's story may be tragic, but it is not unique.

The Aliens Control Act, as amended by parliament only last month, creates a presumption of guilt against any immigrant who fails to report to an immigration officer, or fails to produce the prescribed documentation.



NOWHERE TO GO: Eddie Johnson, left, says he was born in South Africa, but state officials say he is an illegal immigrant from Tanzania — and the deadlock has cost him 10 months in Pollsmoor Prison. Here he argues with chief immigration officer T H Potgieter, while prisons officials look on.

As Mr Potgieter said, "under the Act the burden of proof is on them, not on us. The Act gives us the right to keep them in prison."

As a result there are scores of immigrants, most of whom have never had any contact with the judicial system, languishing in prisons around the country — some, like Mr John, hav-

ing applied for asylum, some pending deportation, and some caught up in tortuous disputes with immigration officials.

Eddie Johnson has been in Pollsmoor for almost a year and one can tell from his face it has not been easy. His eyes roll nervously as he talks, his hands make quick gestures and he has

shadows under his eyes.

The 25-year-old father of one does not see a way out of his situation. He does not know when he will be released and cannot tell his wife in Mitchell's Plain when he will be home to look after her and their child. Mr Johnson says he is a South African resident with a valid passport and

identity document. Immigration officials said his papers were falsified and he was from Tanzania. Unlike most other immigrants, he had been found guilty in court of contravening the Aliens Control Act, they said.

Mr Johnson has been in Pollsmoor for 10 months. His case is deadlocked be-

cause he refuses to identify himself as a Tanzanian and hence be deported, while immigration officials keep him in prison until they do so.

"They can keep me for another 10 years or as long as they like."

Asked how long he planned to keep Mr Johnson in prison, Mr Potgieter said: "We can keep all of them, prison until they talk. He has to tell me he's from Tanzania even if it takes forever."

"The burden of proof is on Mr Johnson. He has to prove he's not from Tanzania, or don't have to prove he is Tanzanian."

"If we release a person and he commits a serious crime outside, what would we do then?"

The immigrants being held in Pollsmoor strongly rejected the inference that they were connected to crime.

Jeffrey Picket, exclaiming: "We haven't committed a crime and yet we're being regarded as heavy criminals. We've never had a court case and we did no murder, rape or assault anyone. Why are we being regarded as criminals?"

Said Brian Williams, who claimed to be Australian: "At first I thought I would only be here for one or two days."

"But I have been in prison for 10 months and am completely at the mercy of the immigration officials."

Mr Potgieter said there was no evidence at all that Mr Williams was Australian.

"They think of a country where they would like to go and say they are residents of that country."

Prevention Strategy 'is in wrong hands' (34)

CT 22/8/96

EUGENE HUGO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

CRIMINOLOGIST Lala Camerer has slammed the notion that the Department of Welfare should lead the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) programme aimed at victim empowerment and support.

She says that only lip service will have been paid to creating a better deal for victims of crime if the national programme is led by the Welfare Department.

"While this department already provides some services to offenders and to victims of crime, it is the other line function departments of Safety and Security and Justice which are important, if not more so, when it comes to addressing crime victims," says Ms Camerer.

In a paper on the subject, she says not enough reasons exist for

the Welfare Department to lead the programme.

Accommodating victims within the criminal justice system, through aid and empowerment, requires hard decisions, commitment and resources from the traditional crime departments of Justice and Safety and Security.

Ms Camerer seriously questions the sincerity of the NCPS' commitment to a victim-centric approach to crime prevention as well as an understanding of how to make the criminal justice system in its traditional, bureaucratic entirety more user or victim friendly.

And she accuses the NCPS of attempting to "marginalise crime victims" concerns to the "wishy-washy Department of Welfare".

"By focusing on the victims of crime and by consciously mobilising around them and addressing their needs, the moral authority of

South Africa's criminal justice system will gradually be restored."

Ms Camerer, a member of the provisional NCPS programme team on victim support and empowerment, does, however, describe as "praiseworthy" efforts which seriously seek to address stumbling blocks in the real provision of services for victims.

In terms of streamlining and co-ordinating fragmented services for victims, the programme seeks to address the negative effects of criminal activity on victims.

This is done through programmes which mediate these effects and provide support and skills to address them.

The programmes establish a directory of service providers and identify critical gaps, examine resource usage and establish priorities in resource allocation, to meet public needs and expectations.

Anti-corruption unit 'has high success rate'

34 CT 22/8/96

THE South African Police Service has responded to the calls of some Crime Line readers.

Mr George Williams, of Mitchells Plain, commented: "We must get rid of corrupt cops first..."

The Western Cape SA Police Anti-Corruption Unit was established in December last year and has a high success rate. Corrupt police officers will not be tolerated within the service. Provincial Commissioner Leon Wessels has vowed to root out all corrupt officers. To date, this unit has charged 24 police officers and 43 cases are still being investigated.

Williams commented further: "We must also patrol our borders and our ports properly so there will be fewer drugs..."

Between January and June 30 this year, members of the police's Narcotics Bureau (SANAB) arrested 1 026 people on charges of dealing in a variety of drugs and seized the following drugs during these operations: 17 408kg dagga; 240 188 Mandrax tablets; 5,7kg cocaine; 102g Opium; 132 units of LSD; 2 742 Ecstasy amphetamine tablets; 11g hashish and 55g heroine.

Mr Ashraf Johnson, of Surrey Estate, commented: "Police searched gangsters ... Why didn't they confiscate their

firearms and run ballistic tests?"

If police have reason to believe that a specific firearm was used in a crime, this firearm will be confiscated and sent for ballistic tests.

Mr Christopher Jones, of Bishop Lavis, mentioned three criminal cases which he made at the local police station:

Regarding the armed robbery which occurred in November 1995: He (Jones) could not give the investigating officer a description of the three perpetrators.

Regarding the housebreaking which occurred during 1994, no charge was laid by him. When he reported the broken windows of his home to the police, he made it clear he was only reporting the incident to obtain a case number as he had to supply this number to the Regional Services Council who owned the house.

The community must work with the police to combat crime, be the eyes and ears for the police, report any suspicious persons/activities and participate in their Community Police Forums and Neighbourhood Watches. If you wish to remain anonymous, phone Crime Stop toll-free at 0800 11 12 13.

Rewards of up to R250 000 are paid for information leading to the arrests of criminals.



German chamber slams govt on rampant crime

BD 21/8/96 (34)

TIME was running out for government to demonstrate its ability to implement its political will, the German business community said yesterday.

The community said in a statement issued through the SA-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the murder of Erich Ellmer — a top businessman working for a German firm — in a botched car hijacking “has once again forced us to focus on our economic and political environment. Our chamber, representing SA’s biggest trading partner, has on various occasions urged government to act quickly and decisively to create an economic environment to boost local and foreign investor confidence.

“The German community in particular has demonstrated unequivocally through numerous initiatives its commitment to support the country in many of its endeavours. Notwithstanding government’s acknowledgements of the need to create an investor-friendly environment, there is no clear evidence as yet on delivery — delivery on law and order, delivery on the economy, delivery on education and housing,” said the statement.

Further: “It is high time that government demonstrates its ability to implement its political will — we are extremely concerned that time is running out. One of our biggest post-election assets — ‘goodwill’ — is being wasted. How much longer can we realistically hope to be able to trade with this asset. We are concerned that the international media will be shifting to a very negative stance.

“We would once again appeal to the government and the authorities to produce tangible evidence of its commitment and ability to deliver.”

Although SA was loved and supported by business people, “the single biggest factor influencing all our lives is the continuing crime and violence.

“Government must understand that this has a profoundly negative influence regarding any future investment decision. The level of personal danger endured by managers and the community at large is totally unacceptable.”

A questionnaire circulated to chamber members had shown that 16 out of 30 CEs of German subsidiaries in SA have been victims of violent crime.

“It has got to stop.” — Sapa.

Tough new jail terms

terms for drugs

34

ET 22/8/96

NEW LAWS on sentencing and a special focus on corruption in the police force are included in measures to combat crime expected to be announced today, writes **HENRY LUDSKI**.

MINIMUM sentences for gang- and drug-related offences, new "super-maximum" security prisons and a special witness protection programme for "whistle-blowers" were among the tough new anti-crime measures endorsed by the cabinet yesterday.

Also included will be mandatory sentences for police members found guilty of certain offences — including corruption — and stricter police disciplinary regulations.

This can be disclosed by the Cape Times, which obtained a copy of recommendations by criminal justice ministers who met on Tuesday evening to devise their anti-crime plan. Almost all of them are understood to have been passed by the cabinet.

The sweeping measures likely to be announced today include:

- Minimum sentences for certain offences, such as gang- and drug-related offences.

- A new "super maximum security" category of imprisonment, which will involve the building of new prisons with specially trained staff.

- Rewards for "whistle-blowing" and a special witness protection programme to protect people and police members who come forward with information on corruption.

- Mandatory sentences for particular categories of disciplinary, criminal or corruption-related offences committed by police members.

- New and tougher police disciplinary regulations.

- A new release policy which will ensure that offenders are imprisoned for a substantial period of their sentences.

- The consideration of legislation to give proper effect to life sentences, with parole only to be considered after review of the sentence by a court.

- The development of a provincial crime prevention strategy.

The ministers are also to request Parliament to rearrange its programme in the current session to speed up the passage of criminal justice legislation.

Besides being urged to make a "concrete commitment of resources to the criminal justice and crime prevention effort", the government ministers responsible for the implementation of the national crime prevention strategy also indicated that the most urgent priorities would initially be funded from the hundred of millions of RDP funds which have been set aside to bolster the strategy.

Other steps expected to be implemented to manage public order — in the Western Cape particularly — include the enforcement of a special government ban on the carrying of firearms at public gatherings in certain magisterial districts and measures to tighten police authority and control over public gatherings.

In a bid to crack down on gangs and drug-trafficking a special national structure to co-ordinate and supervise investigations has been set up and a specialist team of detectives will be sent to Cape Town for a month to evaluate all police dockets relating to gang activity.

A gang-busting network, involving national intelligence and dedicated prosecutors, will be established to work closely with community groups.

Spiritual brothers



HAND IN HAND: Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama after their meeting at the Mount Nelson Hotel yesterday. ● Report Page 3

PICTURE: BENNY G

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CRIME LINE, an integral part of our Bid Against Crime campaign will, from today, carry a response from the South African Police Service to your complaints and questions.

● See PAGE TWO

No charges against leader

POLICE denied last night that Pagad leaders Muhammed Ali "Phantom" Parker and Mr Farouk Jaffer were being sought in connection with charges of seditious activities.

News reports over the past week noted that Parker and Jaffer were being sought in connection with the charges.

● Police confiscated a secret police document on Islamic extremists in SA yesterday from a Beeld reporter, claiming they needed it for an investigation against a policeman.

Beeld said police asked reporter Nick Bezuidenhout hand over the document and identify who had given it to him. He refused and was served with a summons to appear in the Middelburg Magistrate's Court on September 11.

● See Page 5

When, and how, you CAN take the law into your own hands

Being told not take the law into one's own hands, does not mean one's hands are tied. Staff reporter **ANDREW SMITH** looks at how the law makes provision for individuals and communities to help clean up the streets.

FOR weeks the South African Police Service have been begging People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) to stop taking the law into their own hands and to let the police do their job.

But Pagad and, more recently, the Freedom Front, have called on followers to take up the fight against crime, citing impatience with an ineffective policing and justice system as justification.

The public and state response, however, has been somewhat misleading.

Citizens may take "the law into their own hands", as long as the letter of the law is followed.

And ironically, the police have been calling for people to do so for many years.

The Criminal Procedure Act allows citizens, under wide ranging conditions to arrest law breakers and turn them over to the police. The notion of citizens arrest is not a mothballed piece of legislation which has no practical application.

South Africa's burgeoning security industry uses this very piece of legislation to arrest law breakers and sustain the security businesses. Even small fry security interests like neighbourhood watches make use of the legislation.

Pagad leaders conceded that a neighbourhood watch with a solid understanding of the law would go along way in cleaning up the streets.

But citizens cannot arrest others as they please. Although the act is phrased fairly widely, it does list the offences for which citizens arrests may be made.

The act justifies an arrest of a person whom the arrestor sees committing, or knows has committed, a schedule one offence. It is phrased widely enough to even allow the arrest of a person whom the arrestor "reasonably believes to have committed any offence referred to in schedule one".

Two aspects of the act need consideration bearing in mind the fact that a civil suit could await a citizen who makes an

arrest not justified by the law.

Firstly schedule one crimes are limited to murder, attempted murder, rape, robbery, house breaking, sedition as well as assault "when a dangerous wound is inflicted", theft, receiving stolen goods "knowing then it to be stolen" and forgery.

Any conspiracy to commit a schedule one offense would also fall under the mantle of a schedule one crime.

As far as drug dealing is concerned John Sterrenberg, police spokesperson indicated that any crime with a penalty of over six months in prison without the option of a fine also falls under the act.

This gives the act a wide scope and includes arrests for offences such as drug dealing and gun running.

But the problem lies with communities whose members do not know what crimes constitute offences for which penalties of six months or over would be incurred.

Senior members of Pagad agreed that for community members to arrest fellow citizens and be assured that a conviction would ensue, rather than a civil suit, the community would have to be educated accordingly, just as security guards are.

Secondly, the act does allow for a safety net should an unlawful arrest be carried out. The arresting party would have to prove that his or her suspicion was reasonable.

What constitutes a reasonable suspicion would be judged objectively. In other words, the court would look at all aspects of the arrest before deciding.

Force more often than not would be required in order to execute such an arrest and the Criminal Procedure act does make provision for this.

Section 49 of the act affords a person protection from the law if force leading to injury or death is used to overpower a suspect with a view to making a citizen's arrest.

But, again, the force used

(34) ARG 22/8/96

always must be reasonable.

Just as a court would adjudicate the reasonableness of the suspicion of the crime, so the reasonableness of the force used would be judged and, if found to have been unreasonable, would open the way for the person arrested to file a civil suit against the arrestor.

Professor Johan Joubert of Unisa law faculty said that although the courts would try not to use an "arm-chair" approach in deciding if the force used was reasonable or not, it would check all the circumstances. Private citizens can thus use all the force necessary but a court would have the final say.

As Superintendent Sterrenberg was quick to point out, the law would come down hard on the arrestor if the force used were not authorised by the law. "The use of violence in arresting a person brings the arresting person near the fine line between acting legally and taking the law into his own hands," he said.

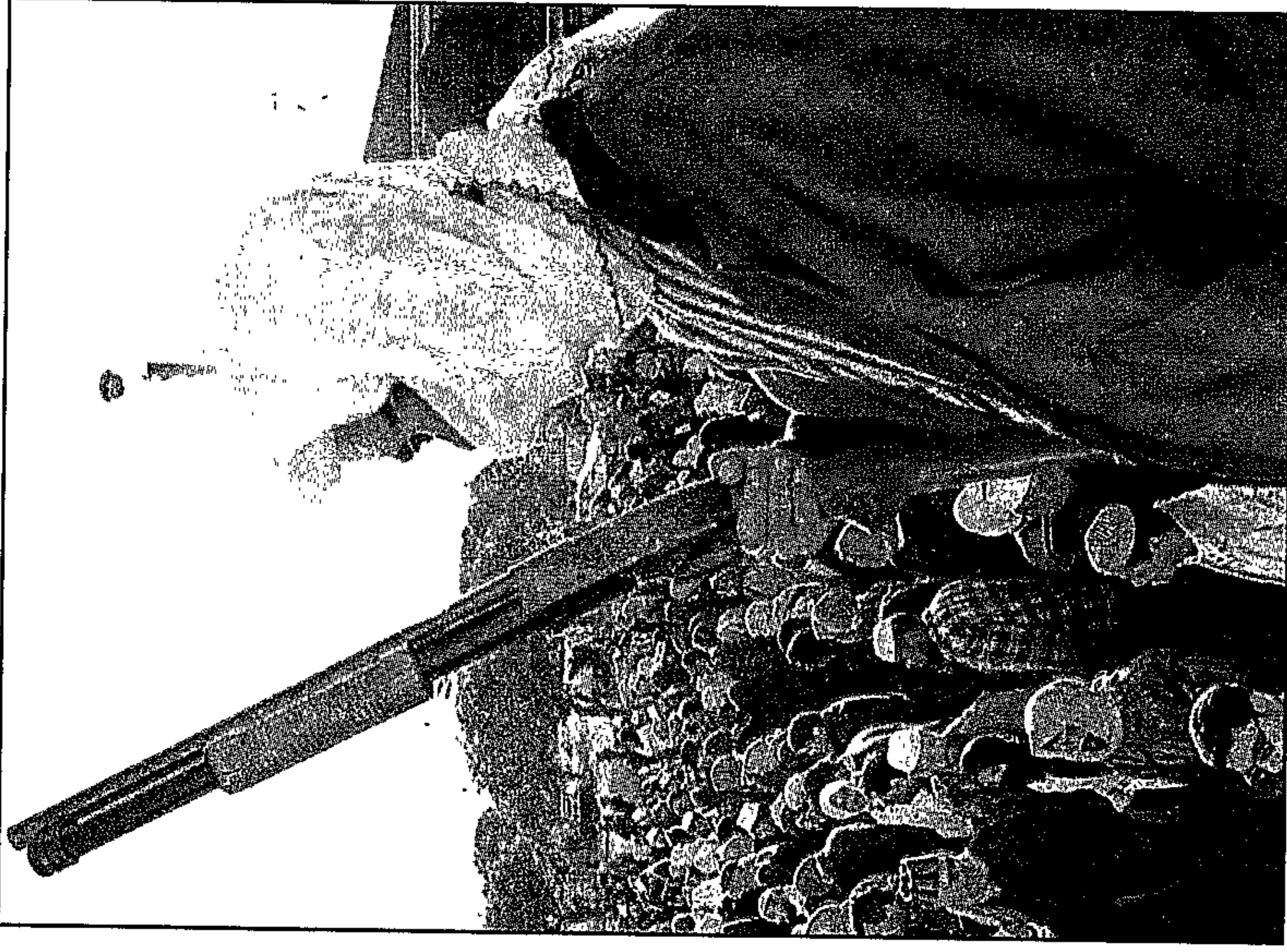
"If an arresting person oversteps the mark and kills another person, when a warning or a punch would have been enough, he would be charged appropriately."

Superintendent Sterrenberg indicated another aspect of the citizen's arrest which if not complied with could result in the arresting party facing the full wrath of the law.

The person who is arrested should be handed over to the police as soon as possible. "If you arrest a person and dump him in a cellar for a day or two an then only take him to the police, you could be charged with kidnapping."

Dumping a person in a cellar, burning him alive or shooting him in the head would clearly not be covered by the Act. They are brutal acts of violence and the perpetrators should suffer under the law.

But it is a perfect time for communities to take up the law and use it as it was intended - to protect citizens.



Pagad members on a march earlier this month. The use of "unreasonable" force by a citizen making a citizen's arrest - including the unwarranted use of firearms - could expose the arrestor to criminal and civil court action. But in many situations it is lawful for an ordinary member of the public to arrest a person whom he or she has reasonable grounds for believing has committed a criminal offence - and to use force, provided the degree of force used is reasonable in the opinion of a court, to effect the arrest. Knowledge of the law is crucial in using these powers.

Cabinet says yes to anti-crime strategy

More jails, tougher sentences and special anti-gang and anti-drug squads on the way

OWN CORRESPONDENT

(34)

Star 22/8/96

The Cabinet yesterday endorsed tough action against gangsters and crime, at the same time sending out a strong message that corruption in the criminal justice system will no longer be tolerated.

This can be disclosed today by The Star, which obtained a copy of recommendations by criminal justice ministers who met on Tuesday to devise a plan to fight rampant crime.

The wide-ranging proposals, almost all of which are understood to have been accepted by the full Cabinet yesterday, identify the specific "action steps" which the justice, safety and security, and correctional services ministries believe will "improve the management of the criminal justice system and restore public confidence in the Government's ability to tackle the crime problem".

The sweeping measures likely to be announced today, particularly to address the continuing crisis in the Western Cape and the disturbing levels of corruption, include the following:

- New and tougher South African Police Service disciplinary regulations.
- Rewards for "whistle-blowing" and a special witness protection programme.
- Mandatory sentences for particular categories of disciplinary or criminal or corruption-related offences committed by police members.
- The development of a provincial crime prevention strategy.
- Minimum sentences for certain of-

fences, such as gang- and drug-related crimes.

- A new release policy which will ensure that serious offenders are jailed for a substantial period of their sentences.

- The consideration of legislation to give proper effect to life sentences, with parole only to be considered after review of the sentence by a court.

- A new "super maximum security" category of imprisonment, which will involve the building of new prisons with specially trained staff.

The ministers are also to ask Parliament to rearrange the programme in the current session to speed up the passage of criminal justice legislation.

Besides being urged "to make a concrete commitment of resources to the criminal justice and crime prevention effort", the ministers responsible for the implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy also indicated that the most urgent priorities, of which 20 have thus far been identified, would initially be funded from the hundreds of millions of RDP funds set aside to bolster the strategy.

Minister of Justice Dullah Omar is also scheduled to meet chief magistrates soon to ensure that public safety and the integrity of the justice process are paramount when bail is granted and sentences are imposed.

Another aspect would be the creation of a special gang-busting structure, involving national intelligence and dedicated prosecutors who will work closely with community groups.

Plan to build 'super-maximum' prisons

Cabinet gives nod to tougher crime strategy

Drew Forrest

CAPE TOWN — Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela has announced plans to tighten the parole system and to build high-security "super-maximum" prisons for dangerous criminals as a response to high crime levels.

His announcement yesterday was part of a multifaceted plan approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday, intended to intensify the war on crime, particularly in the Western Cape.

The proposed parole policy, providing for mandatory sentences that could not be shortened by parole or remission, would be passed into law as soon as possible next year, Mzimela said.

Flowing from the recommendations of the national advisory council on correctional services under Judge M Kumleben, it was a response to unacceptably high levels of crime and criticism of the parole system.

"This policy is a radical departure," Mzimela said. "It is going to affect severely the time served by prisoners and we hope this will help bring down the general trend of criminality."

Under the policy, courts would be able to determine mandatory jail terms, preferably of not more than two-thirds of the total sentence. Correctional Services spokesman Bert Slabbert said it could be expected that the courts would generally insist that two-thirds

of the sentence be served. Only the head of state would be able to grant remission on the mandatory portion of sentences. Correctional services would continue applying parole principles on the non-mandatory portion to reward prisoners for positive behaviour.

Mzimela said the possibility of parole for prisoners serving life terms would be considered by the national advisory council. However, it was proposed that life prisoners should serve at least 20 years of their sentences.

Other proposed changes were the restructuring of parole boards to include "other stakeholders in the criminal justice system" and the incorporation of periods spent awaiting trial in whatever sentence was imposed.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal that dangerous criminals be held in "super-maximum" prisons where they would be subject to close surveillance and their movement and activities severely curtailed.

Mzimela said "two or three" such prisons would be built, accommodating at least the 500 convicts serving life sentences. Prisoners would have little contact with each other, breaking their criminal network links and aiding attempts to combat the gang culture.

Asked whether the planned parole reform was feasible, given the current

Continued on Page 2

Crime strategy

Continued from Page 1

30% overcrowding in SA's prisons, Mzimela said it had to be applied "even if it meant putting 10 people in cells meant for one".

He believed the private sector should build prisons and lease them to the state to cut costs and construction time. However, public works depart-

ment officials "who don't want to move into the new era" were likely to drag their heels on the proposal.

The Cabinet provided further details yesterday of special anti-crime measures approved at Wednesday's meeting. These included plans to ban the carrying of firearms at public gatherings in certain magisterial districts, a strategy to encourage blowing the whistle on corruption, and introducing scanners, X-ray machines and sniffer dogs at Western Cape ports of entry.

DISUSED MINE MAY BECOME PRISON

Worst criminals to be jailed in remote areas

(34) CT 23/8/96

THE RINGLEADERS of prison gangs, considered "beyond rehabilitation", may soon find themselves sent to prisons where they can no longer have any contact with their families and criminal associates, writes **HENRY LUDSKI**.

PLANS to banish South Africa's most dangerous and hardened prisoners to "super maximum security prisons" in remote areas — including using private sector finance to convert a disused Free State mine — were announced yesterday by the government.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipo Mzimela said ringleaders of notorious Western Cape prison gangs could soon find themselves in these jails along with serial killers, people serving life sentences and those convicted of heinous crimes against children.

Prisons throughout the country are populated by violent gangs, such as the 26s and 28s, who through a highly sophisticated network of fear and corruption continue to wield immense power beyond prison boundaries.

Mzimela said the proposed super maximum security prisons, the first of which could be ready as early as June next year, were also aimed at breaking the cyclical nature of the prison gang phenomenon and isolating prisoners convicted of gang-related offences.

"We want them far away from their families, away from their the-

atre of operations and in a place where they will be under constant guard, in single cells, and with little if any contact with other prisoners."

Mzimela said these prisoners, of whom there are hundreds in South Africa, were "beyond rehabilitation", had shown that they did not belong in a civilised society and should therefore not be entitled to any of the privileges to which prisoners were usually entitled.

But whatever measures were introduced would have no chance of success if immediate steps were not taken to root out corrupt elements.

Mzimela confirmed that he had appointed a judge to investigate complaints of corruption against prison officials.

Mzimela also announced plans to introduce a new system of release and parole, which would make it mandatory for prisoners to serve at least two-thirds of their prison sentences before being considered eligible for parole.

The parole and release measures — to be implemented despite widespread overcrowding at virtually all South African jails — were aimed at preventing situations in which

criminals were released after serving only a small portion of their sentences.

He expected the legislation to be passed during the present session of Parliament.

The measures form part of ongoing plans by Mzimela to transform South African prisons and are also among the initiatives that the government has incorporated into its elaborate National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) to stamp out crime.

Mzimela said he believed that, given the non-availability of state funds, the solution to prison overcrowding was to get private companies to build new prisons which could then be leased to the state.

A leading gold mining company had offered a disused mine in the Free State to be developed as a prison by private capital.

Democratic Party spokesman on correctional services, Mr James Selfe, yesterday welcomed the new parole and release measures, but expressed concern that these provisions would put more pressure on the overcrowded jails, which already house 30 000 more prisoners than they were built to accommodate.

Selfe stressed the urgent need for the government to take up the offer from the private sector to build prisons which could then be leased by prison authorities.

Fivaz to meet press on controversial section 205

(34) Star 26/8/96

Commissioner says issue has to be defused rapidly and addressed in the best interests of the media and the SAPS

By NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

Police Commissioner George Fivaz says he wants to meet newspaper editors, media unions, attorneys-general and other stakeholders on the controversial section 205 legislation which can result in a journalist being jailed for not divulging sources to the police.

Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Safety and Security, is to meet editors on Thursday.

Newspapers and radio and television stations were raided last week by police seeking the names of sources and material in regard to an extremist Muslim underground organisation said to be operating in South Africa.

The Argus (Cape Town), The Cape Times, Die Burger (Cape Town), Beeld (Johannesburg), SABC Television News, and the Associated Press news agency were served with subpoenas in terms of section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

In a statement from Victoria

Falls, Zimbabwe, where he has been attending a conference of regional police chiefs, Fivaz said it was "clearly necessary to re-examine the section's practical implication to specifically the media".

He added that the issue had to be "rapidly defused and addressed in the best interests of the

'It's clearly necessary to re-examine its practical application'

media and the South African Police Service."

Both the police and the media existed to serve the community, and their credibility was crucial in the fight against crime.

"I believe the police and the broader criminal justice system must realise that the pivotal role of the media in fighting crime is

absolutely dependent on both the perceived and practical independence of the media.

"Police in a democracy cannot expect the media to compromise their independence by becoming mere extensions of the investigate authority," Fivaz said.

Although section 205 was a legitimate judicial instrument and a vital tool in fighting crime in general, "it is clearly necessary to re-examine its practical application to, specifically, the media".

Fivaz said the proposed meeting would discuss directing the police to proceed with orders against the media only on the direct and explicit authorisation of an attorney-general, and the issuing of clear directives to police structures that they had to exhaust all other investigative and information avenues before an attorney-general is asked for such authorisation; to initiate discussions with attorneys-general to reach a joint approach on such orders against journalists; and to seek a review of all section 205 orders against journalists.

Hardly a profession safe from law's tentacles

By CHERYL HUNTER

Last week several prominent journalists were subpoenaed by police to reveal confidential information in court, but few people realise that this law applies to almost all professions.

Under South African law, even a priest may be forced to repeat details revealed to him in the sanctity of the confessional.

In terms of section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act, any person can be forced to hand over

information to the police if they consider it essential to the solving of a criminal case.

Those refusing to hand over the information can be jailed indefinitely, or until they give authorities the required information.

According to an advocate from the Witwatersrand attorney-general's office, the only relationship which is exempt from this section of the law is that between a lawyer and client.

"The most cut-throat murderer can make outrageous and damn-

ing confessions to a lawyer and nothing he says can be used against him," said the advocate, who preferred not to be named.

A doctor, however, who claims that his patients' medical records are privileged or confidential information, will be served a subpoena to provide the requested information or face imprisonment.

"People claim privileged information which they say is confidential, but the law does not recognise this," the advocate said.

PATROL'S MAIN WEAPON IS ITS WORD

Alert watch is a friend indeed

ET 26/8/76 (34)

THE MITCHELLS PLAIN Neighbourhood Watch has an impressive record of success, but its members see themselves chiefly as peacemakers, contributing Writer **EUGENE HUGO** reports.

THE Mitchell's Plain Neighbourhood Watch means business. Its motto is: "We are from the community, for the community. You touch one of us, you touch us all."

Mr Louis Swigelaar, an executive member of the Western Cape Crime Forum, demonstrates at the weekend how the neighbourhood watch operates among the gangs and thugs in the "red" areas of Tafelsig, Eastridge, Beacon Valley and Woodlands.

During the week, it has raided four shebeens — four people are fined R1 500, R600, R900 and R800 in the magistrate's courts; arrested two murder suspects 20 minutes after the crimes; arrested two housebreakers and two car thieves red-handed; and seized 16



RADIO CONTROL: Mr Ben Ada monitors the radio on a Friday night and records calls in the incidents book.

parcels of dagga, 20 "stoppe" and a bag of dagga.

In the past 11 days, the team has raided 15 shebeens, seized 10 firearms and 20 motor vehicles, 117 Mandrax tablets and a large quantity of dagga. Swigelaar and his men work from an

old satellite police station and see themselves mainly as peacemakers, even among the gangs. This seems borne out when a gangster, seeing Swigelaar, shouts: "Hier kom die peacemaker."

This neighbourhood watch seems to out-perform any other on the Peninsula.

PICTURES: CLIVE SMITH

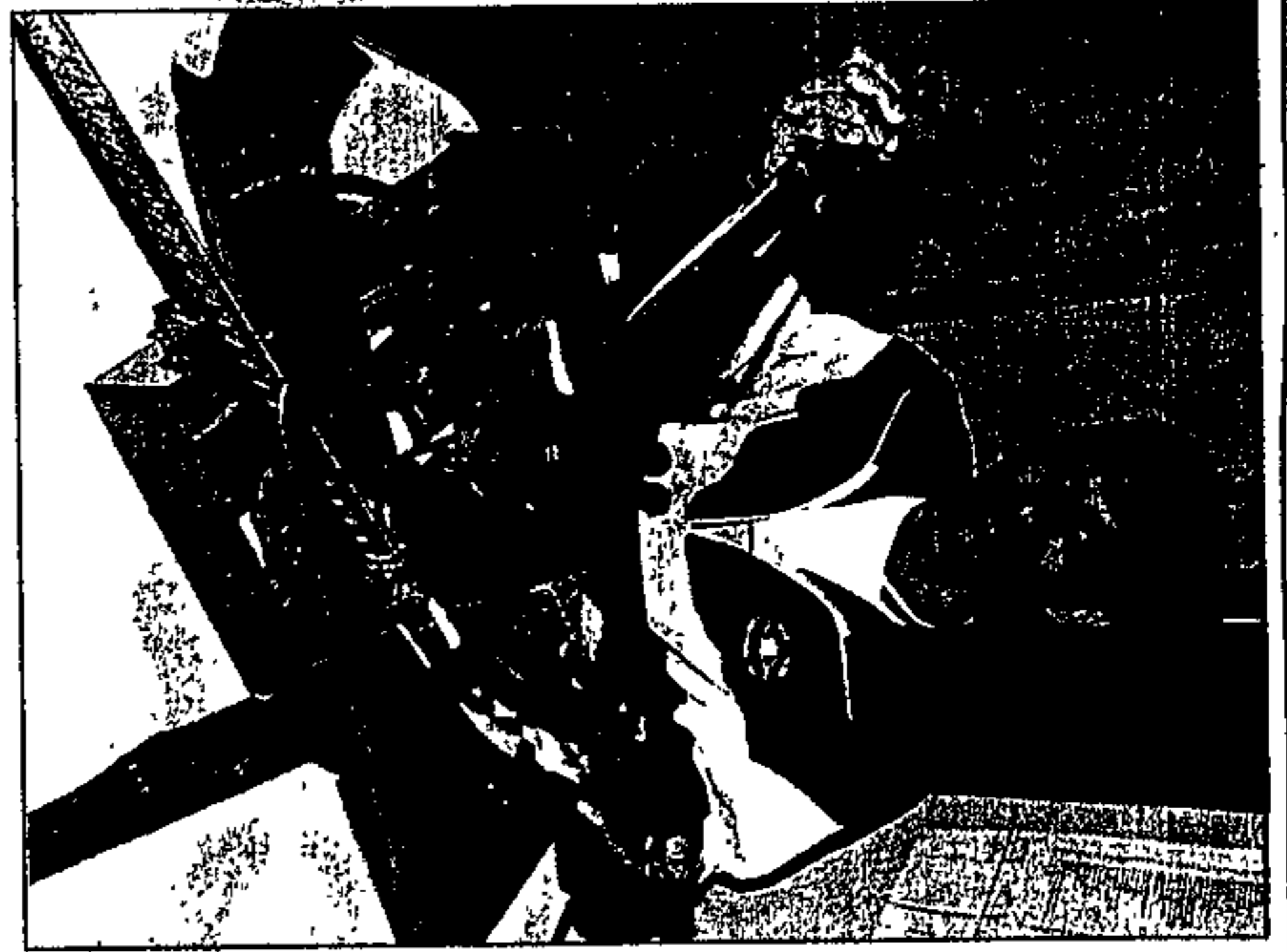
la. Its members:

- Meet at 9 every night to patrol the streets of Mitchell's Plain.
- Respond to calls on a one-way telephone during the week and monitor a police radio at weekends.
- Help the community in every way they can, whether with family squabbles, gang fights or during bad weather.
- Provide security at functions and protect patients at the clinic.
- Check at the police station to ensure detainees' rights are upheld and the police doing their job.

Some of the men who patrol the streets carry firearms for their protection. Says one: "We have never had to shoot anyone ... our main weapons are our mouths."

Swigelaar says his men are being accepted increasingly in the various neighbourhoods.

"What we are offering to do is to provide back-up for the police. If they would give us just one policeman for each patrol ... it would help solve manpower shortages and ... we could pursue suspects into houses. All we can do now is make citizen's arrests."



ARMS SEIZED: Mr Michael Stober with weapons confiscated by the neighbourhood watch patrol — handguns, zipguns, knives and pangas.

The Mr Cleans of mean streets

EUGENE HUGO

SHEETS of freezing rain chase this Friday night as members of the Mitchell's Plain Neighbourhood Watch gather for their patrol.

The radio chatters as the members line up to sign in and declare their weapons — only one for each man, but most are unarmed. "It depends where you're going."

These men have been where policemen go and faced many of the same dangers, but they have little of the equipment policemen use and even fewer powers.

We visit the clinic and the civic centre and follow the streets where flashes of torchlight signal the presence of the neighbourhood watch.

In a house that serves as a sub-station, we are

shown the day's haul of guns, knives and pangas. In one street there are five shebeens and in another, four. Most are fairly stable following the four raids of the day.

Mr Rich welcomes us at his "clean" shebeen, where patrons "buy and go" and don't linger to cause fights.

The other shebeens are where the gangsters normally go. Tonight they are missing.

We find them down. Groenberg and Pickett arranged to meet their leaders, but they are not there — they are meeting to make plans to counteract People Against Crime and Gangsterism.

As we leave, people peer through windows. People who have been under the stage of crime for too long.

New anti-crime campaign

Sowetan 27/8/96 (34)
NATIONAL Police Commissioner George Fivaz yesterday launched a new plan initiated by business to upgrade and improve the performance of 100 of the country's most needy police stations.

The improved management plan, Project Lifeline, was hoped to later spill over to the country's other 1 100 stations.

The project is being facilitated free of charge by the South African branch of the international management consultancy McKinsey Incorporated, and has the support of the police and Business Against Crime.

McKinsey Inc partner Ms Judy

Wade told journalists at the launch at Moroka Police Station in Soweto the police faced an immense challenge in transforming a 140 000-member organisation while reducing crime.

"In our work with major institutions around the world we have been involved in difficult major change efforts. But the challenge facing the SA Police Service is one of a magnitude rarely seen," she said.

Fivaz said the plan was mainly aimed at improving the management of available resources to enhance the police's effectiveness. The reduction of administration staff had, for example, greatly improved the number of

Moroka station members available for visible policing. Moroka and eight other stations were part of the pilot project started in May, and all had shown significant results, he said.

The 100 stations were selected on the grounds of which had the highest crime rate, the greatest infrastructural needs, the most dissatisfied communities and the greatest shortage of skills.

The nine pilot stations were Daveyton and Moroka in Gauteng, Libode and Fleet Street in the Eastern Cape, Cato Manor, Mariannhill and Umkomaas in KwaZulu-Natal and Grassy Park and Nyanga in the Western Cape. - Sapa.

Many hands (34) needed to address present crisis

CT 27/8/96

LALA Camerer, a researcher with the Crime and Policing Policy Project, writes of an article written by her on this page last week: I am somewhat concerned about the perception created in the headline: "Prevention Strategy 'is in wrong hands'" (Cape Times, 22 August 1996).

Saying that the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) is in the "wrong hands", is incorrect, since my paper concerned itself with the line function department leading the Programme Team on Victim Support and Empowerment within the NCPS, not the NCPS itself.

In addition the article failed to reflect that the roles of various departments engaged in the NCPS are not cut and dried, but very much up for discussion.

In fact, a national workshop on victim support and empowerment (co-presented by the SAPS Victim Support Programme and the Crime and Policing Policy Project at the Institute for Defence Policy) is being held at the end of August with all relevant stakeholders to discuss the respective roles and responsibilities of government and NGOs when it comes to securing a better deal for crime victims.

While I uphold the view that the Department of Welfare alone is not sufficient to lead the programme team, it will obviously need to play a key role, especially when it comes to support services such as counselling and referral for victims of crime. However, these initiatives will need to be complemented by the Departments of Safety and Security and Justice if victims of crime in South Africa are to be empowered throughout the criminal justice process.

Finally, I am not a criminologist, but a policy researcher doing work around crime and policing issues.

This distinction is important since the difference between academia and a policy-making environment means that one cannot afford the luxury, especially in the current crisis, of throwing ideas around from which practical products do not flow.

pentation for
— a decision

New bills target drug smugglers (34)

ARG 27/8/96

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

THE first of a triple package of bills aimed at combating international drug trafficking and at sharpening extradition laws has been tabled in Parliament.

The Proceeds of Crime Bill will enable courts to confiscate from criminals the proceeds of crime and will prohibit money laundering.

Its companion legislation, the International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill, and the Extradition Amendment Bill, are expected soon.

Johnny de Lange, head of the national assembly committee on justice, which will be hold-

ing hearings on the legislation, said the package was part of continuing efforts to replace the archaic and repressive apartheid-era criminal justice system with a modern, effective and human-rights based system.

The new legislation introduced innovative and, in some cases, drastic measures to prevent and combat crime, Mr De Lange said.

The bills flow from research by the SA Law Commission and will put into effect provisions of the UN's Vienna Convention against drug trafficking.

The law commission recommended the establishment of a central office, attached to the

justice department, to channel letters of request for evidence to appropriate organisations in foreign states.

The present system of getting evidence from a foreign witness by setting up a commission would be replaced by the court issuing a letter of request for help in obtaining the evidence.

The commission said there should be a simplified procedure for the provision of evidence in criminal proceedings from South Africa to foreign courts. The minister of justice would be given the discretion to decide on the desirability of complying with a request from a foreign state.

Mandela, clerics in crime talks

(34)

ARG 29/8/96

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

ON the eve of today's meeting between President Mandela and religious leaders aimed at a strategy against gangsterism, senior Government ministers have disclosed further steps in the campaign against crime.

Mr Mandela, Justice Minister Dullah Omar and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi are to meet about 50 clerics of various faiths and denominations to discuss ways to counteract crime.

The meeting is an African National Congress initiative, part of the run-up to this weekend's ANC Peace, Stability and Security summit in Cape Town.

In the national assembly yes-

terday, Mr Omar said the law of presumption of guilt under various circumstances was being reviewed in the light of Constitutional Court judgments, and so that it could strengthen the anti-crime campaign.

He was responding in a mini-debate to a question by Farouk Cassim (IFP) about whether his ministry was considering statutory presumptions of guilt about the illegal possession of drugs or dealing in drugs.

Mr Omar said such presumptions existed in the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act and in the Criminal Procedure Act, but several of these provisions had been challenged in the Constitutional Court. The court had ruled unconstitutional the presumption in the Drugs and Drug

Trafficking Act that possession of 150g or more of dagga made the possessor guilty of dealing.

Mr Omar said the ruling was a problem, and the situation was being reviewed. However, there remained a number of other presumptions in law, including those dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Not enough use was being made of these, he said. While no civilised country would ever abandon the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, at the same time it was crucial to improve the justice system.

Mr Mufamadi said during the debate that there were ongoing efforts to form a partnership against crime, including setting up inner-city video camera surveillance.

Time for the ANC to

take responsibility for crime

(34) AAG 29/8/96

ALMOST two weeks ago, I was privileged to share views with the central executive committee of South African Breweries (SAB), at their invitation.

I had been asked to give a briefing on the socio-political situation in the country, and sketch a scenario of how things were likely to turn out politically over the next two to three years.

During the question-and-answer period at the end of a 30-minute-long presentation, questions from the men in the room focused exclusively on crime.

Did I think the government was doing enough to combat crime? Did the government have the will to deal with the problem? Why was the government failing so woefully to govern?

Why do so many government leaders spend so much time abroad, trying to attract investment to these shores, when they should be spending more time here at home trying to convince South African businessmen to invest in their country?

They were important questions, all of them.

Assembled in that room were some of the most powerful men in South African business, all heads of various companies and business concerns owned by SAB.

Almost to a man, they, like the vast majority of South Africans, were worried about the ever-escalating crime rate which, coupled with unemployment, must no doubt be the biggest challenge facing South Africa today.

Many, especially people living in Johannesburg (which must be the worst affected city in the country), may have to be excused when they say that the government has lost the will to do what it was elected to do: govern.

I myself am now very sympathetic to that view.

For whatever else a government does, its primary responsibility is to protect a country's citizens. And I, like many others in this country at the moment, just cannot say I feel protected.

Every day we hear of, and read about, people who have had their cars hijacked at gunpoint, people who have been murdered during hijackings-gone-wrong, women who have been raped, houses which have been broken into, banks which have been robbed, etc.

In my suburb in Johannesburg, my corner shop has been closed for the past three months after its owner, a friendly Portuguese man, had been robbed countless times. It was always the same story: he would be robbed at gunpoint, report the crime to the police, no arrests would be made; and he would be robbed at gunpoint again, report the crime to the police, no arrests would be made, and he would be robbed again, etc. And so the vicious cycle continued.

Eventually my corner shopkeeper decided to sell. When he could not find a buyer, he just gave up, closed shop (no pun intended) and moved on. We, who occasionally bought the odd item from him, were the losers.

This is no life, and we simply cannot go on like this.

Not only has crime gone completely out of control, but it is also no exaggeration to say that criminals are, in fact, presently running the country.

There just does not seem to be a full appreciation in government circles of the fact that we are in a state of war at the moment, with citizens virtual prisoners in their own homes. Our suburbs are not safe and danger constantly lurks in the

ONE IN YOUR EYE



Kaiser Nyatsumba

streets of our towns and cities.

There are many who say crime is worse now than it was before the 1994 general election, and they are right.

Although I have often sought to contextualise matters in this column, always driving readers' attention to the fact that most of the problems the ANC-led government now finds itself confronted with are a legacy of apartheid, there is no denying that this government has simply failed to deal with the problem of crime.

The ANC-led government cannot continue, two-and-a-half years into the new South Africa, to blame everything, including its inability to deal decisively with the crime problem, on the past National Party governments.

At some stage the organisation has to assume full responsibility for the governance of the country, and that time is now.

We need an all-out declaration of war on crime. We need to indicate, through the use of our resources, that combating crime is the priority for the country at the moment. We need to ensure that policing gets a higher budget than it has at the moment and that many more police officers are recruited and paid reasonably well.

We will need to put soldiers on the streets to help in the fight against crime. We will need to enlist even the help of traffic officers in this regard, and to speed up legis-

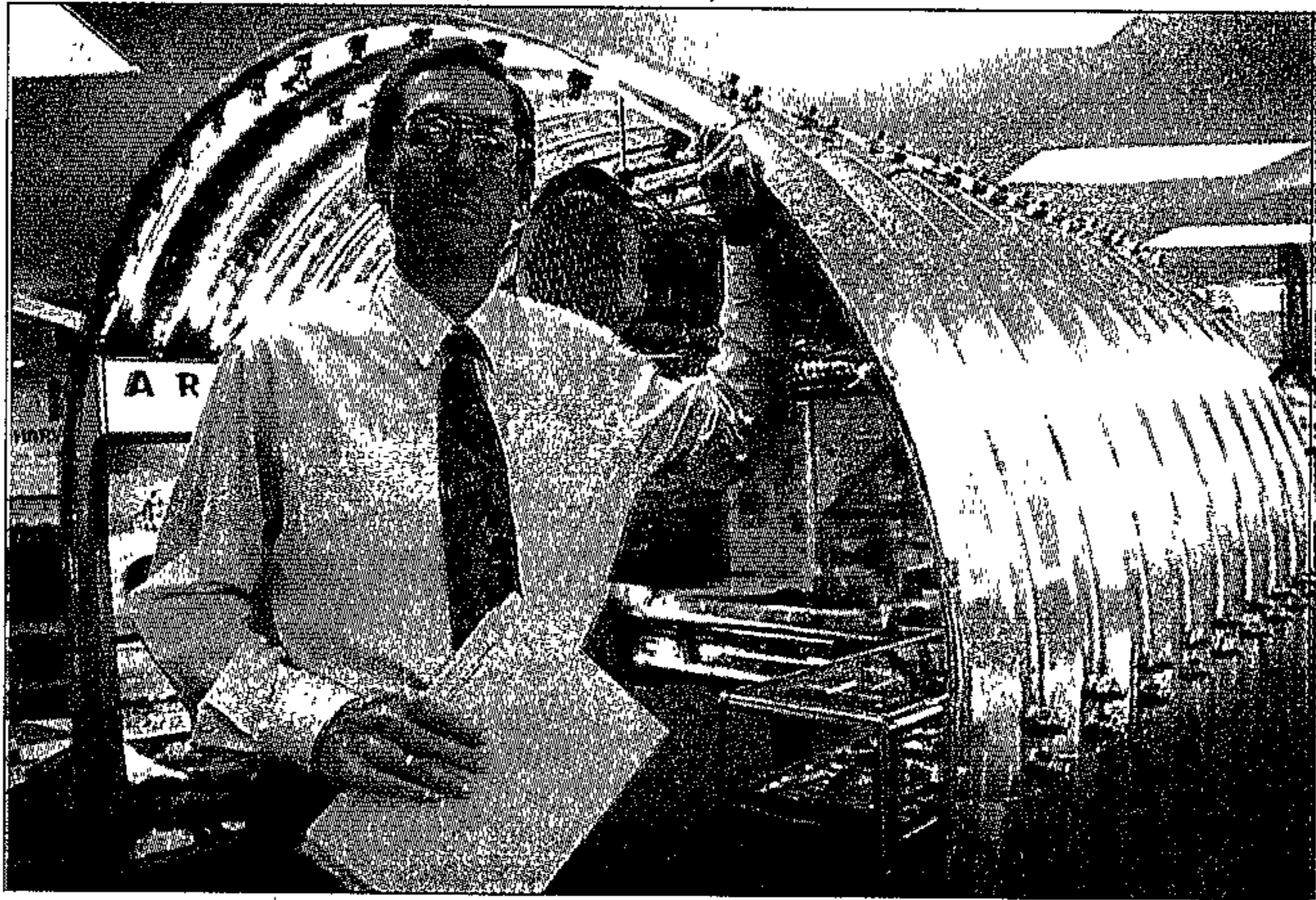


Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi with Police Commissioner George Fivaz at a recent conference on crime - the new government cannot forever blame its predecessor for the soaring crime rate.

lation which will enable towns and cities to have their own policing agencies with the powers to effect arrests.

At the same time, we will need to embark on a ruthless campaign to root out rotten elements in the police service. Let us even declare a state of

emergency if we have to. Until all of these things are done, more and more citizen will emigrate, some tourists will stay away, potential investors will shun us and more desperate citizens will resort to desperate measures by taking the law into their own hands.



UNDER PRESSURE Graham Hardy, M&R's chief executive, has a lot to worry about . . . the company's earnings have dropped and a dispute with Siemens could go to arbitration PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

Siemens dispute and industry downturn hits M&R earnings

(34) CT(BR) 30/8/96

By Jonathan Rosenthal

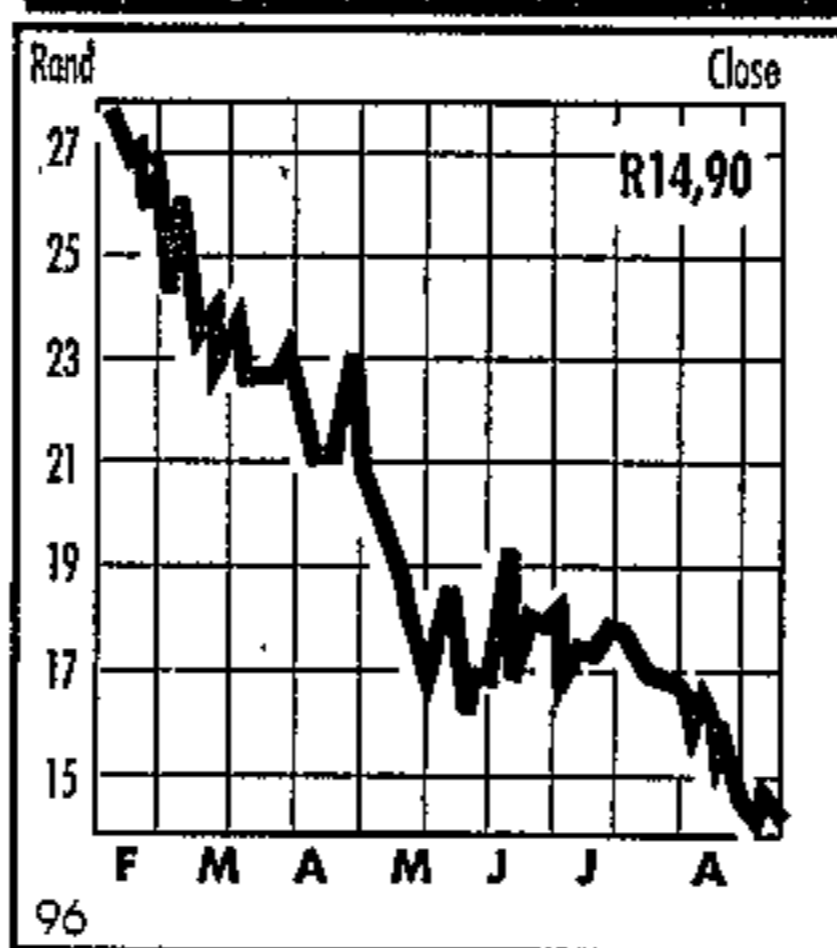
Johannesburg — Murray and Roberts, the construction, engineering and transport group, reported a 13 percent fall in earnings a share to R1,09 for the year to June 30.

The group was beset by a downturn in the building and construction sector and a dispute with Siemens over the cancellation of a R500 million contract to supply train sets for Taiwan.

Earnings before interest and depreciation rose 4 percent to R1,05 billion, but were reduced by the R160 million provision made to settle the dispute with Siemens. That cut shareholders earnings by 47c a share.

Turnover rose 16 percent to R10,7 billion, but operating margins fell from last year's 8 percent

Murray & Roberts



to 5,4 percent. Despite an 8 percent fall in attributable earnings, the final dividend was unchanged from last year's 34c. Total dividends for the year were 3 percent higher at 48,5c.

The sales of companies engaged in non-core activities boosted attributable earnings.

They generated gross proceeds of R318 million and a non-operating surplus of R128 million. Among the companies sold were Mono Pumps, Gypsum Industries, Huddy Diamond and Court Helicopters.

The materials operating group made the largest contribution to earnings at R244 million. Transport contributed R131 million to earnings and contractors R192 million. Engineering's contribution fell to R189 million from R253 million. International turnover rose 41 percent to almost R2 billion, or 18,5 percent of group turnover.

The group could also benefit from an increase in gross domestic fixed investment, said Graham Hardy, the chief executive.

□ See Business Watch, Page 20

CAPE TOWN
Bid against crime.

FRIDAY
AUGUST 30, 1996

Reforming SA's criminal justice system now a national priority

THE REFORM of SA's criminal justice system is critical if the fight against crime is to be won, argues Mr Mark Shaw, project co-ordinator of the Institute for Defence Policy which published the booklet, *Policing the Transformation*.

SOUTH Africa's system of criminal justice is in crisis. If effectiveness is measured against its ability to prevent, process and deter crime, then reforming the system is now a national priority.

The system has never been a unified one — it stretches across three key departments: safety and security, justice and correctional services. But the links between them are weak and the involvement of departments such as welfare, education and health, who also have a significant role to play

in crime prevention, is minimal. Inevitably, reform efforts after 1994 concentrated almost exclusively on the front end of the criminal justice system — essentially an attempt to change the visible components of the South African Police Service from a force to a service.

What has virtually been ignored in the new order has been the issue of detecting crime. The consequences have been severe. Last year only a quarter of all robberies were resolved, one-fifth of all housebreakings, one-tenth of all

vehicle thefts and about half of all murders. More importantly perhaps is the general perception that the chances of offenders being caught are minimal. SA's detectives have always been a threatened breed — under apartheid the quick road to promotion for bright and ambitious officers was through the security branch, in the new order the fast track is uniform or visible policing. This has been exacerbated in the past year by the large numbers of experienced detectives leaving the services for the more handsome pickings of the private sector and by the difficulty of recruiting more detectives.

Currently there are few incentives for detective work — uniform officers work four days on and four days off, good detectives often work seven days a week with no overtime, under poor and dangerous conditions with little support. Most detectives, often with no training (only about 26% have been on a detective course), carry upwards of 50 dockets. There is no mentoring or assistance programme, and the majority of new detectives are thrown in at the deep end. Also, there is a high degree of inexperience.

The Department of justice is also not blameless. Public prosecutors generally have little experience and carry heavy case-loads. And courts are often badly managed, resulting in endless postponements. Closer working relations

between detectives and public prosecutors would improve the chances of conviction — at the moment the two often meet for the first time when the detective is in the witness box. While both departments protest that the controls are in place to ensure the effective functioning of the system, what appears to be a common problem is a lack of skilled (and motivated) middle management. Old order civil servants are disillusioned while recently promoted officials have little or no experience and receive no support.

The prisons are in dire need of reform. Besides staff shortages, there are prisoner and warden unrest and increasing corruption.

Far from being hotels (as in the public perception), South African prison conditions are near Victorian. Most prisons are dark and dark and in some prisons areas are virtually controlled not by warders but by the prisoners.

To be fair, the problem is not all of Correctional Services' making — about one quarter of the country's 130 000 inmates are still awaiting trial. In effect, Correctional Services must date for those whose passage through the criminal justice system is blocked at the point where crime is investigated and processed through the courts.

The starkest indication that the system is falling lies in the fact that more than half of those who have been imprisoned will again com-

mit crime on their release. Rehabilitation in SA's prisons is clearly failing. Also, public opinion is geared more to the end of crime than rehabilitation and convicts are widely viewed as deserving of the conditions under which they live.

The most serious result of poor management and control across the system has been the growth in corruption. The current prosecution rate of officials can only represent the tip of the iceberg.

The government has responded to the criminal justice crisis by formulating a comprehensive strategy to fight crime. The National Crime Prevention Strategy has as its central task the bringing together of departments involved in crime control and prevention and the co-

ordination of their activities. But the greatest strength of the crime prevention strategy — its inclusive and comprehensive nature — also holds the potential to be its greatest weakness. The wide-ranging nature of the strategy suggests that co-ordination and leadership will be critical success factors — but control is by committee allowing the easy sidestepping of authority. The strategy, which has a few concrete aims, still has to be sold to the lower levels in the departments concerned.

While it provides a vision for a society to confront the problem of criminality, what has to be demonstrated now is an ability to manage the process of reform of the criminal justice system.

ET 30/8/96

Police corruption at heart of crime-fighting problems — Mandela

Myndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Police corruption was so rife that one of SA's provincial commissioners had a criminal record, President Nelson Mandela told Western Cape religious leaders yesterday.

Mandela said that the process of 'cleaning' up the police force was a lengthy and elaborate one.

After being told by religious leaders that it was time to stop producing 'pink, green and white papers' and to stop blaming apartheid for the coun-

try's crime situation, Mandela said that he understood their desire for action against crime.

He said that an example of the difficulties being experienced was that in one province two candidates for the post of provincial commissioner were rejected because they had criminal records. When the third was found to also have a criminal record a compromise was made and he was appointed. He did not specify the province.

Earlier Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi told the religious

leaders that action was being taken on police corruption.

He said that in many cases officers appointed to anti-corruption teams were possibly corrupt already.

He said that if an anti-corruption team of four officers was appointed, it was possible that three would be corrupt already.

Mufamadi said evidence showed police corruption 'stands at the heart' of failures to bring down levels of gang-related crimes in the Cape Peninsula. He announced that Fivaz has been

directed to set up a special structure to supervise gang crimes investigations in the Western Cape.

Mandela said he was aware that the people wanted action, but stressed that it could not be achieved overnight. The process required patience and understanding, he said, but added that there was hope because of the success special police 'focus' units had experienced in halting political violence in parts of KwaZulu-Natal. Similar strategies would now be used in the Western Cape, he said.

Crime

Continued from Page 1
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had expressed concern at Islamic fundamentalism in SA.

Ingrid Salgado reports that Operation Anvil — a four day, high-intensity security forces operation targeting trouble spots in the former Witwatersrand area during the last three days will have resulted in about 100 arrests by early this morning.

Meanwhile, Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte questioned

yesterday whether a spate of attacks on high-profile people in the province during the last three weeks was linked to a campaign to discourage investment in SA.

After meeting Gauteng police area commissioners yesterday, Duarte said they would probe whether the attacks were linked to calls by movements like People Against Gangsterism and Drugs for disinvestment.

Operation Anvil's tactics included 12 air force helicopters ferrying mobile units to Gauteng's crime spots around the clock while several roadblocks and search operations were set up.

He complimented the religious leaders and said their moral authority was needed in the fight against crime. Mandela noted that the peaceful local government elections in KwaZulu-Natal were based on an initiative of religious leaders in that province.

Mandela also scotched any possibility of an Islamic fundamentalist movement taking control somewhere in SA. He said at last weekend's SADC meeting in Maseru some of the leaders

Continued on Page 2

State urged to focus on victims of crime

Stephané Bothma

THE sum of about R80m collected in court fines and forfeited bail money annually could form the basis of a fund for victims of violent crimes, Defence Policy Institute researcher Lala Camerer said yesterday.

She told a conference on victim empowerment and support at Kempton Park's World Trade Centre that financial compensation was regarded by victims of violent crimes as an important symbol of society's recognition that they had suffered a loss.

Discussing a Bill passed in principle by Justice Minister Dullah Omar for creation of a central fund for victims, Camerer said similar schemes were operating worldwide to ameliorate social damage caused by violent crime. There was no reason why such a scheme could not also work in SA.

Internationally, government compensation rested on the premise that since the State was obliged to maintain law and order, and that crime results

from a failure to fulfil that duty, compensation must be paid accordingly. Usually, she said, only victims of violent crimes received compensation from the State.

Camerer and other speakers said that until recently, little attention was paid to the plight of victims of SA crime. Attention focused on offenders and their rights within the criminal justice process.

"Deterrence rather than restitution is the pivot of SA's justice system, and of all those involved, the victim tends to be the most marginalised."

The victim was often merely a witness to court proceedings and was considered to be an item of evidence or a non-person.

Camerer believed the victim was made to feel that justice was on the side of the offender and therefore many might resort to retributive action.

However, focusing on the victims may impact on wider perceptions of courts as places where justice is done. While focusing on victims might ini-

tially seem reactive, Camerer believed that mobilising around the victims of crime may yet prove to be one of the most effective ways to curb increasing crime rates in the country.

She said victims had certain emotional and practical needs such as counselling, referral, information, on investigations and court procedures as well as compensation.

"Between the initial contact with police and an encounter with confusing court procedures, few provisions or services are available to accommodate the crime victim's need or to reduce the impact of a traumatic experience which leads to secondary victimisation."

In the interest of preventing crime, the needs of a victim as well as drastic reforms to the victim's position in the criminal justice system, must be addressed as a priority by criminal justice authorities, Camerer said.

The legitimacy of the justice system and the public's understanding thereof must be enhanced to reduce incidences of intense dissatisfaction that lead to

vengeful and retributive cycles of crime and violence, she said.

Saps reports Netherlands justice ministry strategic planning director Prof Jan van Dijk yesterday urged government to set up a state compensation fund for victims of all forms of crime.

Delivering the keynote speech at a two-day national victim empowerment and support workshop, van Dijk warned, though, such a fund should not be government's excuse for not doing anything else to help crime victims.

Urging voluntary public participation to help victims, he stressed that "the ideology of a caring society has proven to be effective worldwide."

He also called for reworking of the justice system, to enable it to be seen to be doing much for victims. If society developed a no-confidence attitude in the judiciary, it would become even harder for people to report all forms of crime.

Objectives of the workshop include defining the scope of police involvement in victim support as the "gatekeepers" to the criminal justice system.

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Mandela urges communities to help fight crime

Star 30/8/96
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Cape Town - President Nelson Mandela yesterday urged communities to help in the fight against rampant crime.

"The community must be mobilised to identify criminals and have them brought before the law," Mandela said in a meeting with about 75 Cape Town religious leaders.

"If we do that in every province, in addition to what the Government is doing, we will be able to bring down the level of crime," he said.

Mandela told Christian, Muslims, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist

leaders that the criminal justice system was the only proper channel to fight crime, but said there was a place for the Muslim movement, People Against Gangs and Drugs.

Pagad supporters last month publicly shot and burnt to death gang leader and alleged drug baron Rashaad Staggie.

Heavily armed Pagad crowds have repeatedly confronted police during marches to the homes of alleged drug dealers, threatening to kill those who don't give up their trade.

Mandela said southern African

leaders had asked him at a recent summit in Lesotho about reports that Pagad was part of an Islamic campaign to take control of South Africa.

"We are interacting with the movement because some of our members are also part of this movement. It's a genuine movement ... there is nothing to be alarmed about," Mandela said.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar said at the same meeting that he and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi would meet Pagad leaders next week. - Reuters.

Security summit as the nation asks: Can this Government control crime?

By CLIVE SAWYER

The Government faces a critical credibility test over its multipronged campaign against crime in the coming weeks.

The ANC is holding a major summit on safety and security this weekend, with several top cabinet ministers with security portfolios in attendance.

The summit, being held in Cape Town, is intended to produce strategies which will be put to the ANC's national executive committee for endorsement and which will then

probably be turned into legislation.

Among issues which will be covered are community policing, a new role for private security companies - including a possible form of alliance with state policing structures - and bolstering the work of the courts and prosecution policy. The past two weeks have seen a flurry of public statements by the security-related ministries and police outlining the array of measures planned against the crime epidemic.

Since cabinet approval last week of the special short-term measures against

crime, a concerted effort has been made to publicise them.

It is widely acknowledged that at stake is more than a flash-in-the-pan series of high-profile arrests of drug-lords and gangsters. The Government has started being more frank in its acknowledgement of the depth of the problem.

This is in sharp contrast to the post-election row when Deputy President Thabo Mbeki tried to downplay the extent of the problem. Within the Government, there is concern that failure to be seen to act decisively against

crime will worsen the lack of faith of ordinary people in the security forces, and will drive more people into the ranks of armed vigilante groups.

The security forces have a credibility problem because of repeated allegations from communities of police collusion with gangsters. This is not helped by the Government's acknowledgement that corruption among the police has hampered its anti-crime efforts.

President Nelson Mandela said this week he had been deeply shocked recently when handed an extensive list

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of policemen arrested for alleged corruption. Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Safety and Security, said police corruption was at the heart of the lack of progress in fighting gangsterism in the Cape Peninsula.

However, the crisis the Government faces is as much one of communication as it is one of crime-busting.

This week, at a meeting between Mandela, Justice Minister Dullah Omar, Mufamadi, and religious leaders from the Western Cape, there was scepticism from the clerics about the Government's penchant for releasing

"pink, white and green papers".

While the ministers responded that planning and action had to go hand-in-hand, it was clear there was scepticism about talk as a substitute for arrests.

Mandela underlined the key issue of communication by saying that many of the issues raised at the meeting had been addressed in the documentation, including this year's Police Plan produced by the Government.

There was a lack of communication about these plans between the Government and communities, he said.

crime?

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

THE government faces a critical test of credibility in the coming weeks in ensuring that its multi-pronged campaign against crime pays off.

This weekend, the African National Congress is holding a major summit on safety and security, with several cabinet ministers with security portfolios in attendance.

The summit, being held in Cape Town, is intended to produce strategies which will be put to the ANC's national executive committee for endorsement and will probably be turned into legislation.

Among issues which will be covered are community policing, a new role for private security companies - including a possible form of allegiance with state policing structures - and bolstering the work of the courts and prosecutorial policy.

The past two weeks have seen

Spiralling crime leads government to summit

Security ministers are holding a summit at the weekend to work out strategies to combat spiralling crime, which has its tentacles rooted in society.

A flurry of public statements by the security-related ministries and the police outlining the array of measures planned against the epidemic of crime. Since cabinet approval last week of the special short-term measures against crime, a concerted effort has been made to publicise them.

It is widely acknowledged that at stake is more than a flash-in-the-pan series of high-profile arrests of drug lords and gangsters. The government itself has started to be more frank in its public acknowledgements of the depth of the problem of crime.

This is in sharp contrast to the post-election row which ensued when Deputy President Thabo Mbeki tried to downplay the extent of the problem. Within the government, there is concern that failure to be seen to act decisively against crime will worsen the lack of faith of ordinary people in the capacity of security forces, and will drive more people into the ranks of armed vigilante groups.

Specifically the security forces have a credibility problem, because of repeated allegations from communities of police collusion with gangsters. This image problem is not aided by the government's own acknowledgement that corruption among the police has hampered its anti-crime efforts.

President Nelson Mandela said this week he had been deeply shocked when recently handed a list of the extensive number of police who had been arrested for alleged corruption. Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Safety and Security, said that police corruption was at the heart of lack of progress in fighting gangsterism in the Peninsula.

However, the crisis the government faces is as much one of communication as it is one of crime-busting. This week, at a meeting between President Mandela, Justice Minister Dullah Omar, Mr Mufamadi, and religious leaders from the Western Cape, there was scepticism from the clerics about the government's penchant for releasing "pink, white and green papers".

While the ministers responded that planning and action had to go hand-in-hand, it was clear there was scepticism about talk as a substitute for arrests. Mr Mandela underlined the key issue of communication by saying that many of the issues raised in discussion at the meeting were addressed in the documentation, including this year's Police Plan, produced by the government.

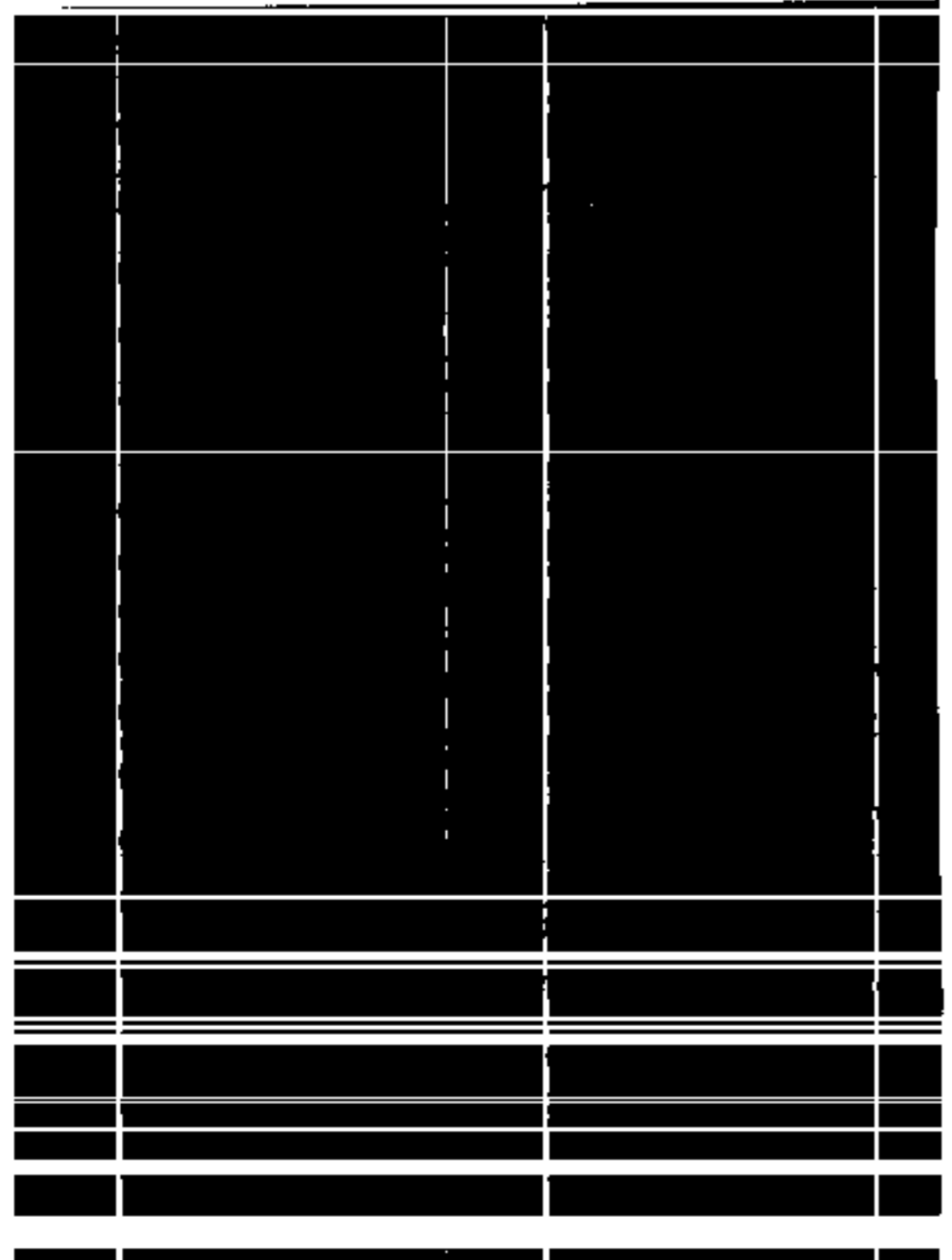
There was a lack of communication about these plans between the government and communities, he said.

With this week's crime victims having included high-profile people like Filkim "Pro" Khumalo, father of soccer star Doc, the focus will be even sharper on the need for successes rather than further reams of paper.

Mr Mufamadi, addressing the religious leaders this week, said that in some cases the rate of crime had levelled or fallen, but that the problem was that the net effect was of a significant increase in crime from an already high base.

Mr Mandela urged the clerics - and no doubt, a wider audience, not to be unrealistic about expecting quick solutions.

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Bold, united front needed in drugs war

Star 31/8/96



As the drugs scourge tightens its grip on South Africa, an appeal has been made for a national strategy which goes beyond arrest and prosecution and focuses on prevention and treatment. **ADELE BALETA** reports

A lack of political will has effectively hampered efforts to fight substance abuse on three major fronts in South Africa and although the infiltration of drugs is rising rapidly, the country lags behind the rest of the world as it has no co-ordinated national drug-control strategy.

These concerns were raised by the executive meeting of the Western Cape Alcohol and Drug Abuse Forum, a network of 40 organisations, which believes that it is pointless to concentrate on arrests and prosecutions while ignoring prevention and treatment.

Convener of the forum and senior specialist scientist at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Dr Charles Parry said the crisis that had involved Pagdad, the drug lords and the state centred on failures of arrest and prosecution of offenders, while little was being done in the vital areas of prevention and treatment.

The forum's mission was to unify all role-players to take joint action to prevent substance abuse and treat victims in line with RDP objectives and to lobby for funds. Parry said that although the continuing drug war in the Western Cape and the proliferation of Pagdad-type organisations throughout South Africa had tragic consequences, it had highlighted the need for bold, new approaches.

"The time is ripe. We must act now," said Parry. Illegal drug sales nationally were estimated conservatively at between R3-billion and R4-billion a year. These figures were expected to increase because of the political changes resulting in increased air travel, more porous borders and ineffective internal controls.

World agencies, including the United National Drug Control Programme, believed that a three-pronged attack on drugs was



LOADED: With gun in hand, a gangster smokes dagga from a broken bottleneck in Cape Town. The city became the focus of attention in the fight against drug abuse after vigilantes took violent action against peddlers. However, a more considered approach to the problem, involving all role players and the community, has been suggested

PHOTOGRAPH: AP

essential.

It was pointless to address the issues of supply without adequately investigating people's need for drugs.

Dr Parry said, however, that although resources were available, there was no real commitment from politicians on all sides of the spectrum to work together on the problem. Treatment and prevention was left largely to the Department of Welfare, which had recently

Treatment of those treating addicts must be improved and education aimed at developed

been restructured and appeared to lack the mechanism to implement a clear plan of action.

"The department's plan for addressing substance abuse is not specific and does not have goals with time frames. The budget for dealing with substance abuse has been reduced."

The Department of Health's approach to folio committee on health not even mentioning drug abuse on the list of departmental priorities.

Trafficking, which is believed to run into billions of rands, is being exacerbated by political changes

The forum has called for a parliamentary sub-committee on substance abuse to be set up urgently to bring together various political parties.

Dr Parry said the forum also wanted the President to support calls by the Drug Advisory Board for establishing a central anti-drug body which would co-ordinate the activities of all government departments in combating drug abuse.

This body should include Justice, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Finance, Education and Health and Welfare. The body could be modelled on the Drug Enforcement Agency in the United States and would be responsible for implementing a national drug-control strategy, which would address arrests and prosecution, prevention and

In terms of prevention, drug programmes needed to be implemented at schools in the work place and in prisons. Effective media, radio and television campaigns were needed and after-school programmes for youth had to be established. Dr Parry said implementing strategy to improve community collaboration with police was crucial. Provincial drug forums also had a key role to play in implementing a national drug control strategy.

"The importance of having accurate information on drug trends in South Africa should be recognised and support given to activities in this area," said Dr Parry.

The forum was participating in a project co-ordinated by the MRC to set up a substance-abuse surveillance system in a number of centres. This project was partially funded by the United National Development Programme and had been receiving technical support from the World Health Organisation in Geneva and the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Washington.

"We need a 'small wins' strategy whereby priority should be given to addressing three or four specific activities under each of the three fronts with specific target dates and evaluation mechanisms," Dr Parry said.

On the arrest and prosecution front, the forum suggested the morale, staffing and equipment needs of the SA Narcotics Bureau and magistrates should be trained to deal with drug cases; legislation providing for mandatory expropriation of private vehicles used in transporting drugs was needed, and the capacity of the Receiver of Revenue to pursue drug lords for tax evasion and other economic offences had to be increased.

The forum also suggested that urgent attention should be given to the crisis relating to the funding of treatment facilities; a strategy for increasing access to short-term treatment for drug problems needed to be devised and implemented; effective treatment for drug addicts in prisons had to be provided, and improved training should be given to doctors, nurses, social workers and others involved in the treatment of drug victims.

You are letting SA go to the dogs!

(34)

CP 1/9/96

By **ROCKY MOKOENA**

THE BLAME for the scourge of crime sweeping South Africa is placed firmly on the government by many citizens, City Press found during random interviews this week.

With the death of Eliakim "Pro" Khumalo - the father of soccer star Doctor Khumalo who was shot dead when four youths hijacked his car - many peace-loving South Africans have reacted with anger and revulsion at what they term the police's ineptitude in dealing with crime.

□ Tony Sithole (45) of Orlando East in Soweto, for instance, has no hesitation in putting the blame on the government.

He criticises the way Correctional Services are handling the prison situation. The organising of music festivals in prisons, for example, shows that the government has a soft spot for criminals, he says.

"If a person takes someone's life or property, he should forfeit all his rights. Criminals should get a harsh sentence with hard labour in prison - to make them fearful of breaking the law again."

People should not take the law into their hands - as this would make the country ungovernable, he says. The defence force should be called in to help fight crime as the police are proving to be unable to curb this menace.

Unemployment is the cause of the high crime rate - and the past government should be blamed for its past laws that disadvantaged blacks, he says.

□ Mark Souris (39), a businessman in the Johannesburg city centre, says the police need to be retrained to focus on crime prevention.

The uncontrolled issuing of firearm licences contributes to the high crime rate in the country, he says.

The defence force should also be retrained to fight crime as South Africa faces no threat from neighbouring countries.

"The government should not treat crime politically - as criminals have a different agenda about the country," says Souris.

The police are ineffective, he says - and he blames the top echelons.

Two of his cars were hijacked in one week and his shop was also robbed of money and stock.

Souris singles out the inhuman laws of the past government and unemployment as the main causes of crime in South Africa.

□ Mable Khubeka (34) of Ennerdale says the community should help fight crime and expose those involved in criminal activities.

The death penalty will not help to curb crime, she says.

"More police are needed to fight crime and they should be accountable to the community."

Suspects involved in crimes like murder, rape and armed robbery should not be granted bail and should get harsh sentences, says Khubeka.

She also blames unemployment as the cause of escalating crime.

The provincial governments should have more powers to control the police, she says.

□ Marriam Crockett (36) of Ennerdale says the community should take the law in their hands as the government is failing to



'POLICE ON A GO-SLOW?' ... Elliot Matume (74).



'NOT ENOUGH POLICE' ... Moses Nonyane (42).



'DISCIPLINE ROTTEN COPS' ... Sibusiso Buthelezi (19).



'ARM THE COMMUNITY' ... Wendy Nkabinde (24).



'COMMUNITY MUST HELP' ... Mable Khubeka (34).



'CALL IN THE ARMY' ... Mark Souris (39).



'POLICE SERVICE IS POOR' ... Marriam Crockett (36).



'COPS INVOLVED IN CRIME' ... Sello Mangokoana (27).



'JAIL'S TOO PLEASANT' ... Tony Sithole (45).

curb crime.

The police service is poor, says Crockett. Police are involved in criminal activities, she charges.

Unemployment is not the cause of crime as the crime syndicates are usually run by rich people, says Crockett.

"If we blame unemployment, it means we condone their stealing as a means to support their families. Those people ... even if you give them a job, they won't take it - because they are making a lot of money in crime."

□ Sibusiso Buthelezi (19) of Orange Farm says the community should help fight crime.

He was robbed of his bank card at the bank with many people around - but no one tried to help him, says Buthelezi.

Most community members are protecting the criminals, he says.

The government should revive its strategy to fight crime and involve strict measures taken in court, he feels.

"The crime rate can go down if the community gets involved and the policing forums are given more power to discipline the 'rot-

ten' police officers."

Government should provide education aid, especially at tertiary level, to help the youth further their education as a means of moving them out of the streets.

And more police should be recruited and trained to fight crime, says Buthelezi.

He rejects unemployment as a cause of crime.

□ Wendy Nkabinde (24) of Soweto also blames the government for not taking strict measures to deal with criminals.

The organising of music festivals at prisons proves that the government does not take crime seriously, she charges.

More community members should be armed to protect themselves, Nkabinde feels.

"We should be provided with licensed firearms to protect ourselves."

The SA Police Service is too corrupt to fight crime, she says.

□ Morris Hlayane (58) of Sandton says illegal immigrants are to blame for the rampant crime in the country.

More crimes are being commit-

ted by foreigners and the police fail to trace the culprits because they have no fingerprint records of these people.

"Those people kill because they do not care who the victim is. I do not think a South African should have killed 'Pro' Khumalo," says Hlayane.

Borders should be strictly controlled and the government should allow only a certain number of foreigners in the country, he says.

Hlayane also says the police are ineffective in fighting crime.

□ The police are to blame, says Elliot Matume (74) of Diepkloof, Soweto.

He contends that the police have embarked on a go-slow to make the country ungovernable.

The defence force should be sent in to help fight crime and the selling and licensing of firearms should be strictly controlled, says Matume.

"The government is failing to take serious action against police who are not committed to fighting crime. They must expel those involved in criminal activities - and train others committed to working

for the country," says Matume. Unemployment has caused the increase in crime - but should not be used as an excuse, he says.

The government should bring back the death penalty, says Matume.

□ Moses Nonyane (42), commander of pro-active policing in Johannesburg, says the police are understaffed.

More police should be recruited to balance the ratio of the community to the police.

"The ratio is very low. Presently one police member is forced to handle 20 cases and this leads to frustration."

The government should put a moratorium on granting bail for serious crimes like rape, murder and armed robbery, says Nonyane.

Police involved in crime should get harsh sentences - to warn others not to even think of committing crime.

The imbalance of socio-economic factors is the cause of South Africa's high crime rate, says Nonyane.

□ Sello Mangokoana (27) of Daveyton says the police are to blame for the escalation of crime.

More police members are involved in crime syndicates and it is difficult for the police to investigate themselves, he says.

Prisoners should be rehabilitated and be involved in education programmes, says Mangokoana.

"There is more white collar crime - and police are overlooking it. The government should fight those orchestrating crime."

Harsh sentences are needed to keep criminals out of the community, says Mangokoana.

□ Peter Phele and Rooi Mdluli, two taxi owners of Johannesburg, also blame the police for failing to control crime.

The government should put pressure on the police to control crime, they say.

The issuing of firearms and the selling of ammunition should be strictly controlled, say the two.

"Many people are buying guns and selling them to criminals. Shops selling ammunition should be restricted by the government."

Mdluli says the death sentence - even public hangings - should be considered as the crime rate has reached alarming proportions.

Phele says the government should carry the responsibility for crime in the country.

□ While conducting our street survey in downtown Johannesburg, two crimes were committed as we watched - but only one suspect was arrested.

The other suspect fled with goods - and no one tried to catch him.

About twenty metres away, another suspect was arrested after trying to rob a hawkker.

The man was chased by the hawkker and a security guard before he was arrested.

When asked why he had stolen, he said: "Sorry, I am drunk."

There was no visible policing - even though the street is known for its high crime rate.

Why did Craig, 16, have to die?

THE SAVAGE MURDER of Craig Benjamin on the Cape Flats would normally have been recorded as a weekend crime statistic. **LISA TEMPLETON** charts the effect on his family and a shocked Mitchells Plain community whose lives have been shattered by random violence.

HE was 16 years old and in love, now he is dead. Craig Benjamin was murdered at the weekend in an apparent gang slaying. He was stripped, stabbed and a solid concrete block the size of a television was dropped on his head. Another statistic.

But to his mother he was more than just a weekend statistic in this violent city, more than just another victim of the senseless killing that the people of Cape Town are begging should be stopped.

He was a good boy, he loved to play soccer or kentin with the little ones and he was always hugging them.

Reblessed me all the time and always had a smile on his face. Mrs Gloria Benjamin said before breaking into tears.

Craig died after he left his family home on Sunday at midnight, something his mother said he often did. By 2am he had been brutally slain by gang members.

It was not the first time gangsters had attacked him. In November last year he was admitted to hospital after being stabbed in the lung and flung through a friend's window by gangsters. His family say they did not know why this happened.

His best friend Craig Cedras, 18, who formed an inseparable trio with Craig and his brother John, 18, said Craig was friendly and popular, especially with the little children



CLOSE FAMILY: Mitchell's Plain teenager Craig Benjamin (top left) had a protective upbringing, but it could not save him from being murdered on Sunday night as he walked to visit his aunt and grandmother.

whom he "spoilt" with packets of chips and other treats.

He said Craig fell in love three weeks ago with a very pretty girl who had totally bowled him over. His other great love was music, "anything from golden oldies to cool disco music."

Today he is dead. His killers robbed him of his clothes, chased after him as he ran away in panic, stabbed him in the back, smashed his skull and left him lying face down in his own blood.

Craig's aunt, Mrs Elizabeth Beutenbach, who lived with his grandmother, was woken at 2am by a passerby who had found the body.

"He was lying with the concrete block next to him. It had blood on it and he had a lot of holes in his head, not like he had been stabbed but like he had been hit with the block," she said.

His mother, called to the scene, was distraught and had to be pulled off his body as she hugged and kissed it, so angry workers could not bury it.

Yesterday the family discovered Craig's brains lying in the field where he died and buried these in his grandmother's garden.

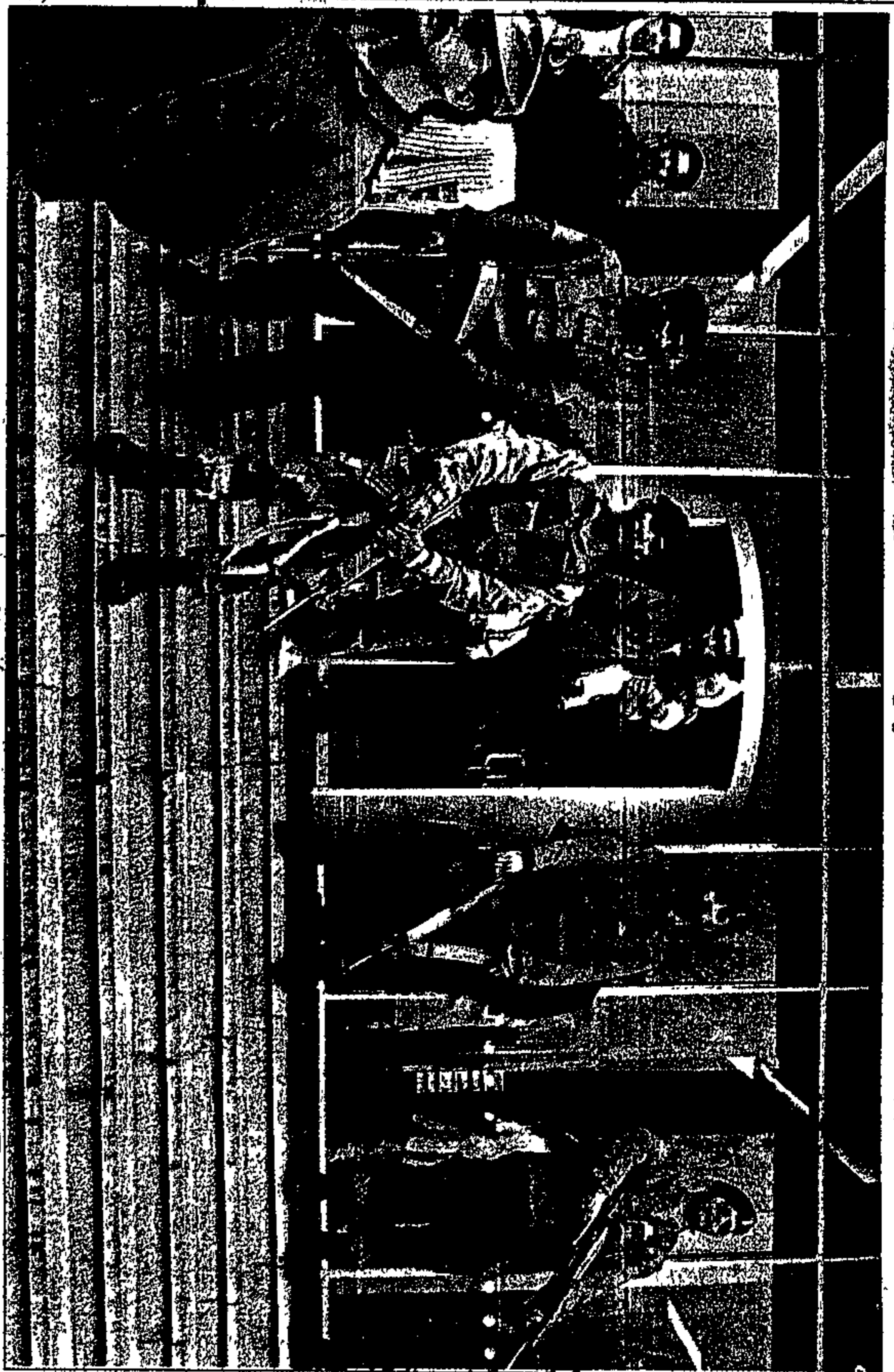
His T-shirt and sweatshirt were discovered nearby but his tattered, bomber jacket and jeans were stolen — the only apparent reason for his murder.

"I am certain his attackers intended to kill him, which is why his murder was so brutal, and he may have wriggled out of his clothes simply to get away," Beutenbach said.

"This has really shocked the community... It is very hard for a mother to lose a son when she has given him everything," neighbour Mrs Rugey Albertus said.

Neighbours criticised the police for a slow response to the call about the murder, saying it took them two hours to reach the scene. Captain Wicus Holtzhausen said, however, records showed police arrived 16 minutes after the call.

Yesterday the Benjamin's tiny lounge was thick with cigarette smoke as friends and family gathered to comfort Mrs Benjamin and her young daughter. Craig's brother John left the house, grim faced and battling to control his emotions. Police are investigating the murder but no arrests have yet been made.



TENSION MOUNTS: Heavily armed soldiers, carmenado members and police keep a close check on about 500 supporters of alleged drug kingpin Mr Colin Stanfield, whom they hailed as a "god" to their community. See Page 3

Radical law to control guns in public

HENRY LUDSKI
POLITICAL WRITER
CT 3/19/96

RADICAL measures to control the use of firearms were announced last night, but it was not clear how these were to be enforced.

The measures, promulgated in the Government Gazette by Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi and due to become law within two weeks, include:

- A central firearm register to check whether licences should be withdrawn.
- Written permission from the Commissioner of Police should a citizen wish to carry a firearm at any public gathering.
- Minimum sentences for any contravention of the Dangerous Weapons Act. The measures are an effort by the gov-

ernment to contain the public misuse of firearms, responsible for thousands of deaths nationwide.

Mufamadi said people who dared contravene the new regulations, which come into effect on September 16, would face the full force of the law.

He also said that national police Commissioner George Fivaz would have to ensure every effort was made to ensure that people complied with the new regulations.

Fivaz's spokesman, Mr Joseph Ngobeni, said the police would make every effort to ensure that the regulations were not breached.

Mufamadi said yesterday that he had instructed the Western Cape police Commissioner Leon Wessels to investigate immediately the licences held by some known gang leaders. The intention was to establish whether their firearms had been issued legitimately and that previous con-

victions did not disqualify them from owning a licensed firearm.

He had also directed the National Commissioner to set up a special unit to determine whether the licences of certain individuals should not be reconsidered, Mufamadi said. The unit would include "civilians of integrity".

"We need to satisfy ourselves that licence-holders are fit and proper persons to own a firearm," Mufamadi said.

The new measures come in the wake of an ANC summit on crime which proposed a series of measures, among them:

- The introduction of a policy of "one person, one licence, one gun"
- The closing of loopholes in laws affecting gun distributors.

THE INSURANCE HOT-LINE



Bid against crime.

Written permission from the Commissioner of Police should a citizen wish to carry a firearm at any public gathering.

Minimum sentences for any contravention of the Dangerous Weapons Act. The measures are an effort by the gov-

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'REMOVE VELVET GLOVE'

Heavier sentences for gang offences urged

(34) CT 3/19/96

TIGHTER GUN control and a category for serious offences that would preclude bail were among anti-crime measures proposed at an ANC summit. **HENRY LUDSKI** writes.

GANG membership should be made a criminal offence and heavier sentences should be meted out for gang-related crimes.

These are among the measures proposed at a weekend ANC summit on crime which went as far as calling on the party to review its policy on the death penalty.

The ANC summit also argued for the introduction of a policy of "one person, one licence, one gun" as part of a series of measures aimed at tightening lax gun laws which would contribute to the demilitarisation of South African society.

The special summit of national and provincial leaders also adopted resolutions calling for tighter gun controls, a national investigation into rampant corruption in prisons and for the National Party to reveal the location of crime networks that existed under its rule.

"The time has come to act harshly against criminals and for the velvet glove to be removed," the ANC said in a statement.

As the majority party, the ANC had a particular responsibility to ensure the effective implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), it said.

Other resolutions forwarded to the party's national executive committee called for laws banning for-

Steps proposed by the ANC

- An annual tax on gun licences.
- A policy of one person, one licence, one gun.
- Call on the National Party to disclose the existence of crime networks to the TRC.
- No bail for a special category of serious offences.
- A review of ANC death penalty policy.
- Increased budget and special fund to fight crime.
- Membership of gangs a crime and severe sentences for gang-related offences.
- Urgent inquiry into corruption in prisons.
- Speeding up of legislation for an anti-corruption commission.
- An inquisitorial system placing the onus on accused to answer questions from victims.

mer members of the police, defence force and intelligence services from joining private security or private investigator companies for a period of five years and for the development of formal relationships between the police and private security companies.

The summit also called on the party to consider the creation of a special fund to combat crime, the urgent need to apply bail laws properly and the need to identify a special category of serious offences for which bail would be automatically refused.

This category could include persons charged with a second offence, crimes in which firearms were used, sexual offences against children, car-hijacking and robbery.

Deputy Minister of Defence Mr Ronnie Kasrils, delivering a paper on the challenges facing the security establishment, described the "rising tide of lawlessness" as "arguably the biggest challenge to the authority of the state since the democratic elections".

During the 1994 elections, the uppermost fear in everyone's mind was that of political violence and rebellion, he said.

"Very swiftly this has been superseded by the fear of lawlessness, not only on our streets, but also, more ominously, in the forces and syndicates directing this and the corruption associated with it."

The resolutions and the comments made at the summit are a clear reflection of the seriousness with which the problem of spiralling crime is viewed and is the context in which the call for the review of the death penalty was made.

● See Pages 6 and 16

ANC 'gloves off' against crime

Business Day Reporter

THE ANC's weekend security summit has recommended a range of tough new crime-fighting measures, including the creation of a special state crime-fighting fund, a category of non-bailable offences and the imposition of minimum sentences for certain serious crimes.

The summit's justice commission also found that the Bill of Rights had contributed to the "strong public perception" that the current system favoured perpetrators, rather than victims of crime. It suggested that the balance of rights in the Constitution might have to be revisited.

The resolutions of the summit, which was attended by all the ANC's security ministers, are to be forwarded to the ANC's national executive committee. The resolutions include the controversial suggestion that the party's stance on the death penalty should be reviewed.

(34) BD 3/19/96
In a statement, the ANC said delegates at the summit had emphasised that the "velvet glove must be removed" in the fight against criminals. This had to be done while respecting SA's human rights culture.

The summit proposed that the budgets of the criminal justice departments should be increased, and that a special state crime-fighting fund be created. Resources from this would be disbursed on presentation of business plans and the fund could be used to leverage contributions from non-government sources, such as business organisations, for specific projects.

The summit proposed that a special category of non-bailable offences — for example second serious offences, offences involving firearms, sex offences against children, hijackings and armed robberies — should be created. Urgent consideration should also be given to strict minimum sentences for certain crimes, which would have to be reviewed regularly. "Although this had the

effect of interfering with judicial discretion, the seriousness of the present situation justifies it as a deterrent."

Also proposed is the creation of specialised units to deal with gang and drug-related crime, which should include police and prosecutors and which could enjoy powers to subpoena witnesses and "even force them to answer self-incriminating evidence". It is suggested that membership of gangs should be criminalised, for example by legislating heavier sentences for crimes committed by gang members.

Other proposals are:

- Greater use of inquisitorial systems;
- Legislation to extend the witness protection system, and making interference with witnesses a more serious offence;
- Greater use of specialised courts; and
- An increase in prosecutors' salaries.

The summit urges the swift enactment of crime-fighting Bills, if necessary by extending the current parliamentary session.

International mafias have free run in SA

(34)

But new legislation, the FBI and the DEA are set to join the country's fight against money-laundering

Star 3/9/96

By **DEREK RODNEY**
Crime Reporter

Tens of millions of rands are being drained from the economy through money-laundering syndicates intent on legitimising gains from illegal trade in drugs, arms and endangered species.

South Africa is facing a new threat in the form of the Russian mafia which in seven years has managed to work its way into the top five money-laundering groupings here.

With no legislation yet in place to clamp down on laundering, with the exception of drug related seizures, organised criminals from around the globe are using the country's sophisticated banking system to convert their illegal proceeds into legitimate funds.

National Organised Crime Head Assistant Commissioner Neels Venter said special intelligence and investigation teams had been set up to monitor the activities of Russian mafia, Chinese triad, Japanese Yakuza and South

African "Boere mafia" organisations which are operating virtually unchecked around the country.

Special teams are also investigating Nigerian money-laundering organisations although the thrust of police scrutiny at this stage is aimed at Nigerian drug lords who are in the process of changing their mode of business from courier-based organisations to developing their own inter-continental drug cartels.

"Even though our hands are tied in relation to non-drug related money-laundering, we have been monitoring the activities of a few organisations in preparation of hard hitting legislation which should be in place by next year," Venter said.

Structures which will make provision for closer scrutiny of "suspicious transactions" are in the process of being thrashed out by the South African Law Commission with input from a number of role players.

It is hoped the new legislation will ultimately lead to stricter reporting procedures and closer co-

operation between investigation teams from the police, Reserve Bank and financial institutions.

Intelligence and anti-crime agencies from abroad are already co-operating with local crime fighters by exchanging information and the US has committed itself to the establishment of a Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) office in South Africa in the near future.

"We are working very closely with the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in the exchange of information and intelligence on a number of organisations," Venter said.

"We don't want to be caught with our pants down when the legislation finally comes into being and although investigations could take several years to conduct we cannot afford to wait for the law to come into practice before tackling the problem," he said.

Organised crime detectives have managed to close down one car theft syndicate in Gauteng which had strong Russian ties.

Public 'war' declared on white collar crime

GIYANI — The launching of public hearings by the Northern Province legislature's standing committee for public accounts signalled a declaration of war on white collar crime in the province, finance MEC Edgar Mushwana said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening session of the committee's public hearings on expenditure in the former homelands, he said that the SAPS's commercial crime unit was working with his department.

He said that any delays in dealing with this crime would create dangers such as unauthorised action by the

(34) BD 6/9/96
public, and he hinted at the possibility of calling former politicians before the committee for past expenditure.

Northern province public accounts director-general John Malatji said the provincial government had experienced great difficulty with bank reconciliations. He said mismanagement of the former Gazankulu homeland accounts by the Giyani branch of a leading bank was a major reason for delays in annual appropriation accounts.

Public accounts committee chairman Manie Kriel said that bank officials might be called to testify. — Sapa.

Crime Bills to be rushed through Parliament soon

(34) 6/9/98 ARG

CAPE TOWN — Important crime legislation will be rushed through Parliament by extraordinary means by the National Assembly and the Senate justice committees in the next few weeks.

The alarming levels of crime in the country were of serious concern for all, chairmen of the committees Johnny de Lange and Mohseen Moosa said in a joint statement.

"The present circumstances in our country call for dispensing with any process that may have the effect of delaying the implementation of measures to curb crime," they said.

The two committees would deliberate jointly for the first time since the democratic parliament was established in 1994.

The joint deliberations would substantially cut the time for the passage of the legislation and ensure that it was passed through Parliament in the present session.

It would also send a clear signal to criminals that Parliament would spare no effort until society had rid itself of antisocial elements threatening progress and development.

Legislation to be dealt with was:

- The International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill;
- The Proceeds of Crime Bill;
- The Extradition Amendment Bill;
- The Institution of Special Investigating Units Special Tribunals Bill;
- The Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill; and
- The Second Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill 1996. — Sapa.

Is the hysteria over crime unfounded?

(34) Star 7/9/96



Take heart: the crime rate is dropping, according to police, who supply statistics to back this up.

They blame attacks involving prominent figures for perpetuating the perception that the situation is getting worse, writes **PETA KROST**

The mood at the northern suburbs dinner party is gloomy - the diners are discussing Gauteng's favourite topic - crime.

The discussion moves from recent attacks on high-profile people to the question of police efforts to control what is believed to be the worst crime rate in the country's history. Doubt is expressed over whether the Government is committed to improving the situation. Among the more wealthy, the conversation almost inevitably ends with talk of emigration.

Concentration on these issues spans the racial, gender and social divide, and its source is the sheer terror of becoming another crime statistic.

More than half of South Africa's 41,5 million people do not feel safe, according to a Human Sciences Research Council survey carried out in July.

Out of control

Only 44% of South Africans feel safe from crime - 23% fewer than those who felt safe this time last year.

The public perception is that crime is out of control. However, police and the Gauteng safety and security ministry say the rate of crime, especially "priority" crime such as hijacking, murder and taxi violence, is down compared with last year.

"The overall figures have come down, but recent attacks on high-profile people have raised the temperature," says Gauteng safety and security chief Jessie Duarte.

In the past few weeks, victims have included a top businessman working for a German multinational company, Erich Ellmer, who was killed in a hijacking attempt; Constitutional Court Judge Arthur Chaskalson,



DAWN PATROL: Gauteng's crime busters get ready for another day of try to save the nation from thieves and murderers

who was held up by armed robbers; and soccer star Doctor Khumalo's father, Fikakim "Pro" Khumalo, who was murdered.

A week ago Transvaal Cricket Union selectors convened David van der Knaap was hijacked and on Wednesday, Uniting Church of South Africa moderate for the Rev Ezekiel Mataboge was killed in his Soweto home.

The public perceives these attacks on high-profile people as the result of increased crime, rather than coincidence that these particular people were random victims. This view, and the sensational coverage given to these incidents, creates the

perception that crime is rocketing, according to police.

While the public is hysterical about crime, Duarte and the police service say there is no major crisis in terms of increased incidence. What concerns Duarte is that the crimes are becoming more violent and that prominent people may be targeted to discredit the Government.

However, police are adamant that there has been little change in the number of crimes reported. In the first 48 hours of this working week, there were nine hijackings - in which no one was injured - in Greater Johannesburg; two women were raped;

two robberies took place; and two robbery suspects were shot dead by their "victims", police said.

"This is an average number of incidents over two days, not more than this time last year, that's for sure," said Johannesburg police spokesman Andy Piekie.

In the central Johannesburg area there was an average of 16 murders a month last year, while this year there have been about nine murders a month, accord-

There seems to be an element that is not doing as much as it can to stop crime as it is opposed to the Government!

ing to police statistics. This year an average of 9 775 petty crimes have been committed each month, about 640 fewer a month than last year. As for vehicle theft, an average of 1 775 a month were stolen last year, while this year an average of 1 605 vehicles have been stolen each month.

Dr Lorraine Glanz of the Human Sciences Research Council's Centre for Social Welfare Policy said people reacted to

what they perceived was happening, not necessarily what was in fact happening.

Glanz has done extensive research on South Africans' perceptions and fears of crime.

"People's attitude to crime does not vacillate like the numbers of crime incidents do, so if they have a perception that crime is spiralling, it will take a great deal of convincing to change that idea," she said.

She agreed that the incidents affecting prominent people added to people's fears. "I cannot help but wonder if organised crime or the extreme right wing is behind this, because it does seem to be orchestrated."

PHOTOGRAPH ANTON HAMMERS

Glanz believes people would have been justified in saying crime was out of control two years ago, but "now there is a great deal more planning and thinking behind police work".

People's negative perceptions were fuelled by incompetent police officers who dealt with the public at station level.

"While generally the police are being more effective, this is simply not filtering down to ground level, so the public perception remains negative."

This, she said, was exacerbated by corruption within the police force. The fact that there

were crooked cops made people feel that they could not trust any police officer.

"My research shows that even if crime is down, it does not make people feel any better. But if they felt that they had police around whom they could trust to help them in times of need, they would feel safer," she said.

Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation director Graeme Simpson said it was understandable that the high-profile attacks generated hysteria. "The public feel that if these prominent people aren't protected, then we certainly aren't."

The random nature of hijacking made everyone feel like a possible victim, which was enough to cause the hysteria, no matter how low the level of this crime, he said.

He questioned the authenticity of police statistics showing that the crime rate had dropped. "I am not sure which is less reliable - public perception or statistics," Simpson said.

Accountability

The perception that troubled him most was people's belief that out-of-control crime projected a lack of will on the part of politicians to stop it.

"All the new plans that are being implemented show this perception is wrong - there is a real commitment, but there are no levels of accountability in certain branches of government like the judiciary."

Simpson said there were "elements of truth and elements of baloney" in the idea of an organised structure being behind the attacks on prominent figures.

"I am suspicious of this idea of a well-organised criminal force being behind these attacks to destabilise the country, but somewhere there seems to be an element among the authorities that is not doing as much as it can to stop crime because it is opposed to the Government."

He referred to the issue of crime as the "best political football" as every politician used it as a platform.

Although the National Crime Initiative was launched by F.W. de Klerk, Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthe as a joint endeavour, this idea had faded, making its failure the perfect way to discredit the Government, said Simpson.

THE BRAIN DRAIN

SA (Pty) Ltd suffers as assets dribble away

CT(BR)17/10/96

[Handwritten signature]

JOHN SPIRA

DEPUTY EDITOR

South Africa's biggest asset is widely regarded as its abundant mineral wealth. All assets, however, require to be turned to account. Further reflection therefore points to the nation's skills base as an even more important asset.

South Africa's untapped mineral resources exceed those that have thus far been tapped. They are there and they are not going away.

In alarming contrast, the nation's other major asset is dribbling away fast — and precious little is being done about it.

This week's release of the emigration and immigration statistics for the first six months of the year revealed that the number of emigrants, almost all white professionals, rose by 23,6 percent to 5 627 compared with the first six months of last year.

The brain drain is gathering momentum. Our most vital asset is being squandered, and no one seems to care.

Yesterday's statistics commanded no more than "filler" status in most newspapers, indicating that the trend, now long established, has been taken for granted.

The drain is not new. What is new is the increasing momentum at a time when full democracy is now in place, supported by a bill of rights, and most of the ingredients which, in theory, should be attracting skills rather than driving them away.

The reality, however, is that we are losing assets we can ill afford to lose. Urgent solutions are demanded.

For many decades, South Africa has been the only spark of light in what the world guiltily labels the dark continent, despite Africa's mineral and agricultural wealth.

What has distinguished South Africa from its northern neighbours was, and still is, its well-qualified, highly skilled pool of brainpower.



GRAPHIC JAMES DE VILLIERS

It is the reason South Africa generates almost as much electricity as the rest of Africa, has more telephones, more railway lines, more cars, more television sets and more roadworthy roads.

South Africa is the continent's economic giant because it has always had, and still has, the people able to benefitiate its assets a lot more efficiently than other African countries are able to benefitiate theirs.

But the spark is fast fading.

Partners in audit firms, university administrators, consulting engineers, hospital superintendents, directors of information technology firms and banking officials all bemoan the haemorrhaging of young graduates to alien shores.

They note with dismay that the official emigration figures exclude these tragic losses, since the drain of these brains is seldom registered. They go abroad to expand their intel-

lectual horizons and simply do not return. They take nothing other than what is inside their heads, since they have not had the time to acquire the tangibles accumulated by their older counterparts. So official emigration procedures are superfluous.

Just how many of these people, the foundation upon which South Africa's future prosperity so crucially hinges, have been forever mislaid cannot be assessed. The full impact of the tragedy will, however, have a marked effect on the economy a few years down the line, when the leading-edge skills upon which we rely so heavily for international competitiveness go into retirement.

To lay the blame for the drain solely at the feet of burgeoning crime and violence is to ignore the bigger picture. Crime and violence is certainly a factor, but young graduates are taking their leave for other equally cogent motives.

Excessive emphasis on affirmative action and the resulting perception, realistic or not, that a per capita quota system will stunt prospects is uppermost in the mind of young emigrants.

But perhaps of overriding consideration is the higher level of stimulation offered by countries that are more First World than South Africa.

The United States and Britain, for example, are fertile ground for specialisation, research, interaction and postgraduate studies.

Sure, South Africa remains a land of opportunity.

Yet the progressively growing need for those with skills to fill the gaps left by a shrinking skills base carries with it progressively less fulfilment.

Worse still, the brains staying in the country for the present extrapolate the observed trend and logically conclude that South Africa is falling further and further behind in its quest to become a winning nation. We all must be on the winning side. Graduates in their twenties are no exception.

The solution is manifest — urgent. Our young graduates must be wooed, nurtured and rewarded.

They must be actively encouraged to remain in a country free of racial favour and deterrents to economic growth.

South Africa's potential has been seen to be enhanced by creating a new set of priorities designed to forge an environment in which economic prosperity is the overriding consideration.

Chief executives intent on success in a highly competitive private sector are measured by the return which they achieve on the assets at their disposal.

At the end of the day, politicians are subject to the same criterion. If they are incapable of protecting their prime asset, their constituents will eventually vote them out of a job.

Government should act decisively on criminals and stop

Tony Blair, leader of the Labour Party in Britain, recently summed up the difference between opposition and government: "When you're in government, you wake up in the morning and ask yourself 'What can I do today?' When you're in opposition you wake up in the morning and ask yourself 'What can I say today?'"

Enver Daniels' article "Apartheid and its legacy lie at the root of the country's rampant crime" (*Saturday Star*, August 24 1996), strikes an ironic note: our present government was more comfortable as the opposition, blaming the previous regime, than it has ever been as a government which has to stand and deliver.

In failing to deal with the crime wave engulfing our cities and country, this Government has

failed dismally and is in danger of dragging the new South Africa — and our best hopes and brightest prospects — into an abyss of darkness and deep despair.

Part of the Government's paralysis lies in a further paradox, represented by Enver Daniels himself. He is a "special adviser" to the minister of justice.

Costs to taxpayer

Well, that is part of the problem: the minister of justice (and he is not alone among ministers) is surrounded by two special advisers and no fewer than 19 consultants, costing the taxpayer R278 707 a month in salaries. The problem with government by advisers and consultants — aside from the exorbitant expense of it all — is twofold: first, it gives power without accountability to a new

elite and, second, it drains resources away from on-the-ground delivery to a paper-shuffling bureaucracy that produces plans and unveils programmes which often pay scant attention to practical management and details of implementation.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy which Daniels trumpets as a cure-all, is a case in point. Instead of advisers, consultants and plans, we need more visible policemen on the ground and an effective and functioning criminal justice system. And, fundamentally, we need to restore obedience to the law.

I do, however, have a preliminary quarrel with Daniels. As a taxpayer (and as the political representative of hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who do not vote ANC), I resent public officials



The problem with government by advisers and consultants is that it gives power without accountability to a new elite which produces plans but no practical implementation, writes **TONY LEON**

who engage in partisan point-scoring. For example, Daniels states: "It has become fashionable for political parties which seldom paid any attention to crime to suddenly blame it on the Government and thus the ANC. This is opportunistic and designed to capture votes."

This statement is also simply untrue: as far back as 1988, the Progressive Federal Party (predecessor of the DP) made crime and the creation of a municipal and metropolitan police force the centrepiece of its municipal campaign. Our persistence on this issue is as genuine as it is long-lived. That is why the final constitution empowers local governments to assume and perform a policing function.

Daniels and Justice Minister Omar also infer that political opposition to crime has become vocal and persistent only because whites are now the targets of violence. To quote Daniels, "for decades the majority of the population, who are black, were subjected to a reign of terror by both state forces and criminal elements".

To simply lump all opposition parties together in this regard is a distortion. If Daniels had read the recent DP submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission he would have seen the steps the PFP/DP opposition took against the state terror of the times. But it is also important to record that nearly 20 years ago, when apartheid was at its zenith, my party's standpoint was as unequivocal on crime as it was colour-blind.

For example, on June 7 1977 in Parliament, Harry Schwarz MP (PFP) made the position clear.

He stated: "The police should be looked upon as protectors ... and that there is a social contract between the people and the state, in terms of which all of them, whether they be white or black, are entitled to protection from the state." So there is nothing recent or expedient or white-oriented about the DP's anti-crime crusade.

Deep failure

While Daniels is happy to score political points in one breath, he immediately contradicts himself in the second. He means that "if crime is to be addressed effectively, it must be depoliticised". Well, of course, he would say that because then the Government would not be answerable or held accountable for its deep failure to provide the required remedial steps.

The definitive Nedcor study ■ Tony Leon is leader of the Democratic Party.

passing the buck (34) Star #19/96

Omar has new ways and means...

Justice Minister outlines strategy for the battle against crime

AKG 9/19/94
(34)

JUSTICE MINISTER DULLAH OMAR IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE PAGE OF CHANGE IN CERTAIN QUARTERS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. TYRONE SEALE OF THE POLITICAL STAFF REPORTS THAT HE IS ADVOCATING INNOVATIONS THAT WILL OIL THE OLD APARTHEID MACHINERY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FLEDGLING DEMOCRACY

More implementation, less planning. That is what South Africans can expect from the justice system next year, says Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

He indicated that a number of innovations designed to make courts more accountable and community-friendly — but tough on criminals — would take effect within the next few months.

He said that in certain respects, he was unhappy with the pace of change in a justice system that used to serve the apartheid order.

He said it failed to deal effectively with crime in courts that had never been people-centred.

Seen against the new Bill of Rights, the lack of people-friendly courts was stark.

However, he said, this was the result of little or no social, economic and institutional change in the wake of the 1994 general election which had brought about change only on the political front.

"We removed the captain who was steering the ship and there's a new captain, but the stormy seas in which the ship was being rocked, didn't suddenly change, said Mr Omar.

"In the same stormy sea, we have to change the direction of the ship."

In the justice system, this change could be seen in various quarters, he said.

South Africa had about 80 special courts where victims and witnesses were able to give evidence under protected conditions that included the use of video links.

The Criminal Procedure Act made provision for complaints in rape or sexual offences cases to give evidence under similarly protected circumstances.

Mr Omar said he wanted to see these systems expanded to more courts around the country within months.

The compassionate way in which witnesses at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were being treated, was sel-

ting benchmarks for other judicial institutions, he said.

His department was trying, for example, to ensure that court buildings had special rooms where witnesses could sit while waiting to be called into the courts.

This would prevent situations as happened at present where they often sat in passages, facing intimidation by opposing witnesses or suspects.

He cited the Nelspruit courts as showing the way in people-friendly justice — from guides who escorted visitors to court-rooms and other offices and a playroom for the children of witnesses, to soft-drink machines and a bank of public telephones installed near large squares of blank paper and vandal-proof pens designed to discourage scribbling on walls.

Another priority was the appointment soon of between 80 and 100 prosecutors, to be added to the present 1500 to 2000.

Early in the new year, prosecutors, magistrates, interpreters and administration staff would be trained, and in some cases retrained, under a programme using Canadian government assistance.

This programme also would address the issue of ensuring that all courts could accommodate the 11 official languages.

On another front, the Magistrates' Commission — under which magistrates reported, independent of the public service — was being made more demographically representative through legislation before parliament.

'Whoever is involved in aiding gangsters or drug dealers, should be acted against'

The effect would be to place more blacks and women on the Bench, thus developing a judiciary that would enjoy the confidence of most South Africans.

This legislation would enhance the progress made over the past two years in the appointment of new magistrates — Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Verulam, Durban and Bloemfontein all have black chief magistrates.

At Supreme Court level, too, there was now greater demographic diversity on the Bench since Mr Omar took office in 1994, at a time when there was only one black judge.

Since then, he pointed out, 12 black judges and a number of black acting judges had been appointed.

"One has to appoint blacks and women, and ensure that the people you appoint are qualified, so they can deliver justice," he said.

Mr Omar hoped this delivery would benefit from another innovation he discussed with a task team in Pretoria last



COLLIN DANIEL

Dullah Omar: the Justice Minister has innovative ideas on fighting crime

week: the introduction of regional "clusters" of courts where the chief magistrate of each cluster would co-ordinate training and administration in that group, as well as liaison between the courts and local communities.

This liaison would include monthly meetings between magistrates, prosecutors and communities, so that court offi-

cials would better understand the social make-up of specific areas, and the crimes that were prevalent there.

"At the same time, we have to be careful that we don't involve magistrates in community disputes and debates, because we want our courts to be independent and impartial," he said.

Communities already had drawn clos-

er to the courts through pioneering lay assessors, some of whom were being used in the Western Cape.

The idea was that the assessors, familiar with local conditions or even criminal personalities, were able to advise the courts on appropriate ways to come down on such criminals.

However, this pilot project had not been without its snags.

"Where this hasn't worked, it's been because magistrates are conservative, and they think the system is an interference.

"In other cases, there are complaints that magistrates hand-pick people they like."

This, said Mr Omar, would be remedied through legislation that was being wound up for presentation to the Cabinet.

Mr Omar said he was "more convinced than ever before that popular mobilisation against crime is one of the best things that could have happened".

However, he did not support people who took the law into their own hands, as this was a negative reaction that had to be resisted.

"Popular mobilisation against crime creates a climate within communities in which intolerance to crime is developed.

"One of our big problems is that people have been far too tolerant of crime."

In keeping with the growth in cross-border crimes, such as drug trafficking, white-collar offences and money laundering, Mr Omar is promoting South Africa's accession to a number of international conventions, among them the Vienna Convention on the combating of drug trafficking.

Agreements with the European Community, the Commonwealth and southern African states were variously in force or about to be signed, making it easier for South Africa to offer or get help in investigations, and to enforce, on local soil, orders made in courts elsewhere.

Mr Omar also warned that the law would come down hard on lawyers who went beyond the call of duty in their dealings with gangsters and drug dealers.

He added: "If there are lawyers who are in (gangsters') pockets, then they themselves are guilty of drug trafficking. Serious action will have to be taken against them."

He called on police to act against lawyers who were suspected of aiding gangsters or drug dealers.

"No-one should be protected. Whoever is involved in aiding gangsters or drug dealers, should be acted against," he said.

All these measures, he said, were designed to create a dynamic criminal justice system that maintained a balance between the rights of individuals and an effective fight against crime.

Crack down imminent on pension, grant fraudsters

ANEZ SALIE (1)
HEALTH WRITER

CT 9/9/96
LOCAL welfare authorities are cracking down on pension and other grant fraudsters in a pilot project which will empower beneficiaries and eliminate the uncontrolled, multiple collection of payments.

A campaign to warn the elderly and the needy of several pitfalls is under way and the payout procedure has been streamlined.

Also, procurators — appointees who collect grants on behalf of beneficiaries unable to do so because of illness or physical inability — will have to register afresh and have been restricted.

These steps follow a surprise visit to a payout point at the Bonteheuwel Civic Centre on August 15 by the Health and Welfare MEC Mr

~~34~~ (34)
Ebrahim Rassool in response to complaints. He found the venue overcrowded, there was possible exploitation of beneficiaries and procurators were responsible for too many grants.

Now, the Post Office, which administers the payouts on behalf of the department, has undertaken to install security gates and steel bars where cash is kept, provide an extra payout counter in the civic centre and refuse payment in the absence of positive identification. All procurators now have to submit their own identity books as well as letters of authority.

Also, access to the payment area will be strictly controlled. No voluntary workers, community leaders or hawkers will be allowed in.

Procurators must reregister tomorrow, on Thursday and next Tuesday.

Azapo to petition ministers with strategy to tackle crime

Raw 9/19/96

(34)

The Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) wants the property of people found guilty of serious crimes to be confiscated, and is sending a petition to the ministers of Justice, Safety and Security, Correctional Services and Welfare and Population Development.

Azapo spokesman Vuyisa Qunta said in a statement the recommendations for a strategy against crime were thrashed out at a weekend meeting in Johannesburg by the organisation's 15-member executive.

Copies of the strategy, released by Azapo president Moshudi Mangena, would be faxed to the relevant ministers today, but formal copies would only be handed to them in Cape Town on Thursday, Qunta said.

The organisation cited the causes of crime as:

- Racial inequalities created by centuries of "settler-colonial and racist rule" resulting in poor socio-economic conditions.
- "That explains why blacks are the only people producing street kids by the thousands, populating the sprawling squatter camps and are disproportionately responsible for robberies, thefts and car hijackings."
- The perception by criminals that the new human rights culture was kinder to them.
- The virtual collapse of the education system "since the mid-eighties".
- The erosion of society's moral fibre.

It had as one of its aspects the undermining of the authority of the racist state in all its forms. However, as it progressed the youth, who played an important role in that struggle, tended to interpret this as a drive to undermine all forms of authority.

Calling for drastic action to be taken against criminals, Azapo recommended that:

- Arrest rates of criminals be increased through the retraining of police in investigation, recruitment of more police, removing corrupt elements from the police force and greater community involvement.
- Laws and regulations be amended to deny those accused of murder, hijacking, rape, drug trafficking and armed robbery

Stiffer sentences for serious crimes be introduced.

- All property belonging to those found guilty of murder, hijacking, rape, drug trafficking and armed robbery be confiscated by the state "to make organised crime unprofitable and unattractive".
- Gun-wielding thugs and drug-peddlers be subjected to the full force of the law.
- The deplorable socio-economic problems such as homelessness, street children, education and "society as a whole" - which gave rise to crime - be addressed as a matter of urgency.

"If we do not act now our country will be destroyed by crime," the statement said.

Former Western Cape Pan Africanist Congress regional secretary Phillip Kgosana yesterday called on the Government to improve the police's quality of service in an effort to reduce the high crime rate.

Kgosana, who led the 1960 anti-pass law march, said at a PAC meeting in Umtata police in South Africa were underpaid, overworked and demoralised.

Other problems were corruption and the fact that the police were still feared by the majority of people.

"The police are still controlled by the whites. Apartheid is still rife in top police ranks. There are still separate toilets and restrooms for white and black police," he said. - Sapa.

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Reciprocity deals on crime envisaged

Wynndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Justice Minister Dullah Omar has tabled legislation which will allow international co-operation in the "freezing" of assets and the proceeds of crime across international borders, and the imposition of sentences of SA's courts overseas.

The International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill will empower the justice department to enter into agreements with foreign states involving the seizure and return, if necessary, of assets associated with offences.

Justice committee chairman Johnny de Lange said the "co-operation" Bill now tabled was the third prong of the justice effort to curb organised crime. The other

two arms were the "money laundering" Bill tabled recently and amendments to the Extradition Act, which is expected to be tabled soon.

He explained that another major benefit of the new legislation was that it would allow a trial court in SA to apply to a court in a foreign country to take evidence on its behalf, including video footage of the witness. This would allow the gathering of evidence from people either unwilling or unable to travel to SA without the cost of assembling a commission to travel abroad to do the job.

The legislation allows for a reciprocal hearing by SA courts to gather evidence for foreign countries. The only exception will be when SA's justice minister denies an application from a foreign country on

the basis that it might endanger or harm "the national interest".

Sentences and or orders of foreign courts can also be enforced in SA upon application from a foreign country.

The legislation also provides for the reverse — for sentences and orders of SA courts to be implemented in a foreign land upon successful application by the SA government.

If the proceeds of a crime in SA are taken to another country, the justice department may apply to the foreign country to have a confiscation order to the value of the proceeds of the offence executed.

Procedures are also provided for foreign governments to request assistance in the confiscation of the proceeds of crime that are brought to SA. Reciprocal

restraint orders will halt the dealing in property associated with a crime and the "freezing" of the assets of an offender or suspected offender.

It is expected that separate agreements with foreign countries will be negotiated in terms of the legislation. Such agreements do not yet exist, but the informal co-operation that has grown between SA and other countries in the fight against crime are not forbidden by the new legislation.

The Council of SA Banks, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, the SA Chamber of Business and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange were consulted during the drafting of the legislation, as were the various branches of the SA Police Service.

Bagwa to issue a final report on mysterious donor

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — Public protector Selby Bagwa was still conducting investigations into the mysterious R10,2m Sarafina 2 donor after media reports at the weekend claimed Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma had not identified the real donor to him.

Bagwa's spokesman Tinus Schutte said Bagwa had planned to issue a final report yesterday, but held back to have more time for investigations. A report would now be released tomorrow, he said. This followed a Sunday Times report

that the real donor was a R500m investment company, SAM-Sisonke. The chairman of the company was Durban-based Edisons Power MD Vivian Reddy, and others in the company included property developer Sam Prakash and President Nelson Mandela's former bodyguards Jomo Mavuso and Lawrence Petersen.

Prakash yesterday dismissed as "hog-wash" claims that he or SAM-Sisonke were involved in funding Sarafina 2. Reddy could not be reached for comment, but he has reportedly denied being the donor.

The Sunday Independent claimed that proceeds from the sale of Mandela's mon-

ey-spinning biography, Higher Than Hope, had been used to fund Sarafina 2.

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said this was not true. Zuma had raised the funds in the private sector.

Confidentiality was an "accepted practice", Mankahlana said.

Auditor-general Henri Kluver said the name of the donor would probably be revealed in his annual report.

Bagwa said last week that the donor had the right to keep his name secret.

Meanwhile, Kluver denied yesterday that there had been a "professional disagreement" between him and Bagwa.

Sapa reports the ANC has accused opposition parties which are calling for Zuma's dismissal of backing the vested interests of pharmaceutical monopolies threatened by her reforms.

"A question that begs an answer is why monopoly opposition to Zuma's successes dovetails with (that) of the NP and DP," the ANC said.

"The recent introduction of a new company which promises to bring down prices of generic drugs seems to have earned her the ire of many interested monopolies who have for years benefited from the high prices of drugs."

(314)

BD 10/9/96

BD 10/9/96

SAHRC to meet Madiba over crime

(34)

Sowetan 10/9/96

By Khangale Makhado

THE South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is to seek an urgent meeting with President Nelson Mandela to discuss the levels of criminal violence in the country.

Chairperson of the SAHRC Dr Barney Pityana said yesterday his organisation was "deeply disturbed at the violence which was brutalising our society".

The SAHRC believed that crime undermined all efforts presently being made to steady the economy and also the development of policies towards economic growth.

"We are deeply disturbed because we believe that crime is inimical to a culture of human rights we have been mandated to develop. Even though we have a constitutional provision for the enforcement of human rights, it is difficult to sustain that in the face of the experience of denial which many continue to face even today," Pityana said.

The organisation said it had now become a trite statement to say that policing, the administration of justice and correctional services systems had badly failed South Africans. It is not surprising, he said, that vigilantism was developing and counter forms of criminality appeared to have popular sanction.

"It is because the police are discredited when people know of rampant corruption within the service and when the prison system hardly alters criminal behaviour and people believe that they can commit crime with impunity," Pityana said. Apart from discussing crime in general with President Mandela, they would also urge the Government to broaden its outlook on crime, Pityana said.

"In the past the whole question of crime centred around police, a tendency of traditional strategies of police states, and we have had to bring to the attention of the government a holistic nature that needs to be put in place.

"It would be unfair to expect much from the communities when they do not have adequate housing, sanitation and jobs," he said. Meanwhile, the SAHRC found that there was a prima facie evidence that there were human rights violations at prisons in Northern Province.

They found that among the common complaints were assaults, overcrowding, poor quality of food, unequal treatment of prisoners and lack of educational and rehabilitation facilities. They also found that both prisoners and officers were still insensitive to human rights and there appears to be problems with the general management of complaints.

Acting against crime

IN THIS SESSION OF Parliament the Pan Africanist Congress will concentrate on escalating crime. With this in mind, it initiated a snap debate recently on the issue of People against Gangsterism and Drugs, led by its president Clarence Makwetu.

The PAC's view is that it is time for action – not for the passing of more White Papers, commissions and grandiose plans which are never implemented – and to tackle the problem of police corruption.

The PAC initially articulated its view when the draft Constitution and Bill of Rights was drawn up. At the time there was a wild baying for the blood of criminals and the abolition of the death penalty was denounced as pandering to crime.

But between the need to take stern action and uphold the democratic and human rights of all sectors of its citizenry, the PAC struck a balance.

It stated in its submission to the Constitutional Assembly that whatever measures were necessary, and however draconian they may have to be, "it is crucial that we must deal with the socio-economic causes of crime, such as unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of housing and social security and apartheid inequalities".

Understandable outcry

One cannot overemphasise the need to keep this perspective in mind, especially now that there is an understandable outcry against crime and it is so much easier to rely exclusively on punishment rather than address the underlying causes of crime.

The PAC holds the view that crime is a major destabilising force and is at the heart of major social contradictions in our society that affect the harmonisation of relationships across race barriers.

There is a need to deepen the racial cross-fertilisation so that we can build and develop a truly South African culture based on the humanism of African culture and civilisation.

In its submission, the PAC objected to the view that "saw the sole purpose of a criminal justice system as hunting down offenders, catching them and teaching them a lesson that will scare even potential offenders".

The PAC regarded the criminal justice system "as part and parcel of the creation of a human rights culture and the restoration of human dignity".

It emphasised that the criminal justice system should ensure that offenders are hunted down, apprehended and punished", and that the constitution and the law needed to send a clear message to offenders that they cannot offend and expect five-star treatment. But, it

(34) Bennie Bunsee 10/9/96
Everyone agrees: crime is escalating and decisive steps are needed. But what are the right steps to stop the crime wave plaguing South Africa? **Bennie Bunsee** puts forward the PAC's point of view...



PAC president Clarence Makwetu ... his party believes it is time for action against crime.

added, "it does not give the police a license to kill, torture and tamper with evidence" and even resort to inhuman and degrading punishment such as the death penalty, which the PAC has always opposed.

The PAC also emphasised the role of society's moral values. It said that the African cultural values of *ubuntu*, community sharing, respect for elders and so on needed to be harnessed in this battle against crime.

On the basis of this holistic approach, the PAC underlined more practical measures that needed to be undertaken to make our country safe for all its citizens and to create a situation of security and stability.

It regards this as a national priority as crime deters much needed foreign investment, affects the tourist industry, our own leisure industries and creates an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion among its people.

In this regard the PAC emphasised the need to clear up corruption within the police service itself and the collusion that often exists between lawbreakers and police. It described this as the greatest obstacle to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

There was also a need to provide proper training for police, particularly in sophisticat-

ed investigation methods, and a need to both pay and equip them well. This would also raise their morale.

While there may be budgetary restraints, the existing budget needed to be reprioritised to meet immediate needs. The concentration of police stations in white areas, for example, needed to be overhauled.

The PAC also submitted that the media, and particularly television, needed to be more effectively utilised. The Government needed to generate a general climate in the community of fighting crime together with police.

There must be effective witness protection programmes and gun control. There should also be a more visible presence of police on the streets.

The parole and bail systems need to be revised and the Government needs to find money quickly to build more prisons to avoid overcrowding, which actually breeds more criminals.

Absolutely essential

Community participation in the fight against crime was absolutely essential. A more representative and legitimate police service would be able to cooperate with all sectors of society in the fight against crime.

Community policing should not just be a phrase. The Government should pour in resources to ensure its success, particularly in the light of the Pagad-led protests that clearly indicate the community wants action on this matter.

In addition, it was necessary to extend training and resources to prosecutors, magistrates and the entire system of justice. The system needs to have the integrity and impartiality that would make complainants, accused and society have confidence in it.

At a time when people are beginning to take the law into their own hands – a situation the PAC does not agree with – it is necessary for the Government to treat the fight against crime as one of absolute priority.

If it escalates to a point beyond repair, it would mean the total destabilisation of our society and an end to the nation building and other democratic tasks that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights uphold.

(The writer is an adviser to the PAC's parliamentary caucus.)

Proceeds of Crime Bill under attack

Orwellian, say lawyers

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

(34) ~~ARG~~ ARG 11/9/96

As Parliament debates new legislation on seizing the proceeds of crime, it has emerged that laws on drug trafficking already allow profits to be seized - but that this has happened only once.

An order to confiscate R100 000 of the proceeds of drug trafficking was given in the Pretoria Regional Court two years ago.

This was disclosed by justice department officials during a briefing on a new package of anti-crime legislation to a joint meeting of the Senate and National Assembly justice committees.

The officials said the organised crime unit was considering using the existing provision in the Drug Trafficking Act for seizure of proceeds from drug trading in some cases now under investigation.

The committees were warned that proving to a court which of a person's assets were the proceeds of crime would put an additional burden on police resources.

This burden had to be balanced against what would be gained by seizing the proceeds of crime.

In Britain, prosecutors have to persuade a court that the proceeds exceed £10 000 (R70 000) before there is an investigation into confiscation.

In a submission to the committees on the Proceeds of Crime Bill, the Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope said it accepted that legislation was needed to counter money-laundering, which was a threat to the South African economy.

However, the Law Society had misgivings about an obligation in the bill to report suspicion of criminal activities.

"The proposed legislation is unique in that it requires South African citizens to report to the authorities not just actual knowledge that a person is or may be involved in a criminal activity, but also a suspicion.

"(It) criminalises the failure to do so ... with extremely heavy penalties.

"People may be guilty of offences under the proposed legislation quite unwittingly while they are going about their business or profession in the ordinary course."

The Law Society said Parliament should be hesitant to introduce laws reminiscent of George Orwell's novel *1984*, where the state controlled people's lives by having them report suspicious activities.

The Bill was "an extremely harsh and far-reaching piece of legislation which could impact on lives of thousands of South Africans going about their normal daily activities".

It would make criminals out of people who lacked the insight and intuition to suspect criminal activity, or even if they had such insight, who "exercised a considered discretion" not to report such activity.

The Law Society also criticised the Bill for failing to define "criminal activity" or to confine the obligation to report to serious offences like drug trafficking or terrorism.

"Legislation of this nature should be confined only to those extreme circumstances where such legislation is absolutely necessary."

Unless this was done, the Bill could fall foul of the interim or the new constitution.

The Bill prejudiced the attorney-client relationship of confidentiality, the society said.

Government's bold new move to probe private sector in crackdown on corruption

CLIVE SAWYER

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

In a further bold step against corruption, the Government proposes to widen the brief of its planned special investigating units and tribunals to include abuses by the private sector.

Until now, draft laws provided only for the probing of corruption in the civil service.

A top Department of Justice official believes the new units will pay for themselves through the millions of rands they will net in their investigations.

The units are to be set up by one of a package of bills approved by the Cabinet recently as urgent measures against crime.

But after cabinet approval, the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Bill was broadened to include probes of

"unlawful or improper conduct, by any person, which has caused or may cause serious harm to the interests of the public or any category thereof".

The bill's original aim, before it was changed, was to set up the units and tribunals to deal with serious malpractices or maladministration in the administration of state institutions, assets and public money. The change has been endorsed by Minis-

ter of Justice Dullah Omar. It means the units will be able to investigate events like the Masterbond collapse or the Kubus scheme, both of which meant widespread losses for small investors.

The units, to be headed either by judges or acting judges, will have power of search and seizure. The tribunals, to be headed by judges, will be public. Exemptions may be made to protect the safety of individuals.

34
File 11/9/196

New anti-crime laws 'flawed - not fair to victims'

(34) **ART 17/19/96**

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights

Committee says flaws in new anti-crime legislation include a lack of emphasis on the needs of victims of crime.

The committee, an NGO (non-government organisation)

not to be confused with the Human Rights Commission, gave evidence yesterday to the parliamentary committees on justice.

HRC chairman Jeremy Sarkin said the Proceeds of Crime Bill, which is aimed at ensuring criminals cannot keep their profits from crime, should enable compensation to

be paid to victims of crime. The bill made the state the primary creditor, where instead, victims should have first priority for compensation.

On the bill's provisions against money-laundering, Professor Sarkin said many South Africans lived honestly by informal sector earnings. Many dealt in large amounts

of cash, which could put them in the spotlight because of the bill's provisions for reporting of suspicious transactions.

Giving evidence on legislation which would set up special anti-corruption investigating units and special tribunals, Professor Sarkin said the legislation failed to set out specific powers for these bodies.

Following questioning by Professor Sarkin of the search-and-seizure powers to be given to the units, African National Congress MP Willie Hofmeyr said these were in line with those in other democracies.

"This is not aimed at the broad public, it is aimed at corrupt civil servants," Mr Hofmeyr said.

US helps SAPS combat crime

Catherine Crookes

(34)
BD 23/9/96

CAPE TOWN — US treasury officials are in the country to help prepare the SA police in the enforcement of new measures to curb white-collar crime.

Workshops were held with members of the commercial crime unit, narcotics bureau, diamond and gold unit, legal services and the training department in Cape Town, Durban and Gauteng this week. The delegation was headed by the director of the executive office of profit forfeiture in Washington, Jan Blanton, who said that SA was ripe for organised criminal activities involving money laundering.

"Nothing stops criminals from keeping their dirty money in SA banks. Banks are active, secure financial systems which never do any sort of currency reporting which makes them susceptible to being conduits for laundered money."

She said the SAPS was highly dedicated and eager to become involved in the fight against organised crime but was "hamstrung" by legislation.

According to the present Drug Trafficking Act, money laundering was not a crime unless linked to illicit drug dealing. This meant the "SA police does not have the proper tools to combat money laundering when linked to fraud or theft", Blanton said.

The new crime Bills, particularly

the Money Laundering Control Bill and the Proceeds of Crime Bill, would widen police powers by criminalising money laundering and allowing police to deprive offenders of the proceeds of their crime.

The US had forfeiture legislation which allowed the law enforcement agencies to place crime proceeds and instruments seized into a forfeiture fund which was then ploughed back into the agencies themselves.

"This has been a godsend to US law enforcement. It means the criminals, not the taxpayers pay for our policing," said Blanton.

"In SA government places the proceeds of crime into the general revenue fund and while this is noble it does nothing to help law enforcement."

The US treasury department is regarded as the world leader in the combating of money-laundering and related offences. The eight-person delegation consisted of officials from Rome, San Diego and Tokyo.

Western Cape co-ordinator Snr Supt Gerry van Rooyen said: "Our own police are inexperienced in dealing with money-laundering related crimes, yet the US has a strong tradition of dealing strongly with such cases. One thing I learnt from the workshop is that the Americans certainly do things big; they don't let anything get in their way."

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Nedlac endorses anti-crime strategy

Reneé Grawitzky

SOCIAL partners at the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) executive council meeting on Friday endorsed a range of strategies to fight

crime and to ensure the successful implementation of the new Labour Relations Act and housing policies.

Nedlac executive director Jayendra Naidoo said yesterday the council had resolved to back

(34) BD 2519796
government's national crime prevention strategy and had agreed to consider organising a conference aimed at developing a "largescale, broad-based strategy" to fight crime and violence.

On the implementation of the new Labour Relations Act, the council called on employers and shop stewards to meet during the first week of the Act's implementation. This would ensure the establishment of education and training programmes to facilitate the "smooth" introduction of the Act.

The parties agreed that employer and worker co-operation was the key to the Act's success.

Naidoo said the council had agreed that housing should be given priority by Nedlac's development chamber.

The council also discussed issues related to tax incentives being considered by the trade and industry chamber.

Naidoo said such sessions were aimed at providing the social partners with an opportunity to share perspectives, promote co-ordination and develop consensus.

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(34) BD 25/9/96

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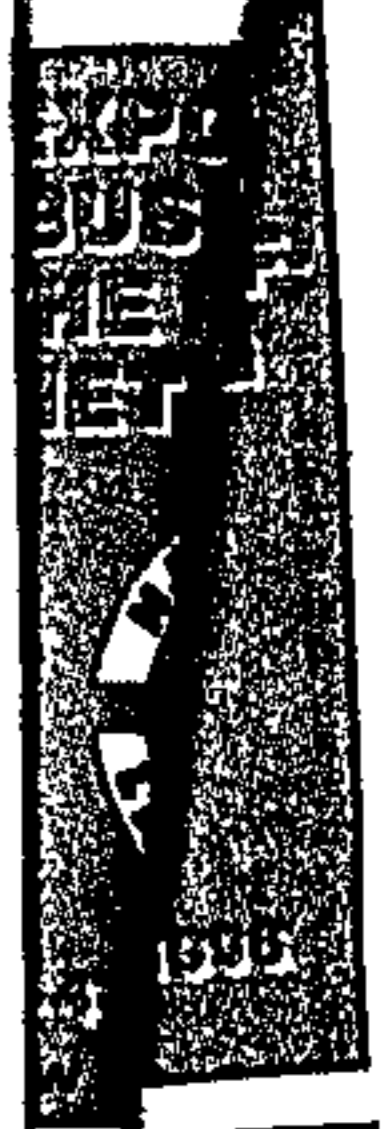
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By Charles Schulz



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TOO



Nedlac pledges support for crime strategy

The executive committee of the National Economic Development and Labour Council has pledged its support for the Government's national crime prevention strategy.

At its quarterly meeting this week, Nedlac called on its constituencies to implement partnerships against crime and violence.

Executive director Jayendra Naidoo said details of a conference on developing a crime-fighting strategy were likely to be announced within the next two weeks.

Nedlac also called on employers and shop stewards to join forces during the first week of operation of the Labour Relations Act, which comes into effect on November 11.

It said employer and worker co-operation were the key to the legislation's success, and meetings between the two parties would ensure that operational programmes were in place to facilitate its smooth introduction. — Staff Reporter.

(34)
Star 25/9/96

COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT IN SHAMBLES

White collar crime shock

(34) CT 26/9/96

Exclusive

MOST WHITE collar criminals are getting away with their crimes. Untrained and understaffed so-called specialist units can no longer cope with the flood of financially intricate cases that are thrown their way. **JACKIE CAMERON** investigated.



THE South African Police Service's Commercial Crime Unit is in such chaos that if it were to close down it probably wouldn't make a difference to the white collar crime rate.

This is the grim picture painted by police and prosecutors, who estimate that less than 3% of all white collar criminals who are arrested end up being convicted and punished for their crimes within a year.

Nedcor's ground-breaking research into this country's crime problem estimated that white collar criminals netted at least R13 billion last year alone, and said "management" were implicated in 60% of cases.

The banking group's report, released earlier this year, sharply criticised business for "passing the buck and placing the blame on government for the major share of financial irregularity".

Nevertheless, Cape Town-based commercial crime investigators have sent a desperate plea to police headquarters for assistance.

They "reminded" headquarters that

the government had declared commercial crime a "national priority crime" — but that no assistance had been given to police to deal with the problem.

Confidential documentation sent to police headquarters in Pretoria outlines the "untenable" situation at the Western Cape Commercial Crime Unit:

- The unit's top investigators, many of them with university degrees, had been snatched by the private sector for in-house investigations.

- Most of the remaining 21 investigators do not have more than four years' experience in finance-related crimes, and have been left with a work load of about 500 intricate cases involving about R947 million.

- Other commanders will not allow competent detectives to transfer to the specialist unit, as they have their own staff shortages.

- Investigators are spending much of their time assisting foreign governments track of criminals hiding here.

- A number of investigators spend weeks outside the country following up evidence and there is no one in the city

to take over their other investigations while they are away.

According to one senior police officer: "It is of the utmost importance that effective steps be taken by management to recruit suitable personnel for the Commercial Crime Unit."

According to another confidential research report, training for commercial crime detectives is "insufficient, a backlog already exists" and "training staff are inexperienced".

This report also says that the unmanageable workload has been a major cause of the resignations of experienced officers.

One source told the Cape Times that detectives at the unit do not have the time to look at most of their dockets, and that one policeman is investigating an insurance scam involving more than 2 000 separate cases.

"Some of us no longer pretend that a case is receiving attention when a complainant telephones for a progress report. There are policemen on cases which will take them at least five years to investigate unless they have help."

Unofficial statistics kept by prosecutors on white collar crime reveal that less than 3% of all cases that end up at the attorney-general's office result in a conviction within one year.

"It is a combination of factors," one state advocate said.

"Investigations are not always very good because there are inexperienced policemen on the case. There is also a lack of staff, and experienced staff, at the attorney-general's office," he said.

957 held for
violent crimes
have escaped
BD 27/9/96
Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Almost 1 000 people arrested in connection with violent crimes escaped from police cells in the first eight months of this year.

Replying to a question by DP leader Tony Leon, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday that 957 people detained by police had escaped. Only 284 had been rearrested. Two died during their escapes, one drowning in the Kei River and the other shot by police.

The biggest breakout from police cells was in Brakpan on the east Rand when 61 people escaped through the roof. At Florida police station, 44 prisoners overpowered members of the SAPS and forced open a cell door. This happened twice at Florida in the space of three months.

In more than one case, prisoners escaped when police neglected to lock the doors of cells. An escape from Zebediela, Northern Province, was allegedly made possible with the help of a police officer. In many cases police were unable to determine how escapes occurred. They did not know how 43 suspects escaped from the Randburg police station early this year.

A second DP question, this time from justice spokesman Douglas Gibson, focused on the poor arrest and conviction record of the criminal justice system. Gibson asked how many people were wanted for the seven most serious crimes and how many had been charged.

Mufamadi replied that of the 1 120 people wanted for vehicle hijacking in terms of the SAPS's crime-fighting Sword and Shield plan, 156 had been arrested and 154 charged. Of the almost 7 000 people wanted for vehicle theft 773 had been arrested and 742 charged.

Crackdown on 'gangsters'

(34) Sowetan 3/10/96

By Waghied Misbach
Political Reporter

TOUGH new legislation to combat the scourge of international money laundering was recommended by delegates at a major conference on the issue in Cape Town yesterday.

Delegates at the Southern and Eastern African Money Laundering Conference yesterday discussed new ways in which to crack down on the world's "supergangsters", who use the worldwide web and computers to launder their money through financial institutions.

Money laundering worldwide is estimated to be about R2 billion annually.

The conference - which brings

together 13 African countries including Mauritius, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, France, Australia and the United States - was divided into three groups yesterday to discuss various options to combat the problem.

Issues covered included the 40 recommendations that were drawn up by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - an intergovernmental body that consists of 26 countries, including the world's richest nations.

The recommendations were drawn up in 1990 and were revised again last year to take into account the changes in the money laundering problem globally.

The measures that came under discussion by delegates include: special

methods to confiscate property and assets of those suspected of criminal activity and getting banks and other financial institutions to report any "cash dropping". Delegates also emphasised the importance of international cooperation on the issue.

It is likely that the conference will endorse the FATF recommendations that national administrations report international flows of cash in any currency. These figures should be made available to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, for more effective monitoring.

The money laundering conference ends today with the adoption of a regional strategy and plan for African countries.

Anti-crime drive poised to crash

Fivaz warns on pay crisis

JOHAN SCHRONEN
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

The Police Plan, launched by commissioner George Fivaz to combat crime, will collapse if more than R450-million is not made available immediately to pay for overtime work.

This warning came from the national commissioner's office in a letter to the Department of Public Service and Administration asking for urgent funds.

Meanwhile, police management faces a battle with the SA Police Union, which is protecting members who want to work to rule. The union is seeking an urgent interdict to protect its members threatening to work to rule and is expected to go to the Supreme Court later this month.

This follows an urgent request from the national commissioner's office to the central government last week for an additional R450-million to pay overtime, an amount it said was still not enough to stall a serious breakdown in policing.

Deputy divisional commissioner G J Swart warned the director-general of the Public Service Department that the implementation of Commissioner Fivaz's Police Plan against crime would be "severely hampered".

Commissioner Swart said that "even if the R450-million is made available the

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department will in all probability not be in a position to meet the demands for overtime claims during the current financial year".

"This department has to proactively address the situation in order to ensure that there is no breakdown in normal police functions," warned Commissioner Swart.

He gave the Public Service Department a deadline of October 10 because a "decision and negotiations have to be finalised as soon as possible".

Meanwhile police management is also investigating giving police time off instead of payment for overtime as an interim measure.

The public service staff code did not provide for time off for overtime but it also did not prohibit it, Commissioner Swart said.

But union provincial secretary Andy Miller lashed out at the commissioner's "absurd suggestion" of time off for overtime worked.

"The poor men and women on the ground are working long hours overtime to make up for staff shortages in the first place," he said.

"There is simply no time for a time-off arrangement.

"At the end of the day it is the prerogative of the member whether he wants time off or to be paid."

Crime thwarts conference industry

(34) BD 4/10/96

David Capel

SA's status as a top international conference venue is in jeopardy because of the country's soaring crime rate, according to leading conference organisers.

One top conference planner, Brian McDonald of Global Conferences, has written to President Nelson Mandela, urging him to take steps to reassure potential conference delegates that government is bringing crime under control.

The international conference industry is worth a staggering R3bn a year to SA and provides employment to about 60 000 people. According to Satour, SA has more than 1 250 conference venues, able to accommodate 320 000 people a day.

Surveys show that the industry has the potential to outstrip economic growth and develop at a rate of 5% a year.

But some conference organisers are concerned that this potential

will not be reached, as SA's reputation as the crime capital of the world takes hold in the minds of international associations and multinational companies looking for a suitable venue to stage their conventions.

McDonald, whose company is competing to bring 1 500 people to SA for a conference of international shoulder and elbow surgeons in 2001, said SA's chances of hosting the conference were in doubt because of the crime rate.

"We're blowing it. The perception of people overseas is that crime in this country is rife and government is doing little, if anything, to come to terms with it," McDonald said.

He said he knew of at least three other major international conferences planned for SA that were now likely to go elsewhere.

"We're asking the president to tell the international community we are doing something about the problem. In this country we're great at talking about things. The time has

arrived for some real action," McDonald said.

Conference Co-ordinators MD Renee Stamper echoed McDonald's fears. "Serious concerns have been expressed by international conference delegates about SA's suitability as a host and in some cases companies have been sending people out here to have a look at the situation before deciding," she said.

International conferences that did come to SA had to be arranged in such a way that programmes were extremely tight and delegates could "hardly breathe".

"They're literally being taken from Johannesburg International Airport to the conference venues, or the places where they are staying, and then whisked off home again.

"The safety of these people is in our hands and that's a very daunting responsibility. If there's just one unpleasant incident during an international conference, the whole conference is a disaster."

Rural financial services receive attention

(34) BD 4/10/96

Louise Cook

THE Land Bank and Post Office are adjusting operations to overcome inadequate financial services in rural areas, the parastatals announced yesterday.

The move follows last week's Strauss Commission report on rural financial services, which said that the Land Bank should take on a new client base of emerging farmers, and finance the beneficiaries of land reform, in addition to financing commercial farmers. The Post Office was earmarked as the central pillar of finances to such regions.

The Land Bank said it had introduced major changes to accommodate a new client base of emerging

farmers. The first new branch would open in the Eastern Cape next year.

Land Bank senior deputy GM Karl Ehrenberg said the financing of the new clients — black entrants into agriculture — would mainly take the form of wholesale financing through intermediaries.

He said: "The entire Land Bank Act has been redrafted to place the bank in a position to assume the wider responsibilities in line with the recommendations of the Strauss Commission."

Commercial interest rates would be applicable to the bank's financing, and an element of grant funding would be necessary to defray transaction costs in some areas.

The Post Office also said it was

repositioning to take better care of clients in rural areas after the Strauss Commission report said it was "concerned" about the reduction of fully fledged post office outlets.

Postbank GM Billy Tihabanelo said more branches were needed to serve the entire population, especially in the outlying rural areas.

In rural areas, Retail Postal Agencies were being opened and preference given to agents also offering Postbank services.

"The commitment is to eventually offer more outlets, albeit not in the form of traditional post offices," Tihabanelo said.

He said the first Easypost branch was also opened recently.

by
ON

New unit to run government anti-crime strategy, says Mufamadi

(34) ARG 5/10/96
Pretoria - A unit has been set up to co-ordinate the government's national crime prevention strategy, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said.

It will be headed by Bernard Fanaroff, deputy director general in the office of the president, Mr Mufamadi said in a statement.

Mr Fanaroff was formerly responsible for co-ordinating the reconstruction and development programme.

Putting the crime prevention strategy into action would also involve the departments of justice, correctional services, safety and security, defence, welfare, home affairs, education, and intelligence officials.

Mr Mufamadi said the new unit would function in the Secretariat of Safety and Security, headed by Azhar Cachalia.

Mr Fanaroff would be in charge of the day-to-day management of the co-ordination effort.

This move meant the government's short and long-term framework for fighting crime was complete. "What we need now is urgent and decisive implementation of these plans by the departments involved," Mr Mufamadi said.

Initial programmes would be funded by an allocation of R200 million from the RDP fund. Issues to be addressed in the first phase of the crime prevention strategy included improving the management of courts, and upgrading witness protection



Sydney Mufamadi: from strategy to action

programmes. Other priorities were management of crime-scenes, handling evidence, care facilities for young offenders, management of information in the criminal justice system, and victim support programmes.

"I am pleased that all the ministers and directors general involved in the strategy have committed themselves to maximum co-operation," Mr Mufamadi said.

The national crime prevention strategy complements the police plan, which is an annual operational programme aimed at improving policing throughout the country. - Sapa

Violence strangling conference industry

CI(BR) 7/10/96 (34) (208)

JOHN SPIRA

DEPUTY EDITOR

Johannesburg — Violent crime was placing the South African conference industry in jeopardy, putting thousands of jobs on the line and risking the loss to the country of millions of rands in hard currency.

This was the gist of a message in a letter sent to President Nelson Mandela by one of South Africa's leading conference organisers, Brian McDonald, the managing director of Cape-based Global Conferences.

McDonald appealed to the president to give the international conference industry the assurance that the government was committed to fighting

crime.

"The critically important conference business sector is being threatened by violence, which appears to be getting worse," said McDonald.

"The situation is now so bad that many of our South African clients are having to reassure their international associations that it is still safe to hold conferences in South Africa."

McDonald disclosed that one major world event, the International Congress of Shoulder Surgery, which is expected to attract 1 000 delegates here in 2001, could be lost to the country because of the crime wave.

South Africa last year won the bid to host the congress against stiff competition from the United States, Canada and

Brazil. "But," McDonald warned, "the question of South Africa's suitability as a venue is now to be questioned at a congress board meeting in Florida this month."

In his letter to the president, McDonald said: "I am asking you to please make a statement which we can present to that meeting, saying that the problem is being vigorously addressed and requesting that any decision regarding awarding the conference to another country be deferred for a year, by which time it is anticipated that there will be a marked improvement."

McDonald expected the congress to bring in between R10 million and R15 million in foreign exchange.

CRIME *Internal fraud said to be rife*

Insurance group uses lie detector on staff

(34) CT(BR) 9/10/96

NANCY MYBURGH

FINANCIAL SERVICES EDITOR

Johannesburg — Internal fraud in the insurance industry is so rife that the Hollard Insurance Group now requires selected new employees to take polygraph, or lie detector, tests, Miles Japhet, the managing director of Hollard, said yesterday.

Japhet said Hollard had instituted stricter internal controls over the past year because there was considerable opportunity for insurance company personnel to help inflate insurance claims fraudulently and skim off a profit in the case of a vehicle hijacking or if someone had been involved in an accident.

"All new employees who handle money undergo a polygraph test. We (also) use random telephone conversation taping.

"That is where you get the opportunity to pick up collusion. Unfortunately, you have to wage war against internal fraud, and (you must) not be naive.

"But it is our duty. We cannot keep having honest clients pay the costs of fraudulent claims through higher premiums," he said.

Given the average Hollard

claim assessor's workload and pay scale, Japhet estimated that a 1 percent inflation of a month's claims could afford fraudulent gains equal to a month's salary.

But the cost savings from greater control of internal fraud, as well as more efficient risk management, had allowed Hollard to reduce clients' insurance premiums in certain kinds of policies by about 10 percent, he said.

Another large insurer said yesterday that his firm did not go as far as Hollard in detecting internal fraudsters.

"We have checks and cross-checks. . . . Our major control is drumming into staff that they have to adhere to the controls and that checking procedures are in place.

"That is part of our ethos," he said.

However, "it is difficult to pinpoint where we've been successful and where the gaps (in internal fraud detection) are," he said.

Hollard is a privately owned insurance group, whose gross written short-term premiums increased 47 percent in the year to March 31. Japhet said they were projected to exceed R800 million in the present financial year.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT Workers demand Sappi acts against campaigner Roland Mazery

Union enters row over crusade

SHIRLEY JONES AND JAMES LAMONT

Durban — The Print, Paper, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu) yesterday threatened Sappi with a strike if it failed to take disciplinary action against Roland Mazery, the managing director of Sappi Salccor. Mazery is behind a campaign to draw international attention to South Africa's crime problem.

Bengeza Mthombeni, the national general secretary of Ppwawu, yesterday warned Sappi that the union would mobilise its members and consider its options, including a strike, if Sappi did not discipline Mazery. Mthombeni said the union viewed Mazery's campaign of letters and news clippings depicting escalating violence to international business leaders and politicians as tantamount to treason. "We see him as a person who is contributing to the hardship of the unemployed. He is not contributing to reconciliation and must be isolated."

"We agree there is violence, but we have to ask how we can help, instead of trying to scare investors and placing the country in a bad light. The onus is on

Sappi to defend its name. What has Sappi done to reduce crime and violence? If Sappi takes no action, it means Sappi supports this individual and condones what he is doing," he said.

But Sappi has stuck to its stance that Mazery's actions were entirely personal. Ian Forbes, the managing director of Sappi Southern Africa, yesterday described Sappi as a "very committed South African company" and said Mazery's personal political beliefs in no way reflected the views of the company.

But Wendy Lucas-Bull, the chairman of Business Against Crime, said yesterday that Sappi did not participate in the Business Against Crime campaign.

Mazery said yesterday that he was "shattered" by the response to the publicity his actions had attracted. He said he had been inundated with congratulatory calls and would continue his campaign until there was tangible evidence that the government was taking appropriate action to halt the country's "slide into anarchy". "You can tell Ppwawu that I am effectively a retired man. I am no longer the managing di-

Dear Mr Dinkins... Roland Mazery's letter from Hell

Mayor David Dinkins
625 Madison Ave.
12th Floor
New York, NY 10022
U.S.A.

12 September 1986

Dear Mr Dinkins,

This letter is a difficult one to write because you may perceive it as being unpatriotic. Far from it is being written in the interests of the long term future of South Africa and as part of an international campaign which was started some three months ago, and which is aimed at putting "diplomatic" pressure on our Government to take immediate and effective measures to combat the escalating rate of crime, violence and corruption in our country. The campaign is targeted at friends of South Africa and more specifically at those individuals and institutions who, over the past thirty years, have morally and financially assisted in the removal of the National Party from power and establish democracy in South Africa.

The rate of crime, corruption and violence in South Africa has reached such intensity that serious doubts are being expressed as to the medium term future of democracy in our country. Indeed, South Africa will not be able to attract large scale foreign investments unless the rampaging crime rate is rolled back. To do this the Govt. must take very tough measures, and clean up its own act as a matter of urgency. Without such investments the country will progressively degenerate into a state of anarchy.

An extract from a recent letter by Mazery to the former mayor of New York

rector of Salccor: I am standing in for my successor and acted in my personal capacity. The union should contact me to discuss this," he said.

Mthombeni said the union would meet Sappi to discuss the Mazery campaign in Johannesburg next week — the same day Sappi was due to discuss with

the water affairs and forestry department the controversy surrounding Salccor's effluent disposal into the sea off the south coast of KwaZulu Natal.

Lucas-Bull said she was "appalled and embarrassed" by Mazery's campaign. "He is acting in his own interest. I cannot conceive how he thinks that is a constructive way forward." She said the government's door was open to the concerns of business and that the government was considering the fight against crime as a high priority. She said the campaign would prejudice inward investment.

□ Opinton & Analysis, Page 16

CRIME CAMPAIGN



Lone crusader defends his stand

ET (PBR) 10/10/96

(34)

JAMES LAMONT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Roland Mazery, the managing director of Sappi Saiccor, the KwaZulu Natal dissolving-pulp manufacturer, has become something of a local hero since he revealed himself as the author of a campaign to circulate press-cuttings among prominent international figures alerting them to "the state of near anarchy" in South Africa.

He said yesterday that he had received "an incredible response making me an instant celebrity". For the past three months, Mazery has sent daily press-cutting bulletins to 39 influential people worldwide, many who were friends of the government, to inform them of the danger facing South Africa's fledgling democracy and the unacceptable crime level.

"I want them to use their influence over people in government that the situation the

country is facing is a serious one. It is hurting and is causing people to emigrate," he said.

He undoubtedly has the support of others, including senior members of the Durban business community. Moreover Deputy President Thabo Mbeki suspects that other South African businessmen are conducting similar campaigns.

Mazery argues his campaign is transparent. Indeed, he sends his daily press-cuttings to President Nelson Mandela. And he says that he has undertaken it in his personal capacity, and not as a Sappi executive, out of sincere concern for the country's future.

"In one letter to Mandela I said this is not an easy letter to write. Some people may think it unpatriotic, but the intentions are noble. But you must be made aware of how serious the situation is here," he said.

Geoff Tyler, the chief executive of the Durban chamber of commerce, said that Mazery had

always "played with open cards with everybody" and had sincere concerns. He said that though the chamber had been kept informed of the campaign, it would neither give its blessing nor castigate something done in a personal capacity. But, he said, "there are a number of members of the chamber who would associate themselves with what Mr Mazery is doing".

But others consider his lobbying counterproductive. Thabo Mbeki and Business Against Crime have asked just how judicious Mazery's approach is. "It is not illegal to send cuttings, but what message is he sending out?" said Thami Ntenti, Mbeki's spokesman. He said international business echoed doom and gloom preached by business in South Africa.

Mbeki's office believes that Mazery has sent out deliberately negative messages that could discourage foreign investment. Ntenti questioned whether

Mazery's work was the work of an individual. He said it may be supported by a dedicated unit or outside agency with independent financial backing. "This is not a single incident. He is one of many and it has an effect on government and business relations."

Wendy Lucas-Bull, the chairman of Business Against Crime, said she was appalled by Mazery's initiative. She said it was unconstructive and undermined the trust established between business and government to tackle crime. "I have heard Mr Mbeki say that he's been told that South African business is doing more harm than crime itself."

At the opening of a trade union conference last month, Mbeki told delegates that Bernd Pischetrider, the chairman of BMW, had told him that South Africans discouraged him from making a R1 billion investment. BMW went ahead with its investment, but how many others would think twice?

Serious crime declining, say police

(34)

Urban Strike is reducing levels in many areas, but criminals have changed their *modus operandi*

By LARA SMITH

Crime, say the police, is on the decrease. Recent statistics released by Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte show that serious crime has been on the decline since Operation Urban Strike was launched at the beginning of September.

During September 1 078 fewer incidents of serious crime were reported in the Johannesburg policing area compared with August, the month before the massive anti-crime operation was put into effect.

"Statistically and numerically we can prove that Urban Strike is making a difference (to crime levels)," Duarte said.

"In some instances it may not be a significant drop, but it is a step in the right direction."

But while police seem to have been concentrating their efforts on preventing vehicle theft, car hijacking and theft out of motor vehicles, the statistics indicate that criminals have, in turn, altered their *modus operandi* and have turned their attention to breaking into homes instead.

The number of housebreakings during September rose by 138 reported cases, with BodySens reporting the highest in-

crease of 21 burglaries.

Parkview saw an increase of five housebreakings while Alexandra reported 11 more armed robberies of residential premises than in August.

But Bramley, a suburb traditionally plagued by burglaries, saw a decrease in break-ins on both residential and business premises.

The reason for this, Duarte explained, was because Bramley police had concentrated their efforts during Urban Strike on the housebreaking problem experienced in the area.

Every police station within greater Johannesburg had its own particular crime problems and each station commissioner was instructed to come up with his own anti-crime plan to counter these particular problem areas, Duarte said.

In areas where hijackings were prevalent, roadblocks were used extensively while in other areas strategies such as foot patrols, motorbike patrols and horse patrols had greater effect.

As the nature of crime changed in each policing area, so they would have to

adapt their crime-fighting strategy.

Crimes which have decreased quite dramatically under the auspices of Urban Strike include theft out of motor vehicles which has dropped from 1 953 instances in August to 1 618 in September and motor vehicle theft which has decreased by 291 instances.

Car hijackings dropped by 71 reported cases from 335 in August to 264 in September.

Horse and foot patrols used to good effect

Robbery of business premises dropped by 130 from 551 to 421 instances, with the most dramatic drop recorded in the city centre itself. Forty-nine fewer businesses were broken into in the city in September.

Norwood, Parkview and Sandton, however, showed a slight increase in the number of businesses burgled.

Hillbrow experienced the greatest drop in cases of theft out of motor vehicles - from 275 to 200, followed by Newlands with a drop by 61 reported cases, Rosebank by 48, Yeoville by 34 and Norwood by 26.

Motor vehicle theft in Brixton dropped by 49 reported cases, followed

by 33 in Cleveland and 33 in Hillbrow, but increased in Langlaagte, Mondéor, Parkview, Randburg, Rosebank and Sandringham.

The area where serious crimes were most effectively combated was Hillbrow which recorded a total drop of 162 cases, followed by Newlands and the city centre, each with 99 fewer serious crimes reported.

Duarte conceded that while the statistics showed that crime had dropped by between 30% and 40% under Urban Strike so far, it was still a long way from what they still wanted to achieve.

"Only when people feel safer and are confident the police are serving them adequately, will we have achieved what we set out to," said Duarte.

Before Urban Strike, Johannesburg's main crime problems had been car hijackings, a proliferation of drugs, and assault and battery and in all these areas the operation has had a significant impact. The 1 000 police reinforcements brought in from other provinces would remain in Johannesburg and Soweto until the police stations at which they had been deployed had brought crime down to levels they could manage without the extra manpower.

Star 14/10/96

Corruption a common problem among developing countries

CT 15/10/96

(34)

LALA CAMERER

SOUTH AFRICANS preoccupied with the crime crisis had local problems put sharply in perspective when they attended the 14th International Symposium on Economic Crime at Jesus College, Cambridge, recently.

The conference provided an opportunity to place South Africa's problems in perspective, as well as to awaken South Africans to the reality that when it comes to corruption the situation here combines potentially explosive factors affecting both developed and developing countries.

A recurring theme of the conference was the difference between developed and developing coun-

tries in defining, understanding and tackling corruption.

It was generally acknowledged that ethical commonalities between different cultures and regions could not be assumed and that there are no universal standards as to what is corrupt and what is not.

Local circumstances could affect values and behaviour and deep-seated social norms could not be easily eradicated.

In some contexts corruption could bring about certain benefits and facilitate addressing the needs of people. For example, lubricating a tendering process could bring about much-needed employment to a region.

The "rich corrupts poor" contingent argued that multi-nation-

als and developed countries were perpetuating patterns of corruption and bribery in developing countries. The real victims of corruption were Third World citizens, who needed to be sensitised to its harmful effects.

Another recurrent theme was the much-punited connection between privatisation and corruption. A representative from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development noted how corrupt practices, where seen to affect development by catering for special interests at the expense of public interests, may threaten the legitimacy of privatisation.

Americans at the conference highlighted the financing of political parties as being at the core of corruption and argued for disclosure of all financial contributions received by public representatives and campaigns.

Corruption and violence were cast as the tools of organised crime and a plea was made for matching the resources of the criminals in the fight against corruption.

With UN figures for criminal capital cited as a trillion US dollars, this may be problematic.

In Russia crime and violence have increased. The new market economy has brought with it international organised crime and money-laundering mafias who build ties with elites and businesses, involving the corruption of state officials, to facilitate money-laundering.

Corruption is likely to spread in

periods of transition where there is a conflict of values, a new elite attempts to catch up with the old elite, individual greed overrides social ethics and there is no individual accountability.

Developing countries are more affected by corruption because of their weak economies and lack of political will in dealing with the problem.

The important role of civil society and NGOs, as watchdogs keeping the government to its commitments, as well as media coverage of commercial crimes as a crucial pressure for change, were stressed.

On a practical level, systems, which must themselves be monitored, need to be set up to prevent corruption through establishing clear lines of authority, accountability and responsibility.

Political reform, successful prosecutions of corruption and a vigilant civil society are all required to counter corruption.

South Africa may be up to speed on major legislative developments in the control of commercial crime, organised crime and money-laundering (at least on paper), but we need to acknowledge that we are plagued by the common problems of developing countries, such as minimal resources, inexperienced investigators, a climate of transition, and conflicting values — all conditions in which corruption thrives.

□ Lala Camerer is a researcher for the Crime and Policing Policy Project at the Institute for Defence Policy.

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Campaigner Mazery retires early from Sappi

JAMES LAMONT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Johannesburg — Roland Mazery, the managing director of Sappi Saicor, the dissolving-pulp manufacturer, has left his office two weeks ahead of his official retirement date.

This suggests that the company has bowed to union and political pressure to distance itself from Mazery's international publicity campaign to draw attention

to escalating crime in South Africa.

The office of Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president, and Business Against Crime last week criticised Mazery's campaign to circulate internationally press cuttings from local newspapers to 39 prominent friends of the government in a bid to stop South Africa "falling into anarchy".

They said it would deter foreign investment, but the campaign struck a favourable chord

with many local businessmen.

Bengeza Mthombeni, the general secretary of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu), said yesterday that Sappi had apologised to President Nelson Mandela and that Eugene van As, its executive chairman, had applied for amending with Mbeki.

He also said Ian Forbes, the managing director of Sappi Kraft, had sent Ppwawu a letter expressing Sappi's embarrassment

over the issue. Mthombeni said Sappi had advised Mazery to leave ahead of his retirement at the end of the month.

"Sappi head office asked him to leave," he said. But a Sappi spokesman said that Mazery had accumulated leave owing to him and that he had agreed to take early retirement.

Mazery said from his Durban home yesterday that he had not been asked to leave, but declined to comment further.

Mthombeni said Sappi management had been "very cooperative" in a meeting in Johannesburg on Tuesday and that the company had distanced itself from Mazery's actions.

The company insisted it was not aware of his actions and that they were undertaken in a personal capacity.

The union, which protested against what it considered Mazery's unpatriotic actions, had threatened to strike if Mazery

was not disciplined. Sappi responded that it would not take disciplinary measures against Mazery.

The union has vowed to seek out and expose the businesspeople in the Durban Chamber of Commerce who are believed to have helped Mazery.

"We are calling on the Chamber of Commerce in Durban to expose those people who have been working with him," Mthombeni said.

ET (BR) 12/10/96

(34)

R345-m of gold smuggled out of SA

Star 18/10/96 (34)

London – London is at the heart of a \$75-million-a-year (about R345-million) racket smuggling stolen or otherwise illegal bullion from South Africa which is shipped via Mozambique to Europe, The Guardian reported today.

While much of the bullion has been stolen from mines, some is legitimate, but evading tough exchange control regulations in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, according to industry sources quoted by the daily.

There are also hints that a proportion comes from jewellery stolen by muggers and thieves in South Africa.

Head of the SAPS Diamond and Gold branch, Superintendent Piet Otto, said today the unit had received information on this smuggling racket, but added in-

vestigations were under way with no definite confirmation.

The newspaper claims some of the metal is refined in Britain, often in primitive garage refineries, and ends up in wedding and engagement rings and other jewellery.

The London route is thought by South African police to stretch from an airport in suburban Johannesburg.

From that airport the undeclared gold is flown to neighbouring Mozambique, and then on to Britain where it is refined to hide its origin, The Guardian said.

Five tonnes of gold is thought to have gone along this route during the past year alone – metal which would have a total value of around \$75-million (R541-million).

Illicit shipments of gold to

Britain are expected to decline, at least temporarily, after South African police activity over the past few weeks, the paper noted.

It quoted a Chamber of Mines in South Africa estimate which said some 30 tonnes of gold – valued at over \$350-million (R1 592) were stolen each year from mines in the country.

Press reports in Johannesburg said last month South African police had uncovered a lucrative gold-trafficking ring with apparent links to the government.

The network allegedly bought hundreds of kilograms of gold residue stolen from mines in the Johannesburg area worth R3-million to R7-million each week.

A small plane took the gold to Mozambique where false export documents could be obtained, according to the reports. – AFP.

Let police use drug cartels' assets, says American expert

ET 18/10/96

34

CHRIS BATEMAN

LAWS permitting the seizure of drug cartels' assets and the use of those assets by the police would help them fight druglords on a more even footing, former Atlanta police chief Mr Eldrin Bell suggested yesterday.

Bell, who is on an extended drug fact-finding mission on behalf of US President Bill Clinton, said one of the largest buyers of technology in the US, besides the government, was the drug industry.

"If we are to successfully challenge them we must have technology and new sources of revenue," he said during a visit to the Western Cape Police MEC, Mr Gerald Morkel.

Bell, who retired as Atlanta's police chief in 1984 but still advises the department, is one of the country's most respected law-enforcement officials and serves on numerous national law-enforcement bodies.

He said US intelligence was that Cape Town had become a shipment point to Africa and Europe, mainly for cocaine and heroin from Brazil.

His job was to verify whether ship-

ments were increasing, but inadequate local data made this very difficult.

Bell urged Morkel to increase "problem and research analysis" so that police could act on accurate information — the life-blood of effective policing.

Legal reform to ensure "swift and certain" penalties was needed to counter the frustration of local policemen who faced the "horror" of waiting up to nearly three years for cases to come to court.

The US interest in foreign countries was illustrated by 1994 figures which showed that 303 metric tons of drugs were seized entering the US that year, versus 115 metric tons seized entering other Western countries.

"I will urge our State Department and government to establish mechanisms by which your police and MECs can be made aware of the information I've been working with."

Bell said that in the early hours of yesterday he took the local National Priority Crimes Unit chief, Superintendent Attie Trollip, to "places even he didn't know about". However, he

declined to cite locations for "strategic reasons".

He advised Morkel to introduce laws allowing for ways to check the drug history of people entering prisons. Seventy percent of all people entering US jails have a drug history.

This would give police in South Africa a database to gauge the extent of the drug problem.

Another tack was to introduce strict truancy laws for children as a means of reducing demand for drugs.

Bell rejected the widespread perception that crime had increased dramatically since local democratic elections, saying that five to seven years ago a black life meant "nothing", while intense murder probes focused on white victim cases.

"But all of a sudden life has become important to the same number of police officials.

"They are focused on what is now true crime. Crime reportage is way up," he added.

A law to forbid any public transport operator from carrying a gun would also help reduce taxi violence, he believed.

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APPOINTMENTS

**THE BEST JOB
OFFERS IN SA: YOU
MISS THEM, YOU
MISS OUT**

Loophole for laundering dirty money restricted

WHITE-COLLAR criminals will be colared more efficiently once the new Money Laundering Act is promulgated early next year. The Attorney-General's office will then have the power to freeze the assets of a suspected criminal sooner than in the past.

"In the past, often by the time the case got to court, all the assets had disappeared," says Cape Attorney-General Frank Khan. In many cases, assets were moved offshore or laundered internally. Crimes were under-reported as retrieval of assets for the victim was restricted.

Victims lost control of the situation as they could not have access to relevant documents owing to the *sub judice* rule and couldn't fire a suspect until he was found guilty because of the possibility of industrial action. "Our emphasis will change from being accused-oriented to victim-oriented," Khan says.

In future, the police will be in a po-

WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

By HEATHER FORMBY

STC(BT) 20/10/96

sition, sometimes early in the investigation, to supply the Attorney-General's office with sufficient information to seize ill-gotten gains and conserve the assets even before liquidators become involved. Khan says the power to act almost immediately rather than historically will stop white-collar criminals moving stolen assets offshore or laundering them onshore before the state can retrieve them. The Attorney-General now has greater extradition powers and better ways to retrieve illegal offshore funds.

Kahn believes compensation through the justice system will lead to more reporting of white-collar crimes. Once these are reported, speedy action will be needed. Khan says: "Naturally to perform our duties in the spirit of the Act, we will need more staff."

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MENTARY RECORD

Anti-crime laws threaten to sideline human rights

CT 21/10/96

(34)

SUSIE COWEN and NOBUNTU MBELLE
LEGISLATION MONITORS FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

IN LIGHT of the government's commitment to fight crime, six crime bills have become the focus of activity in Parliament's justice committees. Last month, the committees heard public submissions on the bills. The Portfolio Committee (National Assembly) and the Select Committee (Senate) are now deliberating jointly in a bid to pass the bills before the end of session.

Three bills deal with international co-operation in criminal matters. The Extradition Amendment Bill revises procedures for extradition requests; the International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill aims to assist foreign states to obtain evidence from South Africa; and the Proceeds of Crime Bill aims to create procedures in South African law to confiscate the proceeds of crime.

The Extradition Amendment Bill seeks to simplify extradition procedures, thereby encouraging reciprocity between South Africa and other countries. It does this by removing the need to enter into formal extradition treaties and by limiting the court's role in the extradition procedure. The major point of contention in the committees is a section that provides that a certificate from a requesting country, stating that they have sufficient evidence for a prosecution, is conclusive proof of such.

This debate highlights the problem that, while there is a clear need for simplifying procedures and facilitating co-operation between countries, the bill fails to address key human rights concerns adequately. There is also no clear policy on whether South Africa should extradite fugitives to face cruel and inhumane punishments, such as the death penalty, or face unfair trials. Neither are there clear provisions for ensuring accountability for the minister's decisions. The submission by the Human Rights Committee (HRC) included proposals to deal with these problems.

The fourth bill is the Special Investigations Units and Special Tribunals Bill, which empowers the president to set up investigation units and tribunals to deal with serious government corruption. Some amendments have been introduced by the committees, including those dealing with appointment procedures. Broad agreement seems to have been reached on the bill, although final discussions are still to take place before voting.

The last two bills propose amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act. Although they have not yet been formally tabled in

Parliament, the committees will be finalising deliberations on them early this week. The first deals with police trapping procedures and aims to prevent abuse of the trapping system by setting out the parameters in which evidence obtained would be inadmissible during a trial. It is also made clear that police who engage in unlawful trapping operations will be prosecuted.

Committee members consider trapping procedures to be crucial in combating crime effectively and are thus concerned that the bill, as initially proposed, might have the effect of outlawing trapping entirely. Current deliberations on the bill are thus focusing on defining the minimum standard that the trap ought to comply with to be in line with constitutional provisions.

It is crucial that human rights concerns are given priority so that members of the public do not become innocent victims. Clear provisions should be enacted to prevent further abuse and corruption in the police service, problems that in themselves pose a threat to the safety of the public.

The Criminal Procedure Second Amendment Bill also aims to simplify procedures and targets several provisions in the Act. A key theme in the bill is to ensure that delays in trials are not caused unreasonably. At present, there are approximately 30 000 awaiting-trial prisoners, some of whom have been waiting for up to 18 months. The HRC has recommended that there should be an investigation into trial delays after three months have lapsed.

Other matters dealt with in the bill include legal representation, plea bargaining, transfer of cases between courts, giving evidence through closed-circuit television, providing proof of undisputed evidence and the admissibility of confessions.

The justice committees will be meeting every day this week in Committee Room G26. They are expecting to finalise the bills by Friday, to be passed before the session ends on November 8.

It is crucial that key human rights concerns are not sidelined in the rush to deal with crime and to meet these deadlines. In considering South Africa's constitutional requirements and the standards set in other constitutional states, it is hoped that the committees will give due regard to the impact of these laws, in promoting and fostering a human rights culture in South Africa.

Institute for a Democratic South Africa, the Human Rights Committee and Black Sash have jointly set up the Parliamentary Monitoring Group to monitor parliamentary committees. Monitoring is done by volunteers.

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NEWS

Business body denies it played a part in international publicity campaign

Chamber and Mazery 'not linked'

JAMES LAMONT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Johannesburg — The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry denied at the weekend that it had played any part in the publicity campaign orchestrated by Roland Mazery, the former managing director of Sappi Saicor, after a union called on it to expose members who had participated in the initiative.

Rob Stretch, the president of the chamber, said "the chamber of commerce was not at all involved" in the international campaign to alert 39 friends of the government to the growing lawlessness in South Africa in an effort to press the government to fight crime.

He said the chamber did not support Mazery's actions, preferring to participate in national initiatives like Business Against Crime. But he said it shared some of his concerns. Stretch was responding to a call from the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union for the chamber to come forward with the names of its members who are believed to have assisted Mazery.

Bengeza Mthombeni, the union's general secretary, said on Wednesday that the union would press the chamber to expose members who he believed were still undertaking publicity campaigns. "Our focus should be on the Durban Chamber of Commerce. We should isolate the people doing this sort of thing."

Stretch said no-one in the chamber's management was involved with Mazery's campaign. "We were not involved at all with Mazery, but he kept us informed of what he was doing, just as he did president Nelson Mandela."

He said it would be impossible for the chamber to single out possible campaigners from its 7 000 members. Geoff Tyler, the chamber's chief executive, said last week that there were members who would associate themselves with the campaign, though the chamber would neither bless nor condemn what Mazery had done in his personal capacity. Mazery, who argued that his campaign was utterly transparent, said last week he had received the sup-

port of other Durban businessmen. He said he knew of three or four other businessmen in KwaZulu Natal who were conducting similar campaigns, but he declined to identify them.

The South Africa Foundation, which represents South Africa's 50 largest companies, recommended over the weekend that crime "be presented in the right perspective and that the serious light in which the matter is being regarded by government and society as a whole, including the business community, be explained abroad".

It said that although frustration with crime was understandable, people should contribute to finding solutions rather than merely criticise.

(31) CT (682) 21/10/96

Corruption remains 'a danger' to SA's fledgling democracy

Kevin O'Grady

22/10/96

(34)

(201)

ALTHOUGH corruption featured in SA's new order just as it did in the old, the country now had constitutional institutions to prevent it being overwhelmed by corruption in the same fashion as many other African countries, DP Gauteng leader Peter Leon said at the weekend.

Speaking at the International Bar Association's human rights conference in Berlin on Saturday, Leon said that halfway through the ANC's first term in office, government "can be proud ... that SA ... is today an emerging democracy with the full panoply of constitutional protection for its citizens".

An independent judiciary, a relatively independent media and a vigorous civil society had all contributed to SA's transition from "international pariah to the darling of the developing world", he said.

But as SA prepared itself for the post-Mandela transition, "worrying clouds have appeared on our democratic horizon".

These included rampant crime, high unemployment levels and an economy "grappling with the transition from natural resources to services that our post-industrialised world demands".

Other worrying aspects of SA's transition included the "deskilling" of the public service through affirmative action appointments and early retirements, a lack of effective governance at all levels of government and a culture of entitlement among the new elite in both the public and private sectors.

But it was in the area of corruption that SA, as an emerging democracy, was most vulnerable.

While corruption was not unique to the developing world, it tended to have a much more debilitating effect in emerging democracies in the developing world than in mature democracies in the developed world, Leon said.

While neither group could afford corruption, developing nations could afford it least, he said.

Since the early 1980s, SA had a "watered-down version of the ombudsman" in the form of the advocate-general but it was only since the adoption of the interim constitution on April 27 1994 that a public protector with constitutionally assured independence and impartiality took office.

Although the number of complaints received by public protector Selby Baqwa's office had increased by about 400% — from 69 cases in June last year when he was appointed to 289 cases in August this year — Baqwa had found he had no jurisdiction in almost 50% of the complaints.

Only 5% of the cases were held to be well founded and in about 10% of cases no further action had been taken, Leon said.

These figures gave the impression corruption was on the decrease but the opposite was true, Leon said, citing examples of former welfare minister Abe Williams's resignation, the Sarafina 2 affair and the amount of customs fraud and police corruption.

For this reason it was important the constitution provided that the public protector be appointed and removed only by a two-thirds majority vote in the national assembly.

Mokaba's crime figures slated as misleading

Safe tourist image sought

ANDREW SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

34
ARG 24/10/96

Deputy Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba has been accused of luring tourists to South Africa with misleading statistics that indicate crime is concentrated in only one percent of the country.

Mr Mokaba said last week at a workshop in Mauritius to promote South Africa as an international tourist destination that crime was concentrated in the inner cities of Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

Professor Johan Prinsloo, head of the University of South Africa's Criminology Institute, branded Mr Mokaba's comments as "completely misleading" and said they would attract visitors to South Africa under false pretences.

"To judge crime levels based on areas where crimes are committed is not an objective approach to ascertaining the true levels of crime," said Professor Prinsloo.

He said the statistics stemmed from the Government, which feared it was not relaying an impression of control to the outside world.

Such statements could be dangerous for tourists, who could now feel safe if they stayed out of the central city areas.

"Look at the Nieuwoudtville flower murders or the tourists raped and assaulted in the Transkei," said Professor Prinsloo. "Both occurred far away from any city."

The one percent statistic was also misleading because few of the crimes in rural areas and townships were reported.

Director Thane Heath of the South African Police Services said that although the police had identified the city centres as the "national priority areas", crimes were committed throughout the country.

"We have set up tourist points throughout the country and have conducted a campaign to sensitise tourists to the facts of South African crime," he said.

Mr Mokaba responded by saying he wanted to create a positive image for South Africa to counter the country's international image of being crime-ridden because the police could not be relied on to stabilise the situation.

"We can't wait for the police to improve their policing before we improve tourism," he said.

Mr Mokaba admitted that the one percent statistic could be misleading. "It could be misleading if looked at in terms of the population but I don't think it is misleading if one looks at crime in terms of the areas where crimes are reported," he said.

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Fear of crime 'a bigger enemy than crime'

(34) of 25/10/96

ONLY 28% of South Africans believed the government had the crime situation under control, the Human Sciences Research Council said yesterday.

But, it said in a statement, the fear of crime could become an even bigger enemy

to civil society than crime itself.

"Only 10% of the respondents in a countrywide survey conducted by the HSRC in July this year indicated that they had in fact been victims of crimes."

It found that 44% of the respondents in

the survey said they felt safe. This reflects a sharp reduction in confidence from a poll shortly after the April 1994 general elections, when 73% considered themselves safe and 67% believed the government had the situation under control.

"High levels of fear usually cause a chain reaction. This results in people withdrawing from community life (making use of public transport to a lesser extent, no longer permitting their children to walk to and from school)." — Political Staff

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We'll fight crime the way we fought

(34) ARG 26/10/96

Johannesburg - A total effort would be made to combat the high crime rate in Gauteng - in the same way as the armed struggle was a total effort against the apartheid state, Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale said here.

Addressing a group of people involved in the fight against crime, including members of the judiciary, the SA Police Services, the Department of Correctional Services and businessmen, Mr Sexwale said

skills of the past would be used in a different capacity.

"We are two years in government, exactly the same time as the president of the country. Simply two years. We know very little about governance, quite simply because we have never governed before.

"But something that we know very well, something that we used to do before we came into power, is organising, campaigning, mass action," Mr Sexwale said.

He said these tools would be used to rally various sectors of the community to build a partnership against crime, just as they were used against the apartheid state.

"It was a total effort. And that's how we see this campaign against crime: a total effort."

Mr Sexwale outlined government's seven priorities with regards to crime for the remaining months of this year and 1997.

They include: targeting the six areas of crime namely murder, armed robbery

drugs, hijacking, white collar crime, rape and child molestation; a move towards more pro-active policing with a strong emphasis on investigation; a tightening of court procedures and appropriate sentencing and the improvement of a victim support programme.

Where the provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation

the Gauteng legislature would co-operate with the Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, Mr Sexwale said.

"He'd better listen to our advice as we are sitting in the epicentre of crime."

He urged all sectors of the community to co-operate and said the National Crime Prevention Strategy aimed to look at public values and education.

"The Government cannot work in a vacuum, assuming that a problem as per-

sive and sizeable as crime can be controlled alone. Successful collaborations at the provincial level include our work with Business Against Crime ... which resulted in the donation of 100 vehicles to the Gauteng's highway patrol unit."

Other programmes included inner city renewal and transforming Johannesburg into a "police city", where SAPS members would live and work in the city centre. - Sapa

apartheid - Sexwale

Govt cracks down on salary fraud

John Dlodlu

HARARE — Eastern Cape's government would stop using the electronic payment system within the next two months to clamp down on teachers fraudulently drawing salaries, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said last week.

The case involved hundreds of "ghost teachers" who continued to draw salaries from government without offering any lessons, Mbeki told the International Herald Tribune conference on trade and investment. He said the province had uncovered "ghost teachers" — people who drew salaries from the state although they did not work — and said the practice appeared to be the legacy of the previous regime.

Mbeki disclosed the move to clamp down on corruption soon after the KwaZulu-Natal public accounts committee established a team of "ghost-busters" to track down 36 000 fictitious public servants who had drained the provincial fiscus of about R1,5bn.

On Friday Eastern Cape director-general Thozamile Botha said a sample of 10% of the province's teaching profession had found that 152 "teachers" were being paid although they did not work for government. He expressed fears that the scale of corruption could be extensive.

An estimate of the cost could not, however, be obtained.

Botha said a tender would be put out for accountants in the next month to help the province uncover the extent of corruption and to conduct a massive head count.

Public servants would be asked to physically collect their own salary

cheques at the end of each month to verify their existence.

The investigation by independent accountants would also identify the culprits, although both Botha and Mbeki said this appeared to be part of the baggage they had inherited from their predecessors.

While it was relatively easier to detect corruption within the education department, it was difficult to do so in the welfare department, where monthly grants continued to be paid out to people who did not exist.

"Corruption in welfare is a sophisticated system of fraud. It is not easy to detect," Botha said.

Provincial sources said the problem of corruption appeared to be worse in provinces which had inherited the former bantustans, where controls were lax or non-existent.

Eastern Cape, which brought together public servants from the former Cape provincial administration and the Transkei and Ciskei homelands, was also facing problems in implementing plans to reduce its public service and improve conditions of service.

Botha said the province had discovered that the number of bureaucrats seeking severance packages had suddenly soared to nearly 2 000 from 1 000. This was due to the fact that people who had been given posts in the rationalised provincial bureaucracy had now applied for severance packages, he said.

It was not immediately clear how much the taxpayer would have to pay if the superfluous public servants also had to be cut loose from the public service with severance packages.

(34)

BD 28/10/96

Ministers ask for more money to fight crime

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — The three government departments dealing with crime are to approach the treasury to request an increase to their budgets for the 1997/98 financial year, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said yesterday.

Omar said he, Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi were underfunded for the fight against crime.

Omar said he was aware that government was committed to reducing the deficit, but without dealing effectively with crime, the goals of the reconstruction and development programme would be imperilled.

All three departments were involved in programmes to improve the effectiveness of their spending.

But Omar said, like the moratorium on the hiring of new policemen, that he was unable to appoint additional prosecutors to deal with crime because of budget constraints.

"For our society, too little money has been set aside for our criminal justice system," he said. Omar said the president and cabinet recognised the spending on crime needed to be boosted, "but I would like to see it translated into spending".

Parliament's justice committee chairman Johnny de Lange argued for more flexibility within the justice budget, saying a dedicated fund should be established to deal expeditiously with crisis situations.

There were situations where the

department could not wait for next budget cycle to make adjustments, for example where more prosecutors were required in a particular area to deal with a surge in cases.

Omar said because most of the public's interaction with the justice system took place in the magistrates' courts, a major management system revision was under way.

This would involve, among other things, management being devolved from Pretoria to clusters of about 40 magistrates' courts.

BD 30/10/98

(34)

'Crime hits less ⁽³⁴⁾ than 2% of tourists'

CRIME REPORTER

Star 31/10/96

Less than 2% of international tourists to South Africa have become victims of crime while visiting the country, according to a South African Tourism Board (Satour) international market survey.

Further research indicated that most incidents were of a petty nature and could have been avoided if basic safety precautions had been followed.

According to Satour, most of the crime which occurred in South Africa, including that committed by People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) on the Cape Flats, occurred in areas which were not key tourist areas.

Satour chairman Peter Swartz warned, however, that continuing crime and violence in the country could have a negative effect on the tourism industry.

"Tourism is an extremely fragile industry, and potential tourists are becoming increasingly concerned about personal safety and security in the country," Swartz said.

He pointed out that a decline in overseas tourism to South Africa would lead to thousands of job opportunities and millions of rands in foreign exchange being lost.

The poor perception of personal safety in South Africa was a direct result of the general crime and violence problem in the country and the negative publicity afforded such incidents of crime, and not necessarily a reflection of the reality of crime committed against tourists, Swartz added.

He said while police statistics might indicate crime was in fact on the decrease, Satour and various other bodies were doing everything possible

to address the problem of personal safety.

In November last year Satour and the Department of Environmental Affairs were instrumental in establishing the Tourism Safety Task Group (TSTG).

Representatives from the police, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Airports Company, the Department of Justice, the Tourism Business Council of South Africa and Business Against Crime also serve on the task group.

Actions taken by the task group to combat the crime problem in SA in-

Tourists weren't in the crime centres

cluded the following:

■ A database of actual incidents of crime committed against tourists was developed and would be used to formulate appropriate strategies to combat crime.

■ A brochure on safety tips for tourists was published and would be distributed as widely as possible to incoming foreign tourists. The first batch of brochures would be distributed this month at the Johannesburg international airport (JIA).

■ A tourism ambassador project was in the planning stage and would in all likelihood be launched before the end of the year. The project entails tourist assistants who would provide tourist information in key areas and would initially be launched at JIA. The police have also established special Tourist Protection Units in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

A 'neighbourhood watch' is needed to fight corruption in southern Africa

Corruption remains one of the greatest deterrents to foreign investment in southern Africa. A co-ordinated regional initiative is called for to stamp it out, argues John Diudlu

IN 1994 a luxury vehicle belonging to the ANC was stolen. An alert announcing the theft was broadcast in various media and within 18 hours the car was recovered. The car had been issued to Thabo Mbeki, then ANC chairman.

Deputy President Mbeki told this story to international investors and his political counterparts in southern Africa last week to illustrate the point that corruption in state organs — such as the SAPS — continues to worry investors eyeing Africa as a destination for their capital. Fortunately for Mbeki and the ANC, the car did not — like many others — wind up in "corrupt" police car parks before being passed on to stolen vehicle syndicates. He said police corruption undermined government's efforts to deal effectively with crime and this had to be addressed.

Corruption, notably within African governments themselves, came out as one of the main areas of concern among prospective investors at the trade and investment conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, organised by the International Herald Tribune.

Like money laundering, corruption has become a sophisticated business. One of the large-scale forms of corruption which directly affects investor perceptions about a country is the award of state contracts. This is illustrated by the furore that resulted from the manner in which Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's administration awarded a contract to Malaysian firm YTL Corporation to refurbish and expand the Hwange thermal power station in Zimbabwe. Normal procedures were reportedly



CROCKER

bypassed. Disclosures that Transnet has waived normal tendering procedures in awarding a multimillion-rand scrap metal contract to Xisaka, the firm in which the SA Railway and Harbours Workers' Union has a stake, does not show SA in a positive light.

At the conference, US foreign commercial service director-general Lauri Fitz-Pegado called on the 12 governments of the Southern African Development Community to ensure transparency in the way that bids are awarded for infrastructure projects. Corruption has severely tarnished

the image of Africa in the eyes of the Western world — the major source of investment.

Speaking as a private citizen, former US assistant secretary of state for Africa Chester Crocker said although southern Africa was now a "more open, transparent and clean place" to do business, "performance in these regards remains quite uneven across the region". He warned that neither local nor foreign investors would risk capital if they thought "awards and contracts were warped by political favouritism or improper dealings". Other forms of corruption result

from cases in which political parties or politicians act as "unofficial investment centres", advising investors, mainly foreigners, on where to invest their shareholders' capital.

However, the blame for corruption cannot be placed squarely on governments' doorsteps. The private sector, which dishes out financial favours to corrupt state ministers and regulatory authorities, is equally responsible and, therefore, whatever measures are taken to stamp out corruption should involve business directly, or at least have its full backing.

While Mbeki's address was largely aimed at signalling to potential investors that Pretoria was engaged in efforts to deal with official corruption, perhaps the time has come to mount a southern African "neighbourhood watch" against corruption.

Models of such regional co-operation initiatives already exist in southern Africa. These include the conflict resolution mechanisms and the campaign against money laundering under the development community.

The grouping would be a suitable forum to house such a structure which would have to work closely with national and international law enforcement agencies.

An anti-corruption campaign will be less controversial than the ambitious trade liberalisation project under negotiation by the development community's trade diplomats, and, therefore, easier to launch. Funding for such initiatives should also prove easier to secure from donors and multilateral financial institutions which are concerned about corruption.

(314)

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31/10/96

Bill ensures criminals will be forced to pay

Wyndham Hartley

(34)

BD 1/11/96

CAPE TOWN — Money confiscated from criminals as a result of the Proceeds of Crime Bill, which was approved along with four other "crime" bills in the National Assembly yesterday, should be put in a dedicated anti-crime fund, ANC MP Johnny de Lange said yesterday.

De Lange, who chairs the National Assembly's justice committee, which has laboured along with its Senate counterpart for the past six weeks to get the five crime Bills approved this session, said that a rapid response fund would enable funds to be instantly available.

He said that at present a problem identified as needing instant funding not provided for in any of the criminal justice department budgets would have an 18-month wait for money to be provided through the annual Budget.

The five Bills establish new extradition laws, allow entrapment in an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act, tighten up the law governing the proceeds of crime and money laundering, and create special investigating units to combat corruption, and needed funding for viable implementation.

● Forensic audit now underway to stem corruption

(34)

Thieves hit state institutions

ARG 2/11/96

JILYAN PITMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Thieves are still stealing from state hospitals and other government institutions – including Parliament – but serious efforts are afoot to stem the tide of corruption and a forensic audit is now underway in three state hospitals.

Hospital administrators commissioned outside consultants in May to find out whether ongoing theft and now fraud was occurring in the engineering, catering and pharmacy departments of Groote Schuur and Tygerberg hospitals and Victoria Hospital but a final public report is still to be submitted.

In September it was reported “thieves were plundering the corridors of power” and thousands of rands of personal belongings, from microwaves to laptop computers, were stolen from Parliament.

Now it seems nothing has changed except that serious theft of expensive items has increased.

“About R50 000 worth of goods has been stolen from inside Parliament since November last year,” said superintendent of buildings Themba Nkosi.

“There is definitely an increase in serious theft – computers and technical equipment – since the previous year and petty theft of purses, money and clothing. The theft of other items under R1 000 each in value remains more or less constant so

there is no decrease discernible yet in petty theft.

We don’t have figures for the period before 1994 so we can’t make a comparison between before and after democracy.”

Mr Nkosi said there had been no convictions because nobody had been caught in the act. Police, he said, are still investigating reports of theft.

“This is the most accessible Parliament in the world and about 120 000 different people move in and out of the building

‘There are no body searches ... and this is why new systems have to be looked at’

every year.

“There are no body searches only security systems at the front door and this is why new systems have to be looked at. With openness theft has gone up.”

He added the most unusual “disappearance” was of a pot plant during the night on July 30 this year and copper ridgings stolen from the roof of Parliament on June 27 this year.

Head of media relations for the Provincial Administration, Mark Hill, confirmed that R341 000 worth of goods was stolen from three academic hospitals, nine regional hospitals, 98 day hospi-

tals, 35 community hospitals and 85 clinics administered by the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape in the 1995/96 financial year.

“The issue has been taken seriously by the department because 187 people were convicted of theft. It is a small percentage given about 30 000 people are employed by the department.”

Chief director of regional services Gilbert Lawrence who is in charge of several large hospitals as well as mental hospitals and dental hospitals, said the forensic audit is an effort to be open and transparent.

“We were concerned that maybe large scale theft and fraud syndicates were at work but so far the report does not show this. We asked the consultants to check our controls and systems and their recommendations will follow. There are areas we know we can improve in.”

Dr Lawrence said the audit was done on two large hospitals and one smaller one to make comparisons and audits in other hospitals will follow.

“There is no simplistic answer to corruption because hospitals are public places where all kinds of people have access for different reasons and there are many entrances and exits,” he said. “We called in outside consultants because we are taking the matter very seriously.”

Concerned employees at Groote Schuur Hospital welcome the audit, since they say theft is still very widespread.

The staff appear to be appropriately located with some reservations. In 1996 the department was planning to close its satellite office at Airport Industria and relocate in Nyanga and to open a centre at Kayelitsha. This seems eminently sensible. Depending on the direction in which policy moves and changing industrial patterns it may become necessary to strengthen administrative

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Distinguished target: Parliament has been hit by a spate of thefts recently with about R50 000 of goods taken in a year

Administrative Staffing

Table 3

Administration is located as follows.

Programme 1: Administration

Some aspects of labour legislation were progressive in design when enacted but discriminatory in application. The capacity of the Department to execute its functions with increased demand and with profoundly differently nuanced policy requires careful assessment. *Human Resources are allocated between the following programmes*

Emphatic calls for iron-fist approach

Star 4/11/96

(34)

Survey respondents overwhelmingly in favour of bringing back the death penalty, better pay and training for police, and stiffer bail conditions

By GRAHAM REES

New demands for an iron-fist approach to crime and criminals have emerged from a survey conducted jointly by The Star and one of the country's biggest financial institutions, Nedcor.

The results of the survey, released today, show that Greater Johannesburg residents across racial, social and economic sectors want the Government to pump far more of the national Budget into fighting crime - for greatly improving police pay, conditions and training; ensuring greater police visibility; building more high-security prisons; and making troops available to help the police.

The survey again showed massive public support for the re-introduction of the death penalty - something that has been flatly rejected by the Government.



Internet Web site.

Of the respondents, 89,9% voted in favour of capital punishment with 78,8% indicating "strong" support for its re-introduction.

More than 83% said they wanted substantial tightening of bail conditions.

Most respondents favoured improving police salaries and training - 77,2% "strongly agreed" to this while another 21,2% simply "agreed".

The majority supported introducing visible police and troops

About 7000 people responded to the questionnaire, which was published in The Star last month and also circulated on Nedcor's

on the streets - 76,5% "strongly agreed" and 21,1% "agreed" (a total of 97,6%).

Punishing police corruption severely and dismissal from the service was demanded by 97,9% of respondents.

Even though 78,6% agreed to the Government permitting private security officers to make arrests, there was a fair amount of resistance to this approach (20,3% against it).

Others involved in the crime survey were the Post Office, which provided a Freepost service for replies; Nedbank, Permanent Bank and People's Bank country-wide; and SABC Radio, which will be broadcasting the findings.

The results of the survey will be forwarded to Parliament for the attention of the relevant cabinet ministers, all of whom were aware that the survey was being carried out.

Off with their hands, NP provincial congress is told

The hands of criminals should be chopped off, the National Party's Gauteng congress heard in Johannesburg on Saturday.

Speaking in support of a motion calling for stronger action against crime, Benoni delegate Salaam Abraham said more than the return of the death penalty was required to deter criminals. "We demand further action, like

chopping off the hands of criminals," he said.

NP MP Sheila Camerer expressed reservations about the idea. However, Abraham's proposal was an indication of the frustration people felt about the high crime level, Camerer said.

Delegates sharply criticised the Government for ignoring surveys showing that SA's majority want-

ed the return of the death penalty. These included more than 70% of ANC supporters. Annelise van Wyk from Pretoria called for crime to be criminalised.

The congress unanimously endorsed a proposal that signatures be collected for a petition of no confidence in Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte. - Sapa

Crime rate unreliable guide

CT 12/11/96

(34)

LABELLING Cape Town or Johannesburg as "top" crime cities in the world gives a false picture. Such comparisons ought to be taken with a pinch of salt says **PROFESSOR WILFRIED SCHARF**, Director of the Institute of Criminology at UCT.

DRAWING comparisons is easier said than done, particularly international comparisons. Some of them increase the figures, others decrease them, and there is always a big residual question: Who is the opposition, and is it even possible to compare ourselves with them? Even if we succeed, of what use are the comparisons on their own?

Now if this may seem a typically academic approach, to question the question rather than answer it, the following points should make it apparent that the comparisons are fraught with difficulties.

South African reported crime statistics have until now excluded the former TBVC states. They will only be added to the national figures next year. That will make our figures higher, but in all likelihood will drop our crime rate dramati-

cally. The crime rate is the crime count per 100 000 of the population.

The Nedcor study on Crime, Violence and Investment, published in June, illustrates the dilemma of international comparisons: It states that SA's recorded crime rate is 5 651 per 100 000, which places us on par with countries such as Norway, the US and France. But according to Nedcor, that still places SA (and other achievers in this category) way above the world average of 2 662 reported crimes per 100 000.

Should we feel good that we as a country in the upper average of developing (read Third World) countries has achieved the same distinction in crime as illustrious First World countries to which some South Africans wish to emigrate?

Once the former TBVC states have been added are we going to be even better than the US, France and Norway? In all likelihood the answer is yes if one takes the crime rate as the sole measure of comparison, but that hides a lot of other problems which have to be factored into the bland figures.

Does the world average of 2 662 include the countries that prefer not to publish crime statistics (eg Zaire), have not the capacity to gather, analyse and publish statistics (Angola, Mozambique and many others), are at war and therefore have better things to think about than gathering and publishing crime statistics?

In 1994 a count of countries in Africa that were at war or were experiencing civil-war situations was 40. Even if they did manage to gather crime statistics, would the kills and injuries of war count as murders and assaults or would they fall into a category that does not make happy comparisons with the routinely published statistics? My guess is they would not appear at all in anything that their criminal justice systems publish.

The curious situation in SA was that many of the killings in Natal and other local theatres of the liberation war (and its aftermath) have appeared in the statistics as murders because officially there was no war. To its credit the Nedcor study does warn the reader to be careful of taking the figures at face value because France, Norway and the US are much better at collecting statistics than we are.

Another problem of international comparisons is that many countries have different categories, or gradations of categories of crime. For example, from mid-1997 South African crime stats will reflect domestic violence in its own right, whereas it was historically embedded in the common assault category. I won't elaborate on other similar examples, but there are many.

Once most of my criminological colleagues have waded through all the obligatory warnings about the difficulties of comparing international crime statistics they proceed to compare them nonetheless, arguing that it's better to compare what there is than compare nothing at all.

So the Nedcor study goes on to focus on murder rates, citing SA as falling into a much less exalted set of peers, such as Colombia and the Bahamas. The SA murder rate of 45 per 100 000 is compared with the world average of 5,5. The dramatic explanatory accompaniment is that South Africa is probably the most murderous society on earth ... only the Bahamas has a higher reported murder rate than South Africa, with the notorious Colombia coming close.

I am not trying to trivialise the seriousness of our violent crime, which all South Africans believe to be unacceptably high. I am suggesting that the international comparisons should be treated with the necessary circumspection, and considered to be only one, if a poor point of reference. Other layers of information and analysis need to be overlaid in order to contextualise and provide a more informed understanding.

Sensationalist media accounts seldom have the interest, the time or the sophistication to do so. Mark Shaw does just that in a sound overview of the SA crime scene in 1995, citing studies that have contextualised violent crime patterns geographically and in terms of race and class.

One such study comes to the depressing conclusion that violence is highly concentrated among the poor part of our population. Whites were victims of only 4,2% of reported rapes and 2,8% of murders. Although the figures are drawn from 1988 statistics it is likely that the same conclusion would be reached with fresher figures.

In another study, Glanz dispels one perennial myth about metropolitan versus rural crime patterns in the Western Cape, citing that January to June figures in 1994 and 1995 as proving that the rates for common and aggravated assault, as well as murder, were higher in the rest of the province than in the Peninsula.

International comparisons are useful as a starting point for discussion. They reflect crime information gathering patterns in different countries more than the actual occurrences, and they favour the more technologically advanced countries with attention.

So decision-makers who wish to decide whether SA is a good political ally, a safe place in which to invest or to travel, a country with which one should do business, a country worthy of international loans, a country to whom one should sell the toys of war, a country worthy of hosting Olympics, all turn to the crime statistics and rates to help them make their decision. I hope they are aware of the shortcomings and draw on other sources as well.

me

five (5) years

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ORCHESTRA

Visionary crime prevention strategy

CS 14/11/96

(34)

THE National Crime Prevention Strategy is one of the most visionary strategies the government has developed yet. Today **PROFESSOR WILFRIED SCHARF**, director of the Institute of Criminology at UCT, begins a series of three articles which will evaluate the strategy.

THIS country has never had a crime prevention strategy. Let alone a national one. Nor was the previous government interested in developing one. The NCPs document, released in May this year, is one of the most impressive and visionary strategies the new government has developed yet and could put us in a position to respond to crime in ways which were not possible before.

It brings about a mind-set shift in several respects: First, there is the welcome and belated realisation that confronting crime needs a comprehensive and sustained strategy rather than occasional responses to crises. If the causes of crime, opportunities for crime, investigation mechanisms, prosecutorial and punishment policies are developed in a co-ordinated fashion, we may turn the tide.

Crime is no longer being viewed as solely a security issue, but also as a social issue. It informs all the types of interventions that look forwards to prevent crime, rather than looking backwards, to react to crime. To date most of our interventions have been after the fact — while that is necessary to signal to law-breakers that there are going to be certain (and hopefully swift) consequences to their

committing a crime, it has to be combined with interventions that address the causes and opportunities as well.

A comprehensive plan means all government departments, at all levels, have to become involved in developing plans to contribute to the anti-crime strategy. This is a huge undertaking since there is no systemic culture of co-operation between government departments at a national level. This is arguably the most difficult part of the plan to achieve, and requires a substantial culture-change among director-generals, cabinet ministers, and civil servants whose mind-set has been shaped by their own specific departmental needs, and budgetary constraints.

The crime prevention strategy imposes on all of 11 key departments the obligation to design their agendas in terms of the strategy, and demonstrate annually what they have done to make substantial contributions to reduce crime.

It has been suggested that the RDP principle ought to apply to the National Crime Prevention Strategy, namely that budgetary allocations to government departments be dependent partly on the degree to which they comply with the

strategy. However, the cabinet wasn't ready yet for such an idea.

Second: The new vision links crime prevention inextricably with economic and educational development and the generation of stronger (and sometimes new) community values. As far as development is concerned the NCPs is inextricably interwoven with the Growth and Development Strategy.

At school level this will result in civics courses becoming compulsory in schools, although the exact length of time has not yet been finalised yet. There is a possibility that the last two years of primary school and the first two years of secondary school will become the years in which the values of citizenship and making a positive contribution to the community will be encouraged.

Third: The NCPs acknowledges that the victims of crime have been badly neglected in the past and commits the government to taking victims' needs seriously. This is a welcome shift in emphasis, but needs to go beyond the mere statement that victims have been neglected. Victim support schemes are expensive and require specialised skills. This is probably an area in which the state will encourage the NGO and welfare sectors to play the primary role.

Fourth: The comprehensiveness of the plan means that the state is only one, albeit an important player in the enterprise. All other sectors of our society are invited to become partners in making their sustained contribution to preventing and confronting crime.

Plans, policies, visions and strategies are one thing. SA has generated with impressive speed and generally speaking, to a high level of quality over the past two years. But the new government has not shown yet

that it has the managerial capacity to implement systems that involve both state and civil society structures. We cannot

afford to waste time in this enterprise or allow it to get bogged down in meetings.

A related fear is that the national Crime Prevention Strategy has not been seen as a budgetary priority. Setting up new crime prevention initiatives and systems will be expensive. If the necessary funds cannot be found there is little hope that the much-heralded strategy will fly. Business will want to see that the government has the resolve, determination and financial commitment to the plan before it commits itself in meaningful numbers.

We do not have the luxury to let this opportunity slip by, because there may be a point at which turning the tide against crime may no longer be possible.

**CAPE TIMES**
Bid against crime.

DP proposes radical plan to crush crime

By RAY HARTLEY: Political Correspondent

34
ST 17/11/96
THE Democratic Party yesterday proposed a radical overhaul of policing and the criminal justice system "to add value" to the national crime prevention strategy announced by the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, earlier this year.

The 34-page policy proposal, entitled "Winning the War Against Crime", calls for local policing, the privatisation of prisons, boot camps for young offenders and a new anti-crime fund to pay for better policing and prosecution.

It argues that South Africa should follow the international trend towards locating policing under the auspices of local authorities.

Community policing forums, which the DP describes as "failing", should be replaced by crime prevention councils in local government and legislation should be tabled to allow local authorities to establish their own police services.

Cities should draft "safety charters" listing concrete objectives in the fight against crime, such as "reducing car theft in an area by 10 percent over a six-month period".

"Establishing city police services is now a priority — all the required policy work has been completed — yet the public have yet to see additional officers on the beat," the document says.

President Nelson Mandela should call together South Africa's mayors to "impress on them the urgency of the plan" and they should in turn report back to the President on progress at half-yearly intervals, the document says.

Because 51 000 of the 122 000 criminals in prison are under the age of 25, a new "boot camp" for juvenile offenders should be established.

Offenders should have to spend between 90 and 180 days in harsh military-style training and would be put to work cleaning parks and pavements and doing local government chores.

"The most appropriate institutions available in South Africa would be old military training bases," the document says.

Prisons should be privatised and prison services should be outsourced, following the example set in Britain, where the private sector will be designing, financing, constructing and managing new jails.

The DP proposes minimum sentences for drug traffickers and automatic life sentences — without the prospect of parole — for second offenders found guilty of attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, assault, armed robbery or rape.

The DP also proposes a new national academy to improve the capacity of the criminal justice system by raising the quality of investigative work and improving co-ordination between investigating officers and prosecutors.

The academy would train detectives, prosecutors and local authority crime prevention officers, granting them "recognised diplomas or degrees" on graduation.

To pay for these reforms, the DP suggests a national anti-crime fund be established and individuals and corporations be allowed to make tax-deductable donations.

This, along with a "small tax or registration fee" for private security firms, would give the fund the ability to supplement crime prevention budgets.

The party also proposes the abolition of the ministries of sport, tourism and environmental affairs. This, it says, would lead to a saving of R373-million — money which could go to the fund.

The great escape

Northern Province has lowest rate of violent crime in SA, say statistics

By PETER De IONNO

IT'S NO secret that Gauteng's crime-weary citizens believe a safer life is to be found in fairest Cape Town or some far-flung province.

But they are mistaken.

The latest police statistics on violent crime countrywide reveal that the most dangerous province in South Africa is, in fact, the sprawling Northern Cape.

And there is a greater chance of dying violently in the Western Cape than in Gauteng.

The figures, released to the Sunday Times this week, show that although the total number of crimes in the Northern Cape lags behind those for other provinces, its people face a greater chance of being murdered or raped than they would living anywhere else in South Africa.

In the first six months of this year, a total of 43,3 people in every 100 000 in the province were murdered — compared with 36,3 in every 100 000 in Gauteng.

And 101,9 people in every 100 000 were raped, versus 85,5 in Gauteng.

As if this was not bad enough, the Northern Cape was outranked only by Gauteng and the Western Cape when it came to burglaries.

Gauteng reported 550 house-breakings for every 100 000 people, the Western Cape reported 507,7 and the Northern Cape reported 365,2.

Despite its laid-back ways and popularity among tourists to South Africa, the Western Cape takes second place as the murder province because of violence, say analysts.

A total of 40,8 people in every 100 000 were murdered in the province between January and the end of June — 4,5 more than in Gauteng.

Third came Kwazulu Natal, with 36,6 murders for every 100 000 people, a total of 3 265 for the first six months of the year.

The safest place from crime, the statistics show, is the Northern Province — unless you are suspected of witchcraft.

Attacks on suspected witches presented the most serious criminal threat in the province.

Only 8,1 people in every 100 000 were murdered, and the rates of

rape, assault and robbery were up to five times lower than in the rest of South Africa.

The good news is that murder is on the decline. The statistics found that 27,7 in 100 000 people were murdered countrywide in the first half of 1996 — down from 30,8 during the corresponding period last year and 33,1 in the first six months of 1994.

Police analysts attribute the high murder rate in the Northern Cape to an extraordinary high number of serious assaults.

A total of 863,8 in every 100 000 people in the province were assaulted, more than three times the number in Gauteng and double that in the Western Cape.

The analysts attributed this to "a subculture of drug and alcohol abuse associated with the striving towards achieving a macho-man image".

In Kwazulu Natal, the high number of murders is blamed on faction fighting and political violence, while in Gauteng, organised crime is considered the culprit.

While the murder rate is declining slowly, rape is on the rise

around South Africa.

The figures show 56,4 cases of rape and attempted rape for every 100 000 people countrywide in the first half of this year, compared with 51,9 last year.

The safest province from this crime is the Northern Province, with 27,9 women in every 100 000 raped.

The major metropolitan centres of Gauteng and the Western Cape are the focal points for property crimes other than stock theft and shoplifting, reporting house-breaking figures almost double the national average of 292,8.

The fewest number were reported in the Northern Province where, despite the general absence of burglar bars and high-profile security, there were only 104,6 cases for every 100 000 people.

Robberies at gunpoint are most common in Gauteng, where a staggering 12 143 cases were reported in the six-month period, more than five times the number in any other province.

Gauteng also reported five times more bank robberies than in any other province.

(34) (301) (265) ST 17/11/96

democracy in SA.
The DP's chief constitutional negotiator, Colin Eglin, said yesterday the

would be to simply "sack President Nelson Mandela without reference to the legislature or the voters who elected him to office".

the assembly was referred back to the instruction that a competent framework required setting out "at the very least" the different

again on the basis of the "empty" still did not provide sign, structures or fi Assembly course

DP's proposals on fighting crime welcomed

Pearl Sebolao

THE safety and security department yesterday welcomed Democratic Party (DP) proposals for fighting crime, saying they were "a departure from the reactive and unhelpful way the crime debate has been approached thus far".

Safety and security secretary Azhar Cachalia said he had referred the DP proposals to the national crime prevention strategy team for assessment. He particularly welcomed the strong emphasis on cities and towns becoming the central focus of crime-prevention initiatives.

However, he said the proposal to have community policing forums replaced by crime-prevention councils would have to be carefully considered against the problem of trying to make the police service more accountable to locally elected structures.

Cachalia said he also welcomed proposals for the establishment of a national anti-corruption agency which would root out corruption in certain areas of government such as the criminal justice system.

This, he said, would form part of a broader government study into corruption which was expected to begin early next year. Yesterday President Nelson Mandela

expressed support for the National Economic Development and Labour Council's conference on crime and violence which starts in Johannesburg tomorrow.

Mandela said that in order to provide a climate for investment, growth and job creation all South Africans had to make a focused and concerted effort to bring crime under control and reduce it to a minimum.

At the launch of the Don't Do Crime campaign in Johannesburg Mandela said government was making laws to catch criminals and was determined to turn the criminal-justice system into an "effective and certain instrument against crime".

Summit thrashes out deal to tackle crime at its roots

Society must be mobilised, says Naidoo

ESTELLE RANDALL
LABOUR REPORTER

Johannesburg - A high-powered meeting of representatives of organised labour, business and community organisations today resolved to implement practical, grassroots programmes against crime and violence.

The conference was organised by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) and the Department of Safety and Security.

Speakers included Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi, Nedlac executive director Jayendra Naidoo and President Mandela, the keynote speaker.

Police commissioner George Fivaz also

(34) ARG 21/11/96
took part in discussions to thrash out practical programmes.

"Crime affects the lives of all citizens, whether it is violent or white-collar crime," said Mr Naidoo, opening the conference.

He said the gathering was telling the country that crime was a battle that was not only up to government to fight.

"It's a battle in which the resources and power of all society representing millions of people is also being mobilised."

He said the conference recognised what had already been done and was designed to build upon and strengthen current anti-crime initiatives and strategies.

"Civil society has a crucial function in developing ideas, values, attitudes and in influencing the behaviour of citizens in general. Immobilisation of civil society

played a key role in delivering political democracy. This is just as crucial now in building up institutions of democracy," he said.

Mr Naidoo said no authority could succeed unless there was an environment where people respected the authorities.

He said this had to be developed because attitudes to law and crime had been shaped by the history of subversion of the role of law as an instrument of apartheid, and by defiance by the majority of unjust laws.

"Very few South Africans, if any, can say they have never broken a law in their lives. To build a new culture of respect for the law requires determination and commitment by leadership and vigorous efforts on the part of the authorities," he said.

Government to root out corruption

Stephen Laufer (34)

20 22 11 96
GOVERNMENT was committed to rooting out corruption in the criminal justice system, and more police had been arrested and charged since the 1994 election than during the whole of the apartheid era, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Addressing a National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) crime and violence conference, Mandela said 278 police officers in KwaZulu-Natal and more than 400 in Gauteng had been charged with murder, theft, corruption, robbery and defeating the ends of justice, between July 1994 and June this year.

He cautioned that although progress in the fight against crime was visible on many fronts, the battle would not be won in the short term despite increased efforts by government.

Business plans for 11 key programmes, which the national crime prevention strategy had identified as critical to improved policing, had been approved, and the projects were being implemented, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi told the conference.

They included a crime information management system linking police, prosecutors, courts, and correctional services; an automatic fingerprint identification system; a R33m programme to build secure care facilities for children accused or convicted of crimes; and better management of crime scenes and dockets.

Mufamadi said his department would issue a safety and security white paper next year.

□ Sapa reports that Business Against Crime appointed Eric Tocknell as its first full-time MD yesterday.

'Most serious crimes declining'

(34) Star 26/11/86

Worry as incidents of rape increase; Mufamadi pledges support for an end to moratorium on employing more police

By **ANSO THOM**
Crime Reporter

Police experts have forecast a drop in crime to a level in line with international statistics over the next three to five years.

The prediction follows an announcement that the national murder rate for the first eight months of this year fell by 9,6% in comparison with last year.

At a briefing in Pretoria yesterday, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said national levels for most categories of serious crimes had dropped or stabilised during the first two-thirds of this year.

Police said the prediction was based on two pillars: that

various serious crime tendencies were already showing a considerable decrease, and factors inhibiting crime were steadily outweighing factors conducive to it.

According to police statistics compiled by the Crime Information Management Centre, for the period January to August, only four of the 20 serious crime categories did not show a noteworthy decrease in cases per 100 000 of the population.

The categories that continued to increase were rape, other robberies (petty), other thefts (petty) and illegal possession of firearms.

"The increase in rape is a worrying finding and this warrants urgent action by the SAPS and the criminal justice system

more generally," Mufamadi said. He said the crime figures were significant in providing the first year-on-year comparisons for these crime categories for all of South Africa, including the former homelands.

Mufamadi pointed out that the statistics referred only to reported crime - not to arrests, convictions or sentences.

He identified the following factors as reasons for the decline in serious crime categories:

- Use of special investigative teams throughout the country, particularly in crime flashpoint areas such as KwaZulu Natal.
- More effective use of scarce resources - the retraining and redeployment of police so that more officers are on the streets

doing policing.

- Improved crime intelligence - most serious crime is not the result of freak incidents.
- Better civilian co-operation - community policing forums are proving to be an important tool in this regard.

■ Focused Police Plan programmes, such as Operation Urban Strike in Gauteng - although Mufamadi conceded that such operations sometimes only displaced crime and pushed it into new areas.

- Attacking syndicates - a small number of people were behind a large percentage of serious crime.

According to the quarterly report, a number of factors were provided to explain the inci-

dence of crime in South Africa. These included the high levels of population growth, rapid and high levels of urbanisation, loss of the subsistence economy and support systems, ineffective policing, a penal system not providing sufficient deterrent value, the existence of international smuggling networks, the influx of millions of illegal immigrants, and political instability and violence.

Mufamadi said he believed the time had come to reassess the moratorium on recruitment and increase the size of the police service. He said the Government was committed to ensuring the moratorium was lifted following a report submitted by Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

It's high noon for SA in crime fight

ET 27/11/96

(34)

WHAT HAVE SA'S "SHERIFFS" done to tame the "Wild West" we are living in? In the first article in a two-part series, Democratic Party law and order spokesperson DOUGLAS GIBSON outlines the party's practical solutions for winning the war against crime.

SOUTH AFRICANS will be forgiven for believing at times that the arrival of the new South Africa has ushered in a life similar to that of the Wild West. All around us we hear of hijackings, people carrying guns or being involved in shoot-outs. And we also hear of extraordinary feats of heroism in the face of violence which is of a casual and almost incidental kind.

We hear stories of great savagery and we realise that right outside our own doors the writ of the law often apparently fails to operate. Many people have had their cars hijacked as they draw up at their garages — fight at the portals of their homes.

But what have South Africa's "sheriffs" done to tame the "West"? Our Minister of Justice is forced by the rampant criminality to flee his home for a safe house. Our government's National Crime Prevention Strategy brilliantly analyses the nuanced socio-economic causes of crime but does little to wage the war on the streets.

Our police service publishes its first Police Plan, which contains an eloquent analysis of the problem but is equally short on solutions. Our law enforcers are challenged by vigilantism in the Western Cape under the guise of impatience with a lack of law enforcement. Our sheriffs are failing their citizens.

The typical Western movie is about the good man who does not want to fight. He gets pushed into it because of injustices and finally as a good man he cannot stand idly by, for he — and the film — has a very clear idea of an underlying moral law and he has to respond. This good man is either the sheriff or someone who musters support for the law in some sense.

SA'S 57 deaths per 100 000 in 1995 were six times that of the United States. Last year's 21 000 crime fatalities were double the vehicle accident deaths.

The Democratic Party is offering the hand of assistance to the beleaguered sheriffs of South Africa's Criminal Justice System (the ministers of Justice, Correctional Services and Safety and Security). We hope to work hand-in-hand with the relevant ministries to win the battle against crime.

The Democratic Party's plan titled "Winning the War Against Crime: Practical Solutions" is the vehicle we aim to use to become the proverbial "man who brings support to the law". An opposition party cannot continuously hound the Government and point out its shortcomings and yet not offer credible alternatives.

The DP has positioned itself as a critic —

sometimes a harsh critic — and an innovative party of ideas, eager to do more than just rant and whinge. We are presenting a series of policy initiatives on crime which we hope will contribute to the debate and set the tone for the next few years. This is what effective opposition is all about.

We have every confidence that this document offers a significant contribution to the fight the Government and the SAPS are waging against criminals. It is innovative and original and applies some of the best practices from around the world to South Africa's particular problems.

It offers not only ideas but, as its name suggests, practical solutions, legislation and funding proposals to attack criminality and lawlessness.

Crime affects all South Africans, of all races and at all levels of society. Therefore, it is not a partisan issue, not one for scoring political points and not one any of us can ignore if we believe in the principles of accountability and the rule of law.

The approximately 21 000 crime-related deaths that occurred in 1995 outnumbered deaths from motor vehicle accidents by two to one. South Africa is a leading country when it comes to crime casualties.

Our figure of 57 deaths per 100 000 in 1995 is nearly six times that of the United States. Every day 2 500 South Africans require hospital treatment for stabbings, beatings or shootings.

Our 34-page policy document has four principles which form the bedrock of all our policy proposals. The principles are:

- The focus of crime prevention should be at local and not national level.
- Provision should be made for the



HOUNDED FROM HOME: Even Minister of Justice Dullah Omar found South Africa's rampant crime and violence too hot to handle and fled his house for a safer haven.

effective punishment of offenders and for adequate support of the victims of crime.

- Appropriate and practical measures need to be implemented now to prevent the complete breakdown of the criminal justice system and to improve the capacity of its agents.
- Mechanisms need to be adopted which can ensure greater accountability through the system and clearer objectives to enable appropriate measurement of its performance.

Crime not only injects fear, misery and suffering into people's lives; it warps the entire fabric of society. Crime undermines our economy and discourages foreign investment and tourism and will do so until we stamp it out.

The time has come for all political parties to co-operate to counter this insidious disease. We can no longer afford to squander our energies. If the country is to survive the duel with crime a collective effort is crucial.

Survey highlights perceptions of crime

Business Day Reporter

PEOPLE in the Western Cape have a greater perception of crime being on the increase than those in Gauteng, where many residents feel the situation is improving.

This is indicated by Market Research Africa's (MRA) first crime study, undertaken exclusively for Business Day.

It found that 41% of Gauteng respondents felt the province was more peaceful than a year ago, and 38% believed there was less violent crime nationwide than last year. In the Western Cape, only 14% of respondents thought their area was more peaceful.

The survey, conducted in July, was part of MRA's regular Multibus Survey. Interviewers visited 2 497 households, drawn from MRA's computerised dwelling unit census. The sample was divided into 1 253 males and 1 244 females and covered black, coloured, Indian and whites, aged 16 years and older.

Respondents were asked to think back to this time last year and say whether their area was more peaceful, less peaceful or the same. Then they were asked whether there was more, less or as much violent crime in the country as a whole.

Participants lived in metropolitan areas, towns and villages throughout SA. Live-in domestic workers and mine workers were excluded.

"Only 25% felt their area was less peaceful than last year. The black sample was really optimistic, with almost 55% feeling that their areas were now more peaceful," said MRA MD Hanna Fourie. "These views were equally divided between men and women."

"However, this feeling of improvement was echoed by only 9% of the white sample, in which 59% believed things were much the same. The Indian sample (56%) shared the view that crime has stayed much the same." The coloured community had the second lowest figures (17%) in terms of perceived improvement, and the high-

est (38%) in terms of deterioration. Coloured people were drawn from Cape Town, Durban, East London, Gauteng, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, therefore not swaying any particular provincial result.

Fourie found it interesting that the perceptions of areas remaining the same or improving were not tied to areas traditionally perceived to be violent. In Gauteng, 73% of respondents thought the region had made headway or stayed much the same, with only 26% believing otherwise. KwaZulu-Natal had equal views on improvement or stability, at 39% in each category. Eastern Cape, another "hot spot", showed 41% of respondents believing things were the same and a further 28% that things were more peaceful.

The Western Cape came up with the lowest "positive" score, with less than two people out of 10 seeing the province as more peaceful. Northern Province and Mpumalanga were the most optimistic with almost six out of 10 people believing the area was less violent.

"The survey seems to contradict the widely held belief that the Western Cape is more peaceful than Gauteng," said Fourie. In the Western Cape 71% of the people felt there was more violent crime now than last year, compared to Gauteng (45%).

"Finally, it is obvious that perceptions about peacefulness and violence were also linked to affluence. In households with incomes of less than R500, about 59% thought their neighbourhoods were more peaceful and that violent crimes were decreasing country-wide. Contrast this with the views in households earning monthly incomes of more than R5 000, 75% of whom felt that violent crime had increased. This would suggest that violent crime is now more profit-orientated than political in its motivation," said Fourie.

Gauteng police statistics released last week indicated that crime levels, particularly hijacking, robberies and attacks on homes, had decreased substantially since the launch of operation Sword and Shield in mid-June.

(34) 60 2711196

Fraud fears escalate

(34) M+G (BM) 29/11-5/12/96

South African companies are tightening security measures as the incidence of white-collar crime increases, reports

Madeleine Wackernagel

SOUTH AFRICAN businesses have the highest expectation of fraud in the world, according to a new survey by the international consultancy, KPMG.

In the second survey of its kind to be conducted in this country, KPMG found that 66% of respondents had experienced some kind of fraud in the past year, 88% believed incidents of fraud to be on the increase, and 62% saw it as one of the biggest problems in business today.

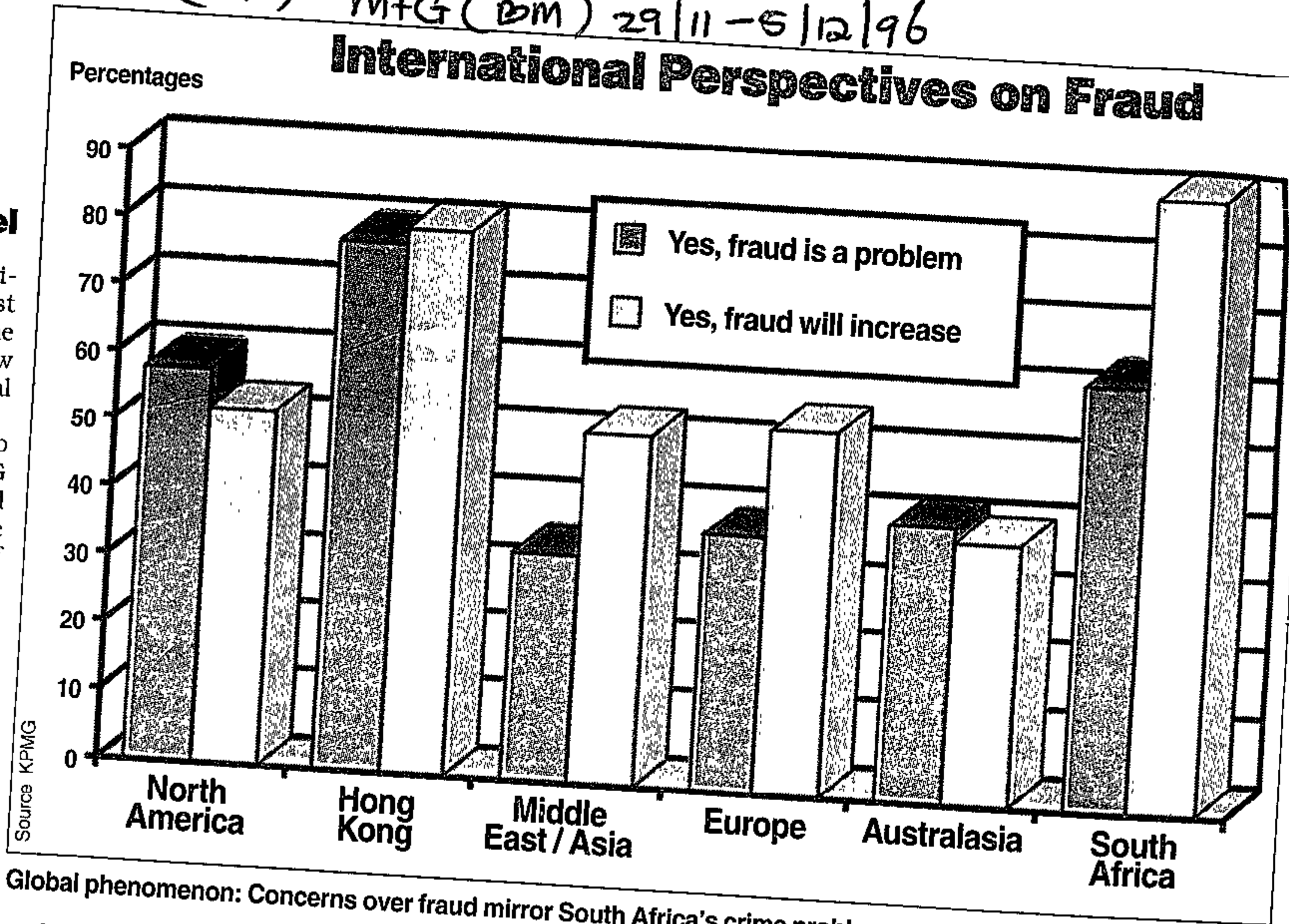
The reasons given for this increase in white-collar crime were a weakening of social values (75%), economic pressures (70%) and inefficiencies in the justice system (66%). Other explanations included lack of government intervention, not enough emphasis on prevention and detection, more sophisticated criminals and insufficient penalties.

But of the 1 000 businesses targeted in the survey, only 129 replied. Says Petrus Marais of KPMG's investigative unit: "Many big corporations see fraud as an internal matter; there is a natural reluctance to broadcast such problems."

"In addition, no one single person handles such issues in the large companies, so it takes a lot of work on their part to co-ordinate all the information needed to accurately respond to our questionnaire," says Marais.

Nevertheless, reported fraud cost more than R186,6-million in the past year — although many respondents believed this to be a conservative and unreliable measure.

External fraud, defined as product theft, false representations, extortion/blackmail, bribes, false invoices



Global phenomenon: Concerns over fraud mirror South Africa's crime problem

and credit-card misuse — the biggest culprit, with 1 400 instances — accounted for the majority of fraud cases (57%), while incurring 25,1% of the total financial loss reported in the survey.

Employee fraud cost companies the most (70,8%), while clocking up 39,9% of occurrences, with inventory theft top of the list (380 cases).

Management fraud was fairly innocuous by comparison, coming in at 3,1% of occurrences and 4,1% of cost. False financial statements, abuse of expense accounts and unnecessary purchases were the top offences.

Interestingly, although a high percentage of respondents claimed to be aware of the risks of fraud, 14% of cases were discovered only by accident.

Internal controls caught up with

40% of offenders, while 28% were down to a targeted investigation by management; 22% owing to notification by another employee, and 19% owing to customers blowing the whistle.

KPMG says most companies had already established anti-fraud measures but felt more initiatives were necessary to counter the growing problem.

John Louw, chairman of the investigative accounting division, recommends the teamwork approach, involving external auditors in conjunction with management and internal auditors through audit committees, as well as risk-management processes.

A starting point in the fight against financial crime is double-checking on new employees, following a corporate

code of conduct and tightening internal controls.

One of the most surprising aspects of this year's survey, says Marais, is just how many respondents (about 60%) reported incidents to the police, despite a widespread lack of confidence in the judicial system.

"This could be because the police are now prepared to register complaints without an affidavit being lodged, and because the King Commission's report on corporate governance has heightened awareness among company directors of good practice."

Because of the small size of the sample in the first survey conducted in 1994, comparisons would be invalid, says Marais, but KPMG hopes the next survey will trawl an even greater number of South Africa's biggest companies.

SA white-collar crime cleanup

Belinda Beresford

(34)

ED 29/11/96

THE investigation of white-collar crime is to be boosted next week by the launch of an SA branch of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) in Johannesburg.

The ACFE aims to provide certified anti-fraud training courses to both state employees and the private sector, in conjunction with the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Bursaries for training and sponsorship to attend conferences will be provided for nominated members of the SA Police Service and prosecutors out of consultancy and training fees paid by business.

Bart Henderson of the local ACFE branch, said inadequate training and lack of understanding had resulted in a lack of aggressive investigations into white-collar crime.

Training material from the US would form the core of the training programme.

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED

FM 29/11/96

It would be comforting to believe the police's claim that most serious crimes declined or stabilised this year compared with 1995 and 1994.

"We think the worst has bottomed out," said Safety & Security secretary Azhar Cachalia at Monday's presentation of the SAPS's first quarterly crime report, which is to be a regular feature.

"Crime will probably decrease to a level acceptable relative to the international crime scene over the next three to five years," say the report's authors.

Positive words. Indeed, the civic-mindedness and zeal of the new police management is itself cause for optimism. For their own morale and effectiveness, and that of investors and the public at large, the police need to show success.

But, alas, the crime statistics are not very convincing. They do not show the percentage of crimes solved or successful prosecutions. They reflect only crimes known to the police — which, in cases such as rape and commercial crime, are notoriously underreported.

The Institute for Defence Policy's Mark Shaw, one of three analysts hired by the police to give an independent assessment of the statistics, cautioned that the fluctuations were too slight and the period of comparison too short to draw any firm conclusions.

The reported incidence of 16 of the 20 most serious crime categories declined or stabilised this year. Murder dropped 9,6% to 37,4 cases per 100 000 population in the first eight months of 1996, from 41,8 in 1995 and 43,4 in 1994.

Similar drops were recorded for attempted murder, business burglary, shoplifting, vehicle theft, arson, drunken driving and drug crimes. Crimes that showed little or no movement were: assault (serious and common), residential burglary, stock theft, theft from vehicles and commercial crimes in general.

Reported crimes that increased were: rape (up nearly 20%), other robbery and theft and illegal possession of firearms.

Information-gathering and evaluation have been speeded up from a lag time of

about six months to under six weeks, says police information management centre director Chris de Kock. But he's the first to admit that there's much room for improvement.

De Kock illustrates this by pointing out that the police have no data about the causes of more than 90% of the murders

reported this year (see chart). He intends to rectify this by compiling a criminological code list to evaluate and relate crimes to social phenomena.

Taxi and hostel violence, car hijackings, bank robberies and gang warfare grab the headlines, he says, but these probably account for no more than 15% of all murders. He suspects that the vast majority of murders, rapes and serious assaults are closely linked to domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and interper-

sonal conflict.

Another surprise in the report is that the largely rural Northern Cape has the most murders, rapes and assaults of any province. It recorded more than twice as many serious assaults this year as the runner-up, Western Province, while crime-racked Gauteng registered only fourth place after Eastern Cape.

These statistics defy the received wisdom that violent crime is closely associated with urbanisation and obviously requires closer examination.

Perhaps the best news was Safety & Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's assurance that government intends to increase the size of the police service and is committed to lifting the moratorium on police recruitment.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz has completed a staffing analysis, and Mufamadi will discuss the proposal with the Finance Ministry before taking it to Cabinet for approval.

Lifting the moratorium would not mean simply hiring and training new police officers, Mufamadi says. It will also involve upgrading the skills and training of existing officers, freeing desk-bound

MOTIVES FOR MURDERS

Reported Jan-Jun 1996



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White-collar fraud veiled by poor policing

(34) ST(BT) 11/12/96
CRIME

A LACK of confidence in the police force and the criminal justice system has effectively veiled the extent of white-collar crime in South Africa, but most of the respondents to the latest KPMG fraud survey believe that financial crime will increase in the next 12 months.

Petrus Marais, managing director of forensic and investigative accounting at KPMG, says the commercial branch is currently investigating financial crime amounting to R7,8-billion, "but as only 53% of the respondents reported these crimes to the police, the figure could be substantially higher".

Other actions taken by companies against fraudsters include immediate dismissal, disciplinary hearings, internal investigations or a claim against the insurance company.

KPMG makes the point that although 1 000 questionnaires were sent out to large corporations, only 129 of these responded, indicating a reluctance to publicise their experiences or an inability to quantify the extent of white-collar fraud.

Two thirds of the respondents, however, said they had fallen victim to fraud and lost, in total, R186-million last year.

Compared with other countries surveyed by KPMG around the world, "southern Africa has by far the highest perception or belief (88%) that fraud will increase next year".

A similar percentage have listed fraud as a major problem facing business today.

By DON ROBERTSON

Surprisingly, 77% of the respondents claim they understand how fraud occurs, yet they blame collusion between employees and third parties as well as poor internal controls.

Up to 19% of respondents said that when "red flags" pointed to fraudulent activity, they were either ignored or not acted upon quickly enough.

Although fraud by employees was reported in 39,9% of the cases compared with 57% in the case of outsiders, the value of internal theft was substantially higher at 70,8% compared with 25,1%. By all accounts, managers appear to be quite clean, committing only 3,1% of cases, and accounting for only 4,1% in value.

Only 10% of the respondents said they had experienced fraud in trade with countries overseas, but 30% said they would avoid trading with some countries because of the possibility of fraud in these regions.

Survey finds drivers collude in truck theft

Jacqui Pile 4/12/96
A SURVEY of more than 27 000 trucks across SA has found a high degree of collusion by drivers in the theft of vehicles and freight in the trucking industry.

The survey, carried out by a motor vehicle research organisation, The Marketing Shop, highlights the increased risk of theft at unforeseen stops in townships and fast food outlets, as well as in lay-bys where drivers sleep.

An insurance industry source quoted in the survey said that in the assessment of insurable risk in the transport sector, drivers accounted for 60% while the remaining percentage rested with the condition and maintenance of the vehicle. Among other factors raising the insurance risk were the low levels of education, literacy, skill and road awareness of many truck drivers. It noted that many drivers were in charge of vehicles costing up to R500 000 and freight with a value of between R250 000 and R500 000.

As countermeasures, the insurance industry suggested careful driver training and a move towards better record keeping. Accurate pre-employment checks were essential on all potential drivers and the use of polygraphs was also recommended.

The survey found that 15% of stolen vehicles were hijacked. There was also strong evidence that the rate of vehicle hijackings and theft were increasing.

'Irregularities' uncovered in security board probe

Kevin O'Grady 4/12/96

LEGAL action, possibly including criminal charges, could flow from the results of a forensic audit of the affairs of the Security Officers' Board which are to be released soon, an auditor said yesterday.

Patrick Ronan of Ronan, Smit & Associates, which has been involved in the investigation and would not give details of the findings. However, he said the investigation had "uncovered gross irregularities with regard to the administration" of the board.

Board member Don Masterson said the findings were "of such a serious nature they have led to the suspension of two senior board executives", referring to last week's suspension of registrar Frans Lubbe and assistant finance registrar Thuis Redelinghuys.

Ronan also disputed allega-

tions by Lubbe that his suspension followed an appeal to the safety and security ministry to set up an independent commission of inquiry into unaccountable expenditure by board members.

He also denied "gravy train" allegations levelled at board members, including three Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards appointed to the board.

Ronan said that the investigation into Lubbe and the board's secretariat had preceded Lubbe's submission to the safety and security ministry.

He said he had seen evidence that productivity was at a high level since he started performing secretarial and administrative functions for the board in April. He agreed with board vice-chairman Joe Matshappa's comments that Lubbe's allegations against the three union members on the board were racially motivated.

R15,7m trust set up for land commission

BD 4/12/96
PRETORIA — A land restitution trust fund worth R15,7m over three years had been set up to bolster the budget for the activities of the Restitution of Land Rights Commission, it was announced in Pretoria yesterday.

Trustees of the fund said: "The commission is now 18 months old and it has become clear its consti-

Cut graft for Beira to succeed, says banker

HARARE — Southern African governments need to cut bribery and corruption to create an effective environment for investment in their private regional Beira Development Corridor, a leading banker said yesterday.

David Zausner, a corporate finance manager with the Merchant Bank of Central Africa, told a two-day conference that security and exchange control concerns were also key constraints to attracting capital to turn Mozambique's Beira sea route into a regional development corridor.

"Control of corruption is a major concern. Key financial constraints are security, functionality and exchange control understanding," he said.

"The way forward lies with central governments getting together and creating the right kind of environment," De la Fargue said.

Officials of the Beira Corridor Group, which organised the conference, said they had no estimate yet of the initial capital needed to expand the corridor's road, port and rail network.

But the group's managing director, David Zausner, and other speakers stressed the region's private sector was crucial to securing the capital as southern African governments faced mounting budgetary constraints and dwindling donor aid.

He said investment security constraints could be overcome through clarification of rules governing the corridor and support from central banks through clear exchange controls on investments.

De la Fargue said the timing of the corridor was right, with the region now enjoying peace.

Beira would also offer a cheaper route than SA for most regional companies. — Reuter.

BD 4/12/96

Popcru in campaign against crime

Jacqui Pile

BO 11/12/96 34
IN AN effort to curb increasing crime in townships, the Police and Prisons Civil Rights' Union (Popcru), and the Soweto community, will launch a campaign against crime on Saturday.

The campaign will involve educating people on reporting crime to the police, participating in local community police forums and against buying stolen goods.

After the launch in Soweto, the campaign will be broadened to other areas and continue until crime is reduced to an acceptable level.

"We hope to build a positive rela-

tionship between police and communities in townships," said Gauteng provincial secretary James Makapane.

Makapane said that he wanted people to unite against crime and to be aware that Popcru was there to protect them. Popcru was calling on police officers to "do everything in their power to combat crime so that communities can go back to leading normal lives".

Representatives of both the Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte and the provincial police commissioner Sharma Maharaj's office will join Popcru and SA Police Service members at the launch which will take place at Orlando Stadium.

Gangsterism & Drugs — possibly influenced by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Qibla — is showing little inclination to get in line with official approaches to its targets, despite being accorded a dignity and importance it may not deserve.

Last week Omar met Pagad leaders in the parliamentary precinct in what seemed to be an official gesture of acceptance and goodwill.

Safety & Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Correctional Services' Sipo Mzimela were at the meeting, as were Western Cape premier Hennis Kriel and senior police officials. The main structural outcome was a proposed Pagad-government liaison committee to be chaired by Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn.

At a media conference afterwards, Pagad chief commander Aslam Toefy said the anticrime body would continue to march masked

and armed whatever the law said, and reiterated demands that the police supply it with lists of drug offenders and suspects. The marches occur twice weekly by night and often result in violence or upheaval.

Pagad also intends marching on Cape Town airport on December 16, and to revisit the Waterfront where one of its members was shot and killed (*Current Affairs* November 8).

Pagad insists it needs the masks to prevent identification by gangsters, and that the guns are licensed. Omar said little at the media conference except that he had not noticed some of the Pagad leaders in the same room were masked. "I do not divert the importance of the meeting by paying attention to issues like those."

The Democratic Party lashed out the symbolism of the police and the Ministers responsible for law and order dealing with an organisation that has proclaimed its intention to break the law.

DP leader Tony Leon pointed out that Omar, who was forced to leave his home by Pagad militants, "seemed oblivious to both the masks and the unmasked leader of Qibla (Imam Achmat Cassiem) sitting near him . . . Cassiem and his group are promoting an Islamic State in SA and believe that a secular government is illegitimate and it is therefore justifiable to take the law into one's own hands."

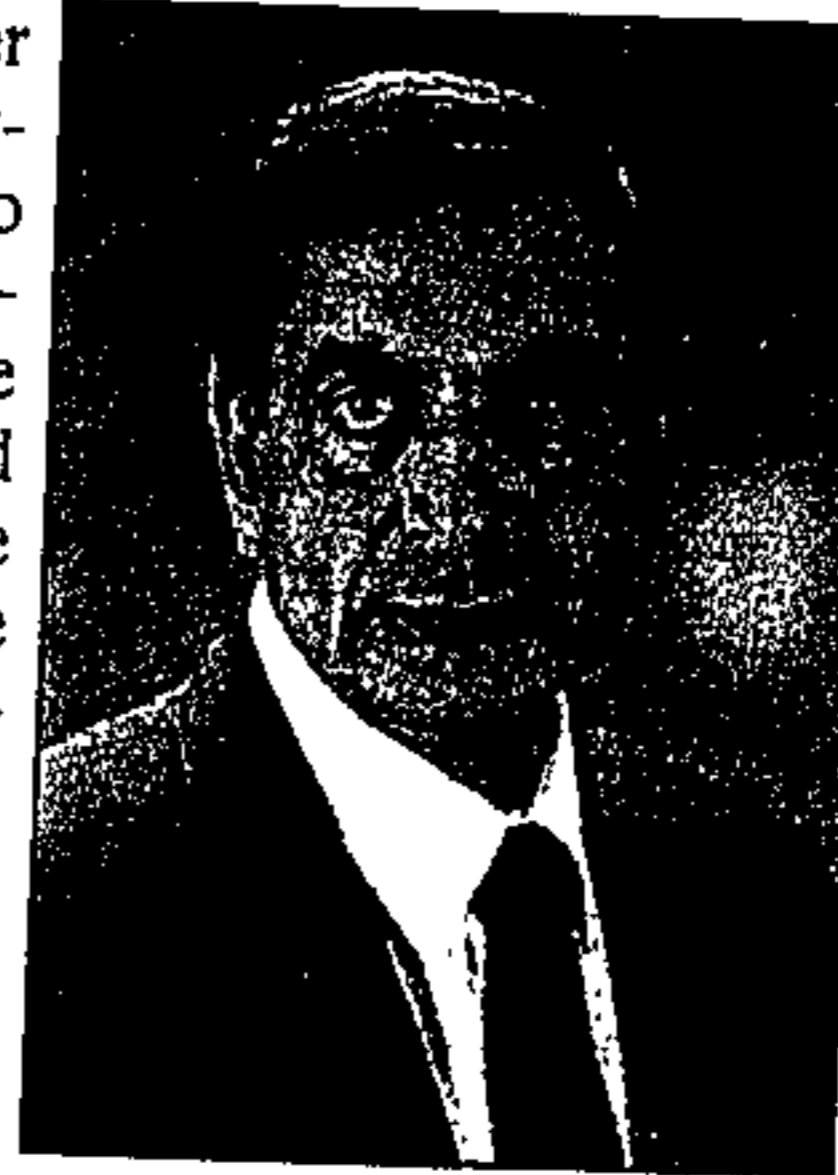
There was little to indicate that Omar and his colleagues had gained anything from the meeting. At the weekend, speaking in Khayelitsha, President Nelson Mandela further weakened Omar's initiative by stating that Pagad had "overstepped the limits." Demonstrations at the airport and Waterfront would not be allowed — "or at any other place (where Pagad is) likely to damage or undermine the tourist industry."

With Omar at his side, Mandela was unequivocal: "One thing we will not allow is people walking in the streets with firearms — licensed or otherwise — and we will not allow people to wear masks."

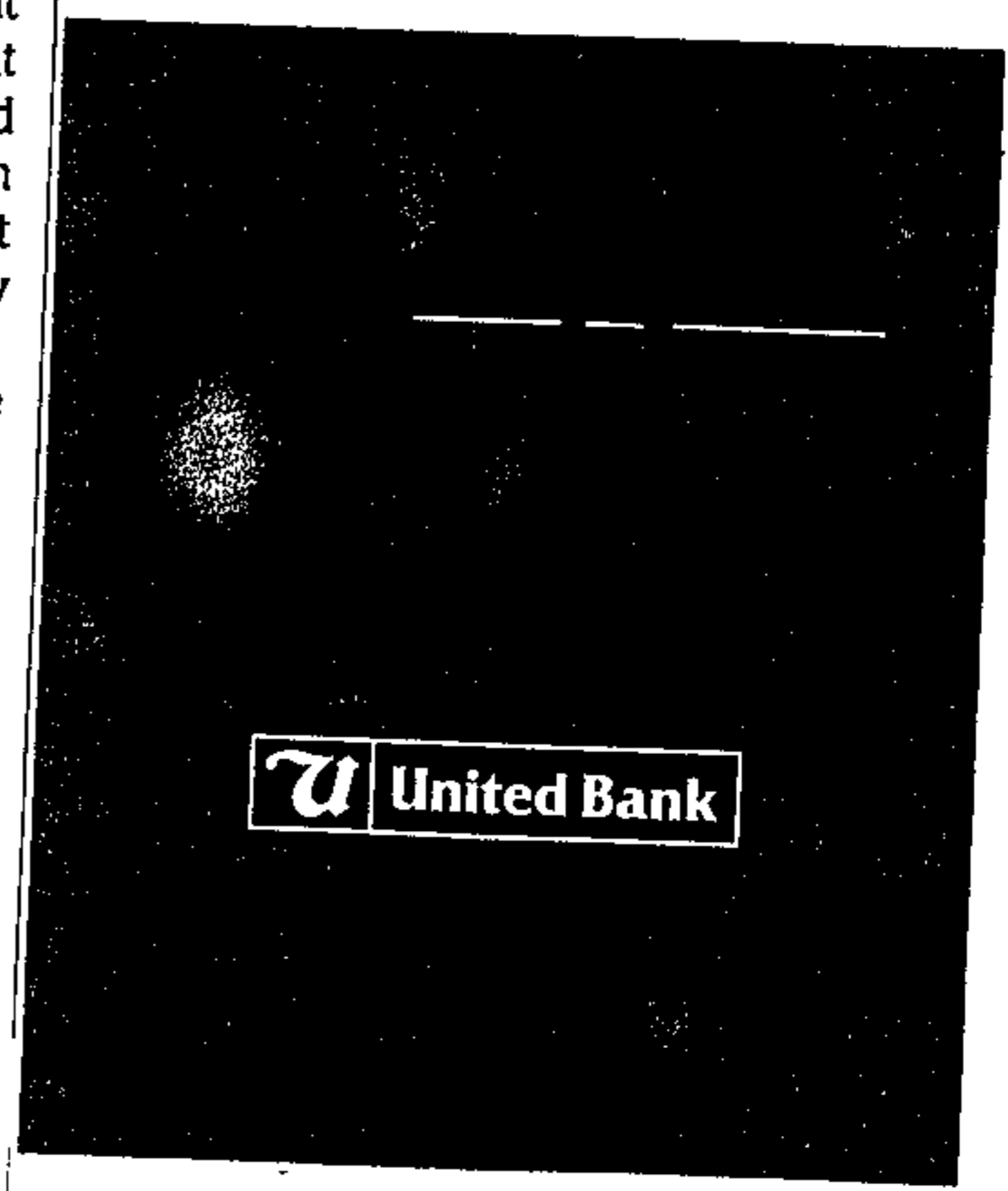
Pagad took little notice other than stating that there were circumstances when its members had to be masked, and "we are trying to contact the President to give him first-hand information."

A march on the airport on a public holiday — the claimed intention being to pressure the authorities into intensifying their antidrugs surveillance at ports of entry — will fly in the face of Mandela's tough line.

For his part, Omar risks a further erosion of his credibility the longer he continues pussyfooting with Pagad. And given the group's intransigence, it could be heading for a showdown with the police that it will have done much to bring



Dullah Omar



CRIME AND THE COMMUNITY (34)

RIDING A TIGER

FM13/12/96

Justice Minister Dullah Omar has a tiger by the tail — and the tiger's name is Pagad. The Cape-based People Against

upon itself.

Omar's life is not being made any easier by his appointment as leader of the ANC in the Western Cape, where the vote of the coloured community needs to be enlisted if the NP is to be toppled. ■

M

Battle against the criminals continues

Star 16/12/96

crime
YEAR-END
REVIEWS

BRENTON GEACH

Amid warnings about dire effects, Government expresses determination to break the vicious cycle and police put strategies in place to bring down the country's crime rate

By **AUSO THOM**
Crime Reporter

Crime-weary South Africans can look forward to a more peaceful 1997, filled with promises made by politicians and the SA Police Service to fight crime and criminals are fulfilled.

It is not easy to choose only a few crime highlights for this year. Even one murder or one rape is one too many. But one thing is clear, South Africans have had enough. This is clearly demonstrated when vigilante groups People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) in the Western Cape started taking the law into their own hands.

This year has also been marked by several police operations, a Sword and Shield police plan and the Government's National Crime Prevention Strategy aimed at ridding our country of crime in all its forms.

January

President Nelson Mandela welcomed the new year, calling on all sectors of society to heighten the struggle against violent crime. Concerning the high crime levels he said although the overall approach was to defeat crime ultimately by removing its causes, the Government had taken immediate steps to deal with the law-breakers.

The year started on a violent note with eight people shot dead in Alrode, Alberton, while queuing for jobs outside a factory.

Cape Town police revealed details of a serial killer believed to have murdered at least nine prostitutes in the past three years. The number had grown to at least 18 by the end of the year.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz said South Africa risked becoming a "gangster state" where hijackers, druglords, muggers and other criminals would trample hard-won democratic rights into the dust, unless Government increased spending on the underpaid and poorly equipped police force.

Police statistics revealed more than 10 000 people were mur-

dered in SA during the first seven months of last year, making it the crime capital of the world.

February

In his opening address to the third parliamentary session, President Mandela said Government was determined to break the continuing cycles of political and criminal violence which are still affecting different parts and sectors of the country.

Uitenhage police sergeant Uyslen Nel (26) was arrested, charged and found guilty following the slaying of his wife, Natasha, and two boys Marius (4) and Robin (2). They were gunned down on the highway outside Uitenhage.

March

Statistics revealed about 7 000 tourists were hit by crime in South Africa in 1994.

Two pupils at a KwaZulu Natal school pumped nine bullets into a Std 9 pupil in a classroom full of schoolchildren. Simon Jila (17) died in front of his classmates after being shot.

A 14-year-old boy was released into his parents' custody after stabbing a 13-year-old boy in the chest.

The body of Florida teenager Kay Hill was found in her family home.

The girl had been brutally assaulted and strangled with a TV cord.

April

The American Chamber of Commerce warned SA would suffer negative effects unless urgent steps were taken to combat violent crime.

Police revealed details of taxi assassins freelancing for taxi associations being paid thousands of rands to murder members of opposition associations.

Alleged cross-dresser serial killer Samuel Jacques Coetzee was arrested shortly after his lover, John Brown. Coetzee and Brown were charged with the murders of five men.

May

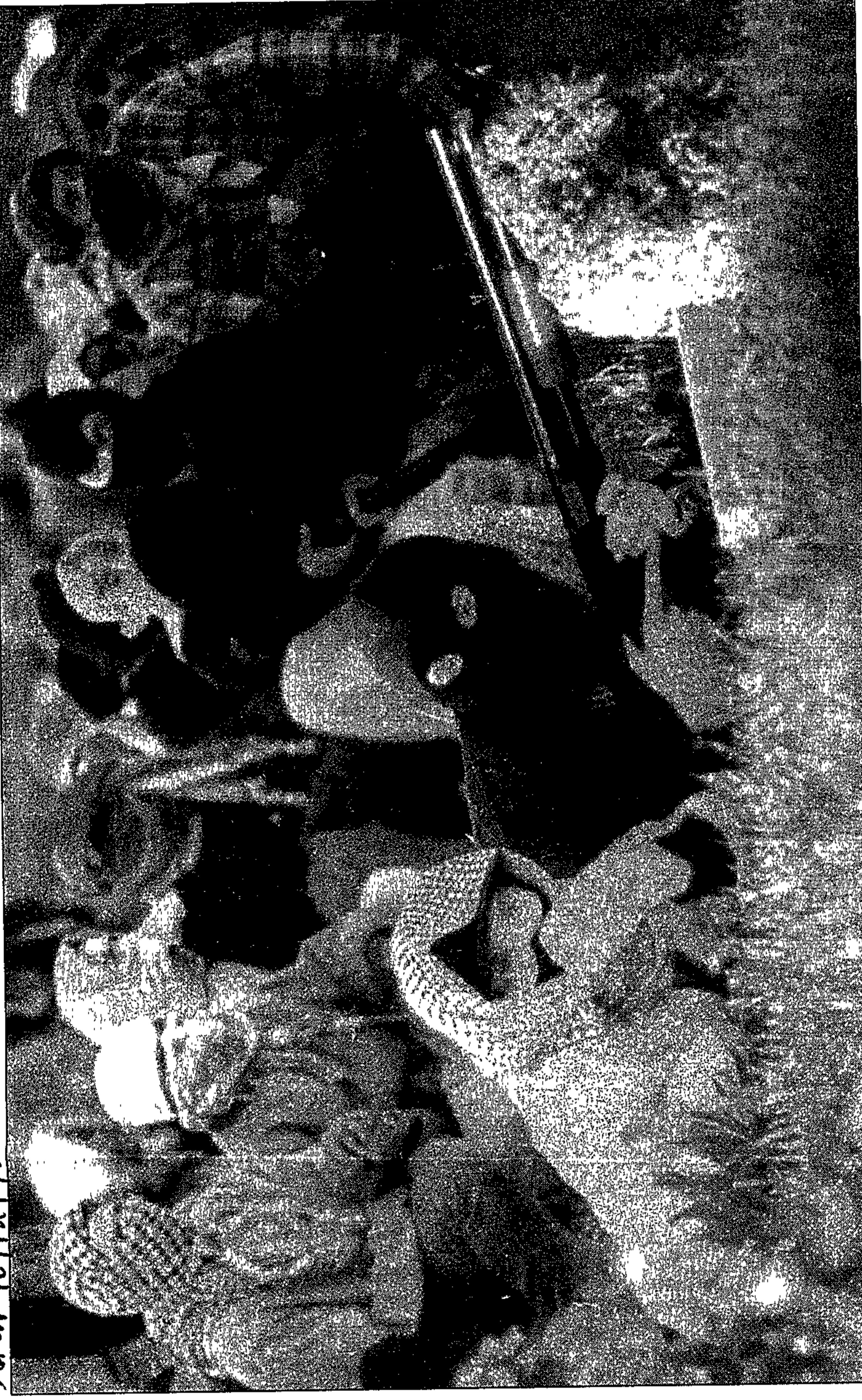
The Star revealed details of a possible serial killer operating in the Nasrec area shortly after police found the body of 14-year-old Prudence Miller in the area of southern Johannesburg.

Hers was at that stage the sixth body discovered in the area. Since then another 10 bodies have been found there.

Johannesburg police commissioner Frans Malherbe called for the reinstatement of the death penalty after Transvaal flyhalf Louis van Rensburg was wounded in a robbery.

Van Rensburg's brother and father were shot dead by a gang in Kya Sands, north of Johannesburg.

Bank robberies were declared a national priority crime by the SAPS.



Had enough ... after gang leader Rashaad Staggie's torching there were several confrontations between the vigilante group Pagad and police.

June

Faced with limited resources and staff shortages, the SAPS was fighting an uphill battle to prevent crime from spinning out of control, national police commissioner George Fivaz said.

Operation Rooikat was launched in Johannesburg in an attempt to crack down on petty crime and illegal immigrants.

Battle-weary citizens were giving up on the unending fight against crime, which cost households R1,7-billion last year and the country R31,1-billion, according to the Nedcor Report on Crime, Violence and Investment.

Fivaz announced a police plan whereby thousands of hardened criminals would be targeted in the long-awaited "iron fist" approach.

July

Police statistics released on juve-

nile criminals revealed that 14 849 children were arrested in Gauteng last year on charges varying from bag snatching to murder and rape.

Police tracing teams succeeded in arresting 7 099 of South Africa's 10 000 most wanted criminals within 30 days of the announcement of the Sword and Shield police plan.

Six people were killed and nine wounded during an attack on shebeen customers in the Phola Park squatter camp on the East Rand.

Notorious gang leader Rashaad Staggie was shot dead and torched on the Cape Flats by Pagad members, while police

August

Of the 7 099 most wanted criminals arrested earlier this year during the first month of the police's Sword and Shield anti-crime plan, 2 099 were released on bail.

The sleepy town of Nieuwoudtville in the Northern Cape was shocked by the brutal murders of local resident Hendrina

looked on helplessly.

This was the start of several confrontations between the vigilante group and police.

Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte called an urgent meeting with top police brass after the killing during a car hijacking of soccer star Doctor Khumalo's father, Eliakim "Pro" Khumalo.

Police and soldiers joined forces in a new anti-crime operation code-named Anvil.

September

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Independent, President Mandela admitted for the first time crime was out of control, but reassured the nation that Government was getting on top of the situation.

The sleepy town of Nieuwoudtville in the Northern Cape was shocked by the brutal murders of local resident Hendrina

Louw and her guests, Aileen Fairbanks-Smith and her young daughter.

Lenasia police found the bodies of two Sri Lanka citizens in concrete-filled drums.

Operation Urban Strike was launched in Gauteng with roadblocks being the order of the day.

October

Duarte called for the legalisation of prostitution, but a crackdown on pimps.

November

Readers of The Star called for an iron-fist approach to crime and criminals following a Nedcor anti-crime project survey conducted in the newspaper.

Police captured Sibusiso Msoni (33), one of South Africa's most wanted criminals, in Soweto.

Mandela revealed the Attor-

ney-General's office was investigating 8 300 offences committed by or involving policemen in Gauteng.

Police experts forecast a drop in crime to a level in line with international statistics over the next three to five years.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi announced a dramatic increase in social fabric crimes such as rape and child abuse.

December

Mpumalanga fugitive forester Mark Dewes was arrested on the West Rand after allegedly shooting and killing two men, before wounding another two men near the Sudwala Caves.

Dewes was on the run for several days while policemen and soldiers searched for him.

He was arrested in Florida after being on the loose for a week.

Govt's attempt to eradicate crime

34 (34) *Journal 27/12/96*

The departments have launched a coordinated initiative to combat crime

DURING THE festive season much attention is given to family values and happiness. However, social fabric crimes such as rape, child abuse and assault against women are a painful reality during this time as well. Statistics show that these crimes are highly seasonal and that more cases of rape and personal assault are reported during December and January than in any other period of the year.

The SAPS's National Crime Prevention Strategy recognises the importance of coordinated government and civic action to reduce violent crime during this time of the year. In the spirit of the NCP's, the four state departments that are directly involved in the criminal justice system, the South African Police Services, Justice, Correctional Services and Welfare have launched a coordinated initiative during this holiday season to prevent and combat violent crime against women and children. Some of the departmental initiatives are described below:

The SA Police Services

Child Protection
During December of 1995, the Child Protection Unit of the South African Police Service dealt with 2,512 cases. These were:

- 26 attempted murder cases
- 1476 sexual offences (rape, sodomy, indecent assault, etc)
- 550 physical assaults
- 160 missing children in which a crime was involved (abduction-kidnap-ping)
- 236 cases in terms of the Child Care Act (Act 74 of 1983)
- 64 other cases (eg. public indecency)

Members of the Child Protection Unit will be available 24 hours a day throughout the festive season to take action when a crime is committed against a child or when a child is believed to be in danger of becoming a victim. The unit has provided specific suggestions to parents and children on how to prevent such crimes.

The Child Protection Unit is responsible for investigating crimes committed against children (such as rape, indecent assault, sodomy, abduction, etc.) When a child becomes a victim of a crime, call one of the following numbers to get in touch with your local Child Protection Unit:

- 10111
- Local police stations
- Crime Stop 0800 11 12 13
- Child Protection Unit (ask your local station)

Welfare organisations see to the welfare of children and families in families. The Child Emergency Line may be contacted at 0800 123 321, or contact your local welfare or church organisation. The CPU notes that certain places can hold dangers for young children - including any place where children congregate like at shopping malls or video arcades where a child may become a victim of a sexual offender. Paedophiles visit amusement centres in order to make contact with children. Children who are expected to make their own transport arrangements are particularly vulnerable as they are often forced into accepting a lift with a strange person.

The Department of Justice

The Department of Justice has requested that all Magistrate's Offices be on standby during this period. Court staff have been asked to assist with after hours bail applications, as well as any other urgent applications that might arise.

In an attempt to establish a culture of appreciation of the family in our communities and the constitutional rights of women and children, all court staff members will give appropriate attention to cases and applications resulting from incidents of family violence. Every person who is a witness to or a victim of any family-related violence matter is urged to break the culture of silence on family violence and to report these offences to the nearest Magistrate's Office.

Court staff members will render assistance in the applications for interdicts in terms of the Prevention of Family Violence Act, 1993 (Act 133 of 1993). The Family Advocate system has been created to assist people to deal with legal issues involving children and families. The Chief Family Advocate can be contacted in Pretoria at (012) 323-0760.

Other Family Advocate offices are located around the country. There is also a high number of motor vehicle accidents resulting in deaths during the Christmas season. All Magistrate's Offices on the country's main routes - Pieterburg to Cape Town (N1); Cape Town to Port Elizabeth (N2); Portoria to Durban (N3) and Portoria to Nelspruit (N4) - have been requested to attend to any cases resulting from road traffic offences after hours and to consult with the appropriate traffic authorities in this regard.

The Department of Correctional Services

The Department of Correctional Services focuses primarily on medium to long-term corrective behaviour and crime prevention actions, including effective supervision of prisoners and those on parole. A new parole policy is expected to be adopted next year that will make criminals serve at least half of their sentences within prison and the full remainder under strict parole conditions. Welfare organisations see to the welfare of children and families in families. The Child Emergency Line may be contacted at 0800 123 321, or contact your local welfare or church organisation.

The DCS appeals to all family or friends of people under parole supervision or on community corrections sentences to assist with the monitoring. Community members must not tolerate any parole violations. These violations may be reported to the nearest Community Corrections office. It is also important for family and friends to visit loved ones in prison during the festive season, which is normally a time of forgiveness and togetherness.

Prisoners often feel they have lost everything in life and that nobody cares.

This negative feeling develops an attitude of non-participation in programmes and a continuation of criminal behaviour. This is especially true of children and young people in the care of the Department. The DCS has urged heads of prisons to ensure that staff are vigilant over this period and to tighten security measures at prisons. Any escapes will be dealt with severely.

The Department of Welfare

Anti-crime actions by the Department of Welfare focus on women and children as victims of violence, and alcohol and drug abuse and the consideration of problems that about one in every six women is regularly sexually, physically and emotionally abused by her male partner. Alcohol is still the substance that is most abused, and often its abuse leads to family violence and neglect. A wide range of services is available countrywide to support victims of violence and people with drinking or drug problems. The recently established Victim Empowerment Programme and the National Network on Violence Against Women are helping to provide a set of coordinated and effective services from government and non-governmental organisations aimed at eradicating violence against women.

Because of the huge increase in alcohol and drug abuse and violence against women and children over the festive season, these services often struggle to cope and they depend heavily on volunteers. The Department requests people to take responsibility within their own communities to report alcohol and drug abuse, family violence and the neglect of women and children. Proprietors should ensure that children under 18 years of age are not exposed to alcohol. Entertainment establishments share the responsibility to combat trafficking in drugs and other prohibited substances.

A second phase of the "I'm Addicted to Life" campaign has recently been launched and focused on the youth. The campaign promotes ongoing awareness and educational messages on radio and TV. There are currently four different Child Line points, operating in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Johannesburg. The toll-free number is 0800 055 555. The advice Desk for Abused Women in Durban has 24-hour telephone counselling service at (031) 820-2862 or 820-2922. Also, the People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) organisation can be contacted during the festive season at (011) 642-4345 during office hours and at other times via pager at (011) 650-5050. The four departments are making a special effort to reach out to women and children who are victims of abuse. The departments have taken steps to ensure that they respond quickly and effectively during the festive period if needed.

CRIME - GENERAL

1997

South Africa a prime target for 'mafias'

The steady growth of organised crime syndicates in the major cities and business centres of developing countries is causing an uncomfortable stir in the West

By **DEREK RODNEY**
Crime Reporter

The rise of organised crime in developing countries is causing an uncomfortable stir in the West with disturbing similarities appearing between two fledgling orders — those of the Russian Federation and South Africa.

Although organised crime started to attract international and media interest in the early 1990s, the seeds, according to researchers and academics, were already planted years earlier under the disguise of communism in the former USSR and the do-or-die years of apartheid in South Africa.

Mark Shaw, project leader for the Institute for Defence Policy's Crime and Policing Project, takes an optimistic view of local organised crime in that he believes crime syndicates by their current diverse nature have not yet had an opportunity to evolve into unified groupings.

"Although organised crime is on the increase in South Africa, we have not yet reached the Russian scenario where the state and criminal groupings have become one as the state falls into anarchy — but the window of hope is certainly closing," he said.

The decline of communism, and the ensuing social, economic and political disorder that followed post-Cold War Europe, resulted in the consolidation of criminal groupings or "mafias" which have managed to filter into all facets of Russian daily life.

Political instability, coupled to ethnic and religious strife, resource shortages, socio-economic decline and a sharp increase in crime has allowed criminal groupings to infiltrate state and commercial structures in Russia and South Africa.

Cities such as Moscow, St Petersburg, and Vladivostok are among the business centres targeted by crime syndicates.



(34) *Mark* 3/1/97
JIGNASA DIAR

Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town have been targeted locally.

Visiting academic Professor Phil Williams, during an Institute of Defence Policy seminar held in Midrand, warned that Johannesburg, as one of the world's emerging cities, was ripe for exploitation by sophisticated transnational organised crime syndicates.

Coastal cities are ideal for the import and export of contraband while poor control mechanisms at

airports, borders and harbours offer ideal smuggling routes for drugs, illegal immigrants, endangered species and precious metals.

For years prostitution has been a cornerstone for bankrolling organised crime activities, from slave sex-for-pay practices such as child abduction, trade and exploitation to blackmail, extortion and corruption.

Authorities in South Africa

may have to reconsider current thinking of legalising and regulating the country's skin trade.

Money laundering remains an unknown factor in the South African scenario, as without proper legislation, due to be implemented this year, authorities have yet to embark on an in-depth analysis of this faceless crime.

In Russia an estimated \$100-billion has been laundered since 1989 in banks and offshore financial centres in the West, such as Luxembourg, the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Germany, Netherlands and increasingly in developing countries such as SA.

National Organised Crime head Assistant Commissioner Neels Venter last year identified Russian mafias as one of the top

five money laundering cartels in South Africa and yet no prosecutions can be initiated as current legislation only makes provision for drug-related asset seizures.

According to police sources, evidence is mounting that Russian mafias are "cleaning" their illicit cash by pouring money into the lucrative Western Cape property market. Once the properties are sold, the mafias would have converted their illicit cash into le-

gitimate currency.

Another highly profitable industry which has mushroomed in recent years is vehicle-related crime.

Western Europe is feeling the brunt of soaring vehicle thefts as eastern European and Russian syndicates specialise in trafficking stolen vehicles to the vast and often under-policed eastern states. Germany has been particularly hard hit by vehicle theft follow-

ing the collapse of communism, with thefts soaring from 17 000 in 1989 to 40 000 in 1991. Poland, a major transit route, has seen an eightfold increase in the number of vehicle thefts since 1989.

An interesting development, similar to the South African situation, is the increase in car thefts has led to a parallel increase of "pre-arranged" theft by German vehicle owners, so that owners can collect insurance in addition to a monetary bonus paid by syndicates.

Last year more than 97 000 vehicles were reported stolen in SA, but vehicle theft investigators estimate that as many as 40% of reported stolen vehicles were in fact taken with the knowledge of the owners.

Williams, describing the Russian scenario, said that US authorities are turning a blind eye to the collusive link between government and organised crime.

"Organised crime has already infiltrated the Russian banking system, which is now integrated with the world, and are also spreading their influence into the legal business world," he said.

Williams said there was an increasing collusion between organised and white-collar criminals.

"Extortion, in the form of cyber-terrorism, is also on the increase with companies forced to pay huge sums of cash to keep their databases intact. The real tragedy of this type of extortion is that it is rarely reported to authorities," he said.

IDP researcher Mark Shaw believes further study and analysis of the depth to which organised crime has managed to infiltrate the state apparatus is of critical importance and urged the state to push for the adoption of holistic international co-operative, anti-crime approaches to counter the threat of global organised crime domination.

War on crime must be focused, effective

BUSINESS Against Crime must operate using sound business principles if it is to achieve its objectives. This means a sharp focus on priorities and projects, as well as structured management with timescales and measurement of performance.

It may also see some projects being rechannelled or scaled according to the resources available.

We have identified priority projects and are developing plans to implement them. We have come to the end of our first phase and have a vivid picture of the complexity of the crime situation in SA.

This phase has involved establishing trust and partnerships with key ministers and officials and assessing the operational aspects of these partnerships in a range of projects.

Unless the projects are tackled in a structured, businesslike manner, in partnership with government and key departments, Business Against Crime — along with other interest groups — will struggle to lower the incidence of crime. Simplistic approaches will not provide solutions.

While there is a common goal — everyone wants SA to be a safer, law-abiding society — there is considerable diversity of opinion in the business community as to how the situation should be addressed. Coupled with this is the worrying trend that many groups and organisations are doing their own thing.

Interest groups are springing up all over the country each with its own view and method of fighting crime. Effort is needlessly duplicated, in many instances at considerable cost in both time and money. There is the added danger that conflict arises between these interest groups.

The Western Cape's Pagad situation is a prime example — citizens are now in conflict not only with criminals but the police service as well.

The public demands to see real evidence of the criminal justice system in action. While many criminals are caught and dealt with every day, this is not being communicated.

While effective public communication is fundamental to the process, the acid test will be the collective ability of all interest groups — including the public, the

The fight against criminals requires a considered, well-managed approach — the time for action has come, writes Business Against Crime chairman Wendy Lucas-Bull

business community, police, justice, correctional services and welfare — to structure projects and processes which will deliver measurable and visible results.

Enthusiasm and participation in these processes are vital but, without proper and careful rollout, implementation and management, there is the danger resources will be wasted.

We need to cut down the scope of the things we have been doing, and focus on a manageable handful of priority projects which can deliver meaningful results to the public at large, put our resources into these and actively manage the processes.

Business Against Crime supports the high-priority areas identified by police and government's national crime prevention strategy team. These are: vehicle crime, border control, organised crime, gun control and corruption.

This does not mean that other areas such as commercial crime are any less significant, but rather that the immediate focus for measurable short-term results has to be on crimes which the public regard as the most serious and detrimental to personal safety.

Business must get its own house in order and the primary responsibility for curbing commercial crime must lie within organisations themselves.

Some of the practical considerations of project involvement go beyond the simple provision of resources. Throwing money or equipment at problem areas is not going to help.

The entire criminal justice system is going through some sweeping changes, which not only include physical and infrastructure changes, but sociological and philosophical changes too. The culture of these organisations is being reshaped to accommodate the principles of the new era.

Many incumbents find this difficult enough to cope with, never mind the introduction of new systems, processes and management disciplines.

Computer technology and communication systems have the potential to solve some of the problems, but the ultimate success will depend on people.

Who will train them and who will pay for training? Can we afford to take police officers out of circulation and put them behind desks for three months to learn how to use computer software?

The answer is yes. This is what must happen, and there will be training and staff development programmes, but, as with the entire approach, these must be structured and co-ordinated.

Business Against Crime offers companies the opportunity to get involved and to share in the limelight that these projects deliver. In addition, a fundamental purpose is to recognise the need to channel business resources effectively.

A point made to Business Against Crime from the outset was that key players in the justice system find continuous and uncoordinated suggestions and criticism coming from business diverts attention from fighting crime. The focus has to be on proactive and constructive solutions.

Related to this are the differences of opinion as to how projects ought to be tackled. There are already many players in the crime-fighting scenario and by bringing in the business sector we have introduced many more.

Different corporations have different ways of doing things and it is natural for one organisation to push for its methodology to be the chosen format. We cannot afford debate on this kind of issue to go on without sight of resolution. The time has come to stop discussion and focus on action.

The business community must be seen to be acting on specific projects as soon as possible. We expect to learn as we go and to limit the theorising.

The media are vital to the process, but the flow of information must be managed effectively. This will be dependent on the quality of information received.

At present, infrastructure is not in place in the criminal justice system for comprehensive or centralised communications and information dissemination.

We have situations where police stations have difficulty in communicating effectively with each other — for many reasons. So to gather meaningful data on progress in fighting crime is very difficult.

This is why the national Business Against Crime focus is on a manageable handful of high priority projects, which can be monitored and from which flows meaningful information.

I am encouraged by the commitment every interest group has expressed. It is particularly pleasing to see the levels of co-operation we receive from government organisations and business.

BD 31/197

(34)



LUCAS-BULL

In phase one of its existence, Business Against Crime has made tangible progress on a number of projects. To mention a few:

- The criminal justice system has been examined, with pro-bono assistance from Andersen Consulting, and blockages have been identified. Action to resolve key issues began in November;
- The Lifetime project, with pro-bono assistance from McKinsey, aims to improve operational efficiency and performance at 100 of the most needy police stations in SA. Together with the SAPS, McKinsey is examining how to expand this project beyond the original 100 stations; and
- University training for SAPS management (station commissioners) has been provided under the Joint Universities Management Education Trust.

The pilot project began in July last year and 180 officers are undergoing training. It is envisaged that a further 660 will begin training this year.

More than 60% of funding has come from the Liberty Life Foundation, with another significant contribution from Johannesburg Consolidated Investments. The training concentrates on management skills, leadership, problem solving, policing, human resource management and financial and information management.

Several other projects are beginning to show positive results:

- The Gauteng Highway Patrol Unit which, with 100 vehicles from BMW SA, is reporting numerous arrests;
- A regional electronic communication system using e-mail has been installed in 13 key areas in southern Africa. This facilitates communication between the police commissioners of SA, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Namibia;

- A campaign on television and radio is aimed at educating the public on the cycle which perpetuates theft, and to prevent the purchase of stolen goods;
- Pilot closed-circuit TV has been installed in the Benoni and Durban city centres. The Benoni system has been credited with a 30% reduction in crime; and
- A programme has been initiated to provide accommodation for police officers in the Johannesburg city centre.

share culture of corruption

(34)

An uphill battle against crime is being fought in both countries, where research has revealed some shocking statistics

How 6/1/97

DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

South Africa and Russia appear to share an invisible umbilical cord. The fledgling orders of both countries are battling to come to terms with escalating crime and corruption, with one state already showing signs of losing the war against organised crime.

In South Africa's case, successes in investigations and a more transparent state apparatus have created the impression that the state may yet come to grips with civil service corruption. However, the same cannot be said of the new Russian order, which appears too weak to counter years of state-sanctioned corruption.

US researcher Christopher Ulrich, in a paper written for the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism, stated that Russia's corrupt processes began decades ago under the political disguise of communism.

"Crime and institutionalised corruption became firmly established by the mid-1970s in the already decadent and deteriorating Soviet bureaucracy under Leonid Brezhnev," he said.

Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika*, which led to the dissolution of the USSR, also allowed for the existing underground criminal networks to evolve.

According to Ulrich's research, Russia's organised crime apparatus controls almost 40 000 commercial businesses, including more than 2 000 state and government industries.

"Two thirds of all commercial firms in the country have contacts with organised crime. The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs has reported that an estimated 80% of all businesses pay high extortion or protection fees, either to corrupt government officials or to criminal groupings," Ulrich said.

Russian crime statistics reveal that in 1994 there were an estimated 5 700 criminal groupings in the Russian Federation, with an average membership of about 20.

Many of these groups were evident only in localised criminal activities, although more than 160 were supposed to be large enough to operate internationally in some 30 countries, with the main thrust of operations concentrated in Italy, South America, US and UK. There is increasing evidence that the Russians are using SA to launder large amounts of cash.

South Africa's first steps towards democracy proved to be an ideal environment for crime syndicates to make use of the country's open-door economic policy to develop their networks.

The uphill battle against corruption has been taken up by President Nelson Mandela and national police commissioner George Fivaz, who, along with Justice Minister Dullah Omar, have referred to the culture of corruption spawned in the civil service.

In the former government's "total onslaught" years, the security

At least 187 SA syndicates said to operate internationally

establishment was given a virtual free rein to conquer the State's enemies by all means possible. It was this win-at-all-costs approach which led to the formation of the infamous Vlakplaas death squads and many other state-sanctioned covert operations.

One example of state-sanctioned organised crime was highlighted in a SABC television documentary when former Military Intelligence (MI) operative Ferdi Barnard described how Eugene de Kock's organised crime investigation unit used to frequent a northern Johannesburg suburb brothel operated by MI.

Police are currently investigating more than 480 crime syndicates with a combined number of more than 2 000 primary suspects operating in or from South Africa.

According to a 1996 quarterly re-

port from the police's National Crime Information Management Centre (NCIMC) the majority of these syndicates specialises in drug trafficking (136 syndicates), vehicle theft (112) and commercial crime (85) or any combination of these.

"At least 187 of the organised crime syndicates in SA operate internationally, with the criminal activities of 125 of these syndicates believed to be restricted to sub-Saharan countries in Africa," the report said.

Last year, Mandela revealed that Gauteng Safety and Security authorities had arrested more than 400 policemen for criminal activities in the province since the present Government came into power. In KwaZulu Natal 278 policemen were arrested over the same period.

The Gauteng Attorney-General is currently investigating over 8 300 criminal offences committed by or involving policemen in the province from June 1994 to September 1996.

As shocking as these figures may be, the extent to which South Africa's business and state machinery has been infiltrated cannot be gauged effectively as most South African prosecutions have centred around the lower echelons of the justice system (police, correctional service, Department of Home Affairs and Justice Department).

This is contrary to world trends in fledgling democracies, and clashes with what has emerged in Russia. In 1993 about 1 500 Russian government officials were investigated for corruption. An estimated 50% were high-ranking officials of the executive wing of the Russian government and 27% were connected with the law-enforcement establishment.

Clearly, South African authorities will have to concentrate their efforts on investigating the activities of high-ranking officials in public service if they wish to make headway in the war against state corruption.

The culture of corruption which has manifested itself in certain departments cannot be purged from the bottom up if the masterminds are perceived to be given "golden handshakes" at the expense of the country's taxpayers.

SA's hopeless war against crime

(34)

Lawson 14/1/97

By James Brew

POLITICAL KILLINGS have been claiming fewer victims in South Africa but efforts to reduce common crime are yet to yield noticeable results.

The Human Rights Committee reported recently that deaths from political violence went down from 3 794 in 1993 to 2 434 in 1994 and 1 194 in 1995. The figure for 1996 is expected to be below 1 000.

The most recent victims include four people who died in a wave of bombings that also injured about 60 persons. The blasts occurred in December in Worcester and this month in Rustenburg.

Three suspects, known to be right-wing elements, were arrested while two others are at large.

President Nelson Mandela congratulated the police for the swift arrest of the three but the law enforcers have generally had less success in combating common crimes. One factor that may be limiting their effectiveness is dissatisfaction within the service.

List of grievances

When Mandela visited senior police in the Eastern Cape recently, they provided him with a list of grievances. They included insufficient salaries, risk allowances and overtime pay as well as slow promotions.

According to a mid-1996 report by the banking group Nedcor, there were 36 888 rapes in 1995 – 15 percent more than the previous year; 18 983 murders (up four percent); 97 947 vehicle thefts (up four percent); and 102 809 robberies (up eight percent).

Figures for 1996 are expected to reflect little, if any, improvement.

While crime in South Africa "is less sophisticated than crime in Brazil, Columbia, Mexico and Russia", according to Mr Malek Patel, an international defence researcher, it is violent.

Patel hopes the decline in political violence will continue, but the outlook for non-political crime is bleak despite a number of initiatives aimed at reducing it. One such initiative is the establishment of satellite police stations in some trouble spots.

One was set up in Seawinds, a Cape Town suburb, but a resident Mr Monray Meyer (24), was recently shot dead just 100 metres from the outpost. No police officer was on duty there at the time of his murder.

A civic leader in Seawinds, Mr

While political violence is on decline, common crime is escalating

Trevor Trout, said the tragedy could have been avoided if the satellite station been open at the time.

"The community worked hard to get the station opened and we were promised 24-hour service, but that has not materialised," he said.

Trout said he had lost faith in another mechanism introduced in his area – as part of the fight against crime: community/police forums.

The forums, organised by the police community relations division, have become "talk shops" that result in no action, he charged.

In addition to claiming lives, South Africa's high crime rate also has a huge material cost. The Nedcor report, based on its *Project on Crime, Violence and Investment*, estimates that crime cost the country R31,1 billion in 1995 alone.

The 43-page document was based on a nation-wide survey of some 2 600 households and more than 2 000 businesses. Sixty-eight percent of respondents felt the police and Government were losing the war against crime.

South Africa's private sector has also joined the drive against crime. Business Against Crime, a project aimed at achieving a long-term partnership between government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations, started a year ago.

Since then, it has accumulated R40 million that has been invested in projects to combat crime.

Under the BAC, police instant-response teams have been equipped with motorbikes, while BMW has donated 100 high-speed cars to the police to help curb carjackings.

Business has also sought the assistance of the New York Police Department and security specialists on how to tackle urban crime zones.

Mr Noel Abrahams, a social worker, says he fails to understand how a police service so efficient in enforcing apartheid's laws now appears less competent in providing adequate policing services.

However, the police appear to have been weakened during its transformation from a paramilitary force and apartheid's bedrock to a state law enforcement bureau.

Police personnel trained to solve crimes by extracting confessions now

find it difficult to conduct investigations that can stand up in court.

Moreover, the criminal justice system is overworked, according to legal practitioner Mr Raymond Asthon. Several legal officers have quit the judicial service because of poor pay and lenient bail conditions for suspects.

Prisons are overcrowded, making supervision difficult for prison warders. Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela says the prisons are holding about 21 percent more prisoners than they were built for.

According to Asthon, over 100 000 criminals who had not served out their sentences were released in 1995. In the Cape, many joined or rejoined gangs operating in the Cape Flats area.

The killing of police personnel is also on the increase. At least 180 SAPS members were murdered in 1996, the highest number recorded in five years. In 1995, 96 police were killed, up from 76 in 1994. The figures for 1993 and 1992 were 104 and 116, respectively.

Police murders

In the past, many police murders were politically motivated since the police were seen as an arm of apartheid. Since the April 1994 elections, the attacks appear to be motivated mainly by common crime.

Western Cape premier Mr Hernus Kriel has accused the central government of being unable to control crime and has proposed setting up a metropolitan police service outside the command of the SAPS to fight gangsterism in Cape Town.

Frustration at the police's failure to combat crime also led to the formation of community-based vigilante groups such as People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) based in Cape Town. Pagad has accused the police of corruption and collusion with the gangsters.

Police spokesman Fanie Bouwer charged that Pagad was unfair in accusing police of working closely with the gangsters, but admitted that there were corrupt individuals within the police.

"At the beginning of 1996 we set up anti-corruption units. We accept that there is corruption and are serious about combating it," said Bouwer, and disclosed that so far 400 police personnel are under investigation for fraud and other corrupt practices. – Sapa-IPS.

Kine Kids Big Screen Club Special offer for members only



Flashback ... police and members of the community at a Press conference at Orlando Police Station on the murder of policemen in Soweto. While in the past many murders of policemen were politically motivated, the attacks now seem to be committed mainly by common criminals.

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SA leads world in rapes

(34) Sowetan 27/1/97

TERROR is stalking the women of South Africa. Already confronting the world's worst murder rate, the country has a harrowing new fact to face: there is a rape every 25 seconds in the land that Nelson Mandela hoped would become a "rainbow alliance" of people living in peace together.

This statistic has prompted debate about how to protect women in South Africa.

Many believe that castration, if it were legal, would be too good for rapists: the clamour for the death penalty to be reintroduced is growing as details of each new case emerge.

A study by Interpol, the international police agency, has revealed that South Africa leads the world in rapes. A report by the country's Ministry of Safety and Security shows that there were 23 806 rapes in the first six months of last year.

Even that is an underestimate, however. Thousands of rapes go unreported. Police estimate that for each rape they are notified about, another 35 take place. The figures show a rise of 23 percent in the past two years.

According to women's groups, rapes are so common in some townships that they are regarded as a horrific fact of life. The victim has to wait for weeks or sometimes months to find out whether she has been infected with the HIV virus.

Sally Shackleton, a spokeswoman for the pressure group People Against Women Abuse, blamed the increase in rape on the failure of the justice system to punish convicted offenders.

"The system stinks to high heaven," she said. "Too often women are treated as if they had done something wrong."

Gang-raped

Counsellors working at trauma clinics in Johannesburg say rape by a single attacker is the exception. The majority of victims have been gang-raped by at least three attackers, who are usually in their late teens or early twenties.

In two cases this month, a gang of black youths entered the homes of white middle-class families in Johannesburg suburbs and attacked the young women inside.

"I was gazing through the window at the beautiful sunset when I suddenly heard a voice behind me saying, 'You there, you're dead,'" says the mother of two women who were raped in the family home. A gun was held to her head.

Although most middle-class South Africans have high security fences and routinely carry guns, the woman later learnt that three robbers had managed to scale the outside wall and entered the house through open patio doors.

Her husband, grandson and daughters, were dragged into the living room, tied up and forced to lie on the floor. The men searched the house for money and valuables.

They threatened to kill the family dog

The spate of rapes in South Africa is likely to harm the tourist industry as people stay away for fear that they too could be raped or killed, writes **Robert Block**



Nomboniso Gasa with her Member of Parliament husband Raymond Suttner at a Press conference last week after she was raped on Robben Island. PIC: AP

before untying the woman's younger daughter, aged 21. They took her upstairs and raped her at gunpoint. They then raped the 24-year-old daughter.

At one point, the elder daughter's three-year-old son tried to defend his mother and aunt with a plastic toy sword.

The boy's grandmother recalls: "He was so brave. He stood in front of this man who was armed with a gun and waved the sword at him. Even when the man put a gun to his head, he never flinched."

The story of the toddler's brave actions, and accounts of an equally shocking gang-rape of two teenage cousins a week later in a nearby suburb, have fuelled calls for the reintroduction of the death penalty.

Murder and rape suspects are frequently released on bail by the country's overburdened courts. Mandela's government has supported stiffening bail but has refused to yield to public pressure for a return of the death penalty, leading to increased support for vigilante groups.

Messages of support recently flooded in to a Cape Town jail after a policeman working with abused children gunned down a man accused of

raping his own six-year-old daughter.

The scale of violence against women, coupled with the fact that some companies have difficulty recruiting high-quality foreign workers, has prompted concern that the crime wave could hit government attempts to build a successful economy.

Tourist revenue is also likely to be hit as people stay away for fear that they, too, could end up raped or dead.

Need to act urgently

Describing the situation as "very worrying", Sydney Mufumadi, the Minister responsible for Safety and Security, tried to reassure the public by saying the police and criminal justice system needed to act urgently.

In an attempt to appease the public, police announced recently that they had arrested eight men suspected of being behind the recent spate of gang rapes.

Few people were satisfied. "I want to kill them," cried the mother of a 15-year-old who was the victim of a gang rape earlier this month. "They have destroyed my little girl." - *Sunday Times (London)*.

Crime will decline if criminals feel unsafe

A YOUNG man sees a car he fancies, puts a gun to the head of the driver, forces her into the passenger seat, and, ignoring her pleas that he just take the car and let her be, takes her to a deserted spot, makes her get on her knees and shoots her, execution-style, in the back of the head.

A sickening crime, so "senseless" yet, in its barbarity if not in all its particulars, so seemingly routine these days, that it cries out for some larger social and cultural explanation. Conservative and liberal thinkers alike propound all kinds of "root causes". The former tend to focus on the destruction of the family-based moral order by the welfare state; the latter seek explanations in poverty and racism.

Both lines of reasoning have seductive elements, but they lead to the not very helpful, circular conclusion that in a better society such crimes would not occur.

A more useful way of looking at the above crime would be to start by throwing out the word "senseless". The hijacking and murder entailed conscious choices on the killer's part. Inherent in the choices were calculations, if only instinctive ones, as to the likelihood of his getting into serious trouble.

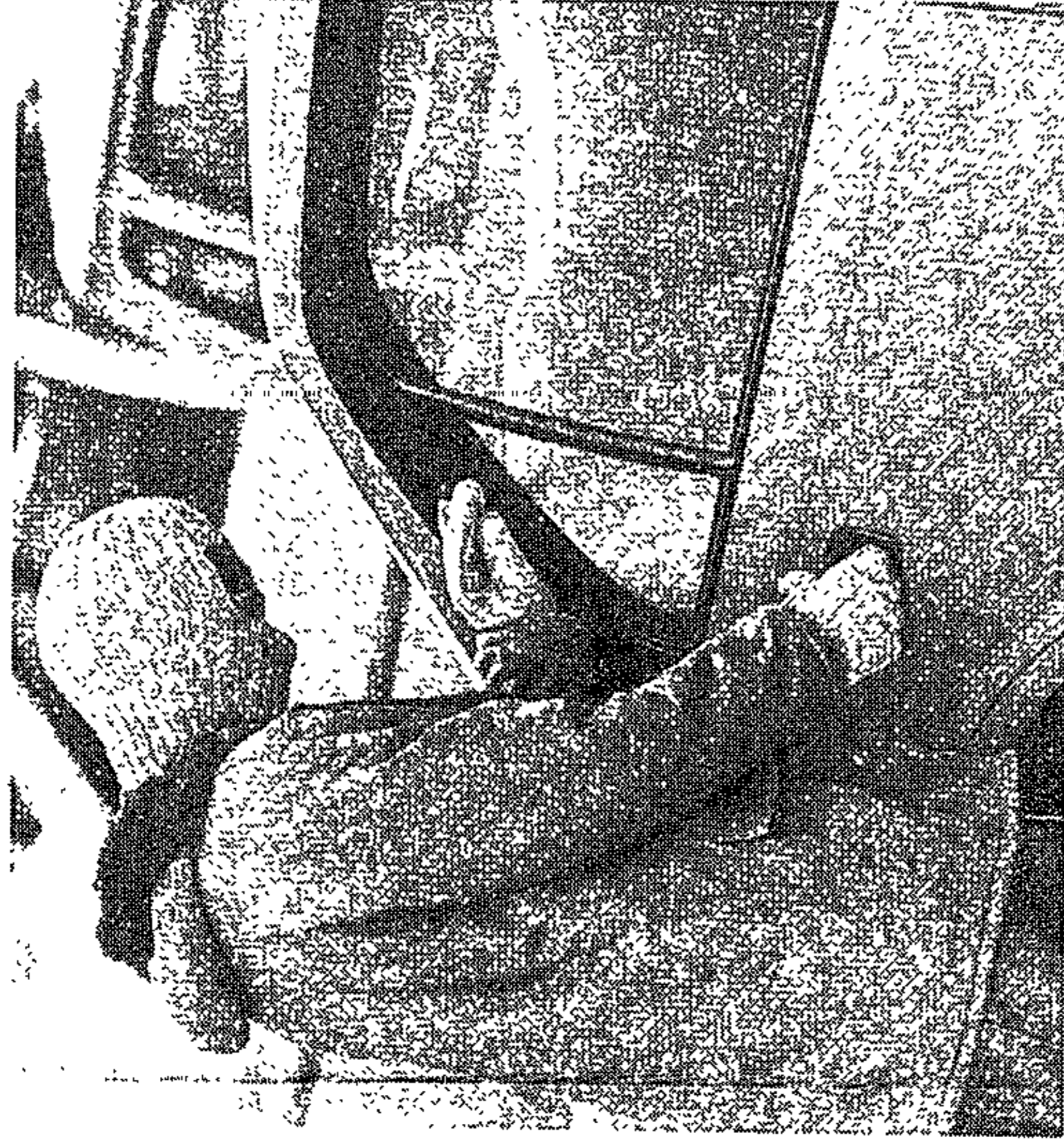
Those choices may have begun with a decision to get high, which may have impaired the man's judgment when it came time to decide to take the car and dispose of its owner. But even in making the initial decision to take a hit of cocaine or crack, he would have to calculate at some level that he had very little chance of being stopped by police while under the influence or of facing much grief if he was stopped.

Actually, in this example, which is a real one, there is no evidence that the perpetrator had been taking drugs. This was a crime, the murder especially, committed in cold blood.

There are no doubt plenty of

The experience of the US is that the likelihood of being caught and heavily punished is the greatest deterrent to would-be criminals, writes Simon Barber in Washington

BD 28/1/97



Highway robbery ... should SA take a page out of the US book on crime?

of police is to prevent crime rather than simply respond to it once it has occurred. That means getting officers out of their cars and having them become familiar to and with the citizens on their beats, providing a reassuring presence to the majority of law-abiding citizens and a deterring one to muggers, drug dealers and worse.

In an added twist that has civil libertarians uneasy New York police are under instructions to uphold basic community standards

of order and civility. That means enforcing ordinances against antisocial behaviour like public drunkenness and urination, graffiti spraying, intimidatory begging, jumping subway turnstiles to avoid paying the fare and strutting about carrying "boomboxes" with the volume turned up to let the entire street know the owner is there and in charge.

The idea is to create a safe, unthreatening environment and end the cancerous demoralisation that

ics of the fix-the-broken-window strategy also contend that there are a host of external reasons for the drop-off in both murder and other serious crime. The dangerous cohort — young men in their late teens and early 20s — is shrinking, both for demographic reasons and because so much of it is either dead or incarcerated. Also, there is evidence that the drug trade, which became especially deadly with the advent of cheap crack in the 1980s, has matured after a bloody shake-out.

James Traub, a writer for the New Yorker magazine, who has taken the trouble to accompany officers as they walk their beat in some of the city's most deadly neighbourhoods, is one who believes that Giuliani and Bratton deserve a lot of credit. Crime, he argues in a recent article, is generally not impelled by "overwhelming social forces" like poverty or racism, but is a matter of choices taken by sentient, if not always hugely bright, human beings. Concerted police action can change choices by changing perceived outcomes. If your experience tells you that you are going to get caught if you merely mug someone — because muggers all around you are going down — chances are you will think twice.

It is, of course, impossible to know what our killer in Jackson thought. But the statistics show that he had good reason intuitively to conclude that he could get away with what he did. In 1995, 23 400 serious felonies — robberies, rapes and murders — were reported to police in metropolitan Jackson. These resulted in only 1 277 persons being formally charged. Of that number only 552 ended up doing jail time.

The killer now faces the death penalty. Politicians think that should be a deterrent. But it is no deterrent at all in a situation where a killer has little reason to believe that he is even going to be arrested.

infected neighbourhoods whose residents come to feel abandoned by those who should be protecting them and that there are no rules but those of the jungle.

This is in line with the so-called "broken window" theory first enunciated by social scientist James Wilson 15 years ago. He observed that when one window of a building gets smashed and goes unfixed, all the rest are soon destroyed because the message has gone out that no one cares.

An unexpected bonus of the crackdown on petty offenders has been that many of them turn out not to be so petty.

A good number of criminals wanted for serious offences have been apprehended while being stopped for little ones. This has boosted the esprit of officers who have otherwise been leery of the more touchy-feely aspects of community policing as somehow not comporting with their macho self-images as crime fighters.

It must also be said that such methods are not the only changes New York has instituted. There have been sweeping reforms in management structure and techniques, with each precinct commander now obliged to attend a weekly session at headquarters with his peers to review his squad's performance. Woe betide those who cannot explain why a window in their area has gone un-mended. In addition, there have been concerted efforts to smash drug-dealing gangs using more standard methods.

Those efforts have no doubt played a part in the declining murder rate, which is highly correlated with the drug trade. Crit-

RED TAPE BLUES

FM 31/1/97

Government's key crime fighting plan has hit a snag — bureaucratic inertia.

The R1,2bn National Crime Prevention Strategy, launched to a fanfare of publicity last May, requires the departments of Justice, Safety & Security, Correctional Services and Welfare to co-ordinate anti-crime measures.

The initiative spawned several inter-departmental committees. But the talk shops have mostly failed to overcome red tape, with the result that most of the departments concerned have not contributed effectively to the strategy.

While the Cabinet and parliament pointed out priority crimes to be targeted by the strategy — such as murder, hijackings, organised crime and child or spouse abuse — strategy co-ordinator Bernie Fanaroff says it was never made clear how the departments were to do the targeting.

"There were a lot of committees but few results," he says.

Fanaroff, a former trade unionist who headed the RDP management team before its demise last year, was appointed in October to co-ordinate the anti-crime strategy from an office in the Safety & Security Secretariat.

When Fanaroff saw the problems, he arranged a *bosberaad* in December of se-

nior officials involved with the strategy, to improve interdepartmental links and rationalise the committees. Now, he says, there is reason for optimism.

"It wasn't just bloody-mindedness by State bureaucrats that caused the problems," he says. "There are serious anomalies between the way government departments operate and set budgets and the way the strategy is structured."

State departments function and set budgets vertically, within their own bureaucratic parameters; the National Crime Prevention Strategy is designed horizontally, based on projects that require more than one department's involvement.

As a result, project proposals have stagnated for lack of funds.

Also, most anticrime projects take two to five years to reach fruition; government budgeting is done annually.

"We are now asking departments to make longer-term commitments," Fanaroff says.

"Unfortunately, we can't expect quick results from the strategy," he says. The strategy is a medium-to-long-term programme, designed to smooth the entire

criminal justice process, encourage community morality and develop international and regional co-operation against organised crime syndicates.

But the strategy itself is not enough to beat crime, says Institute for Defence Policy senior researcher Mark Shaw.

Grass-roots programmes — such as municipal police and local courts — linked to local government structures are essential, he says.

"The strategy is a good plan but it's too

centralised, too bureaucratic," says Shaw. He notes that the Constitution stipulates a nationally based police force but that doesn't preclude local initiatives, with local accountability through elected structures such as metropolitan governments.

"You can promote the best service from Pretoria, but, unless the structures reflect local needs, it won't work," he says. *Peter Honey*



Bernie Fanaroff . . . not made clear how departments were to do the targeting

Mufamadi unveils plan to beat crime crackdown on guns, corruption

(34)

REPORT



MICHAEL MORRIS

A tough clampdown on illegal firearms, crime syndicates and corruption in the criminal justice system are key features of a new five-point anti-crime plan announced today by Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi.

The Cape Argus today exclusively publishes details of the plan, which Mr Mufamadi spelt out in a special briefing to Independent Newspapers' International Advisory Board this morning.

The five-point plan is the priority agenda for the South African Police Services in 1997 and emerges from a recent three-day lekgotla (bosberaad) at which Mr Mufamadi and his senior officers thrashed out law and order priorities.

The minister said 1997 would be the "year of service delivery" and attention would be focused on:

- A sharp crackdown on illegal firearms;
 - Extending the anti-corruption drive to all sectors of the criminal justice system;
 - Tightening the noose on crime syndicates;
 - Stepping up measures to stop violence against women and children; and
 - Boosting public co-operation with police, in part to curb vigilantes.
- Mr Mufamadi said this priority list would underpin the determination of the SAPS to improve service delivery, bring crime down and establish a police service accountable to the public.

As part of this, Police Commissioner George Fivaz would enter into a "performance contract" setting out his personal goals and commitments for the year. Officers at all levels would enter into similar performance contracts.

Mr Mufamadi emphasised the clampdown on firearms, which "gives us the possibility of maximising the impact in various categories of crime including armed robbery and car hijacking".

He said his ministry would also look at legislation to make membership of criminal organisations illegal, "so that it will not just be a case of our waiting for criminal organisations to commit crimes... just being a member will be an offence".

He added: "Our ability to fight syndicates also means that we can tackle more than one category of crime."

He said initiatives to root out police corruption had been highly successful in the past year. "But now we want to extend that to include other sectors of the criminal jus-

tice system because of the correlation between crime and corruption".

He said attention to crime would be the primary overall focus for 1997 and a key element of this would be to mobilise the public to help.

"We must restore the confidence of the public in the fight against crime, not least to reduce the space for vigilantism.

"We will seek a co-operative arrangement between the police and the public within the ambit of the law.

"Levels of crime are still unacceptably high even though there has been a decline in some categories, but we still have much to do to sustain this downward trend.

"We think we are actually poised to make significant advances in this regard."

Earlier he said he had inherited a fragmented and inefficient service. The transformation process had been a vital precursor to an effective anti-crime strategy.

Call to keep media 'in step with new SA' - page 5

Business heads cite fraud as growing concern, says survey ⁽³⁴⁾

Jacqueline Mackenzie

FRAUD is considered by executives of large corporations in southern Africa to be an important problem for business, and no organisation is immune to the depredations of the defrauder, KPMG forensic and investigative accounting chairman John Louw says in the company's latest fraud survey.

About 66% of the 129 respondents admitted having experienced fraud recently, with those questioned reporting the loss of a total of R186,6m to fraud in 1996.

Most respondents perceived fraud to be an increasing problem.

The survey was conducted among chief financial officers, CEOs, heads of internal audit or general managers of firms representing a cross section of industry.

A weakening of society's values, economic pressures and inefficiency of the justice system were

listed by respondents as the driving factors behind the current fraud problems, KPMG said.

The increased sophistication of criminals and the lack of emphasis on prevention and detection were also perceived as increasing problems.

The survey showed that 53% of respondents had reported the frauds to the police, compared with only 20% in the 1994 survey. Reasons cited for not reporting fraud included a lack of confidence in the ability of the police and the criminal justice system, a desire not to tie up the organisation's own resources, a fear of negative publicity and inconvenience.

The types of fraud most commonly experienced were conflicts of interest, cheque forgery and credit card fraud and a multitude of irregularities resulting in the disappearance of money. Most fraud was perpetrated by insiders.

Internal controls were identi-

ified as the main factors in uncovering fraud. However, collusion between third parties and employees and poor internal controls were commonly identified as the reasons fraud occurred.

The survey found executives were becoming increasingly aware of the problem of fraud as it related to their organisation and were initiating measures aimed at preventing and detecting fraud. These included reference checks on new employees, the establishment of corporate codes of conduct, reviewing and improving internal controls and increasing the role of audit committees.

Only 10% of the companies surveyed which trade internationally indicated they had been a victim of international fraud, while 30% of respondents indicated there were certain countries with which they would not do business. These were mostly African countries, KPMG said.

BO 6/2/97

Turning the tide ●

(34) Sowetan 18/2/97

PERCEPTIONS ABOUT CRIME need to be dealt with by the Government as urgently as the actual problem, suggest researchers at the Centre for Policy Studies, an independent think-tank based in Johannesburg.

In a paper that looks at syndicated crime in South Africa and the implications of globalisation on crime, researchers Chris Landsberg and Zondi Masiza also contend that the Government cannot deal with the problem alone, and has to make a concerted effort at forming partnerships with other governments, the private sector and parastatals.

In *The anarchic miracle? Global (dis)order and syndicated crime in South Africa*, they argue that "the reality is that perceptions about crime matter as much, if not more, than actual trends", and it is therefore crucial that the government demonstrates that it is capable of addressing the problem.

Interestingly, they note that while a recent survey of existing and potential foreign investors showed that they rated crime and violence in South Africa as 21st and 22nd considerations when making investment decisions, there was still a perception that crime was out of control.

The urgency of the problem should not be underestimated. They quote the results of a survey which shows that 68 percent of heads of households and 88 percent of senior managers in business doubt that the Government is serious about fighting crime.

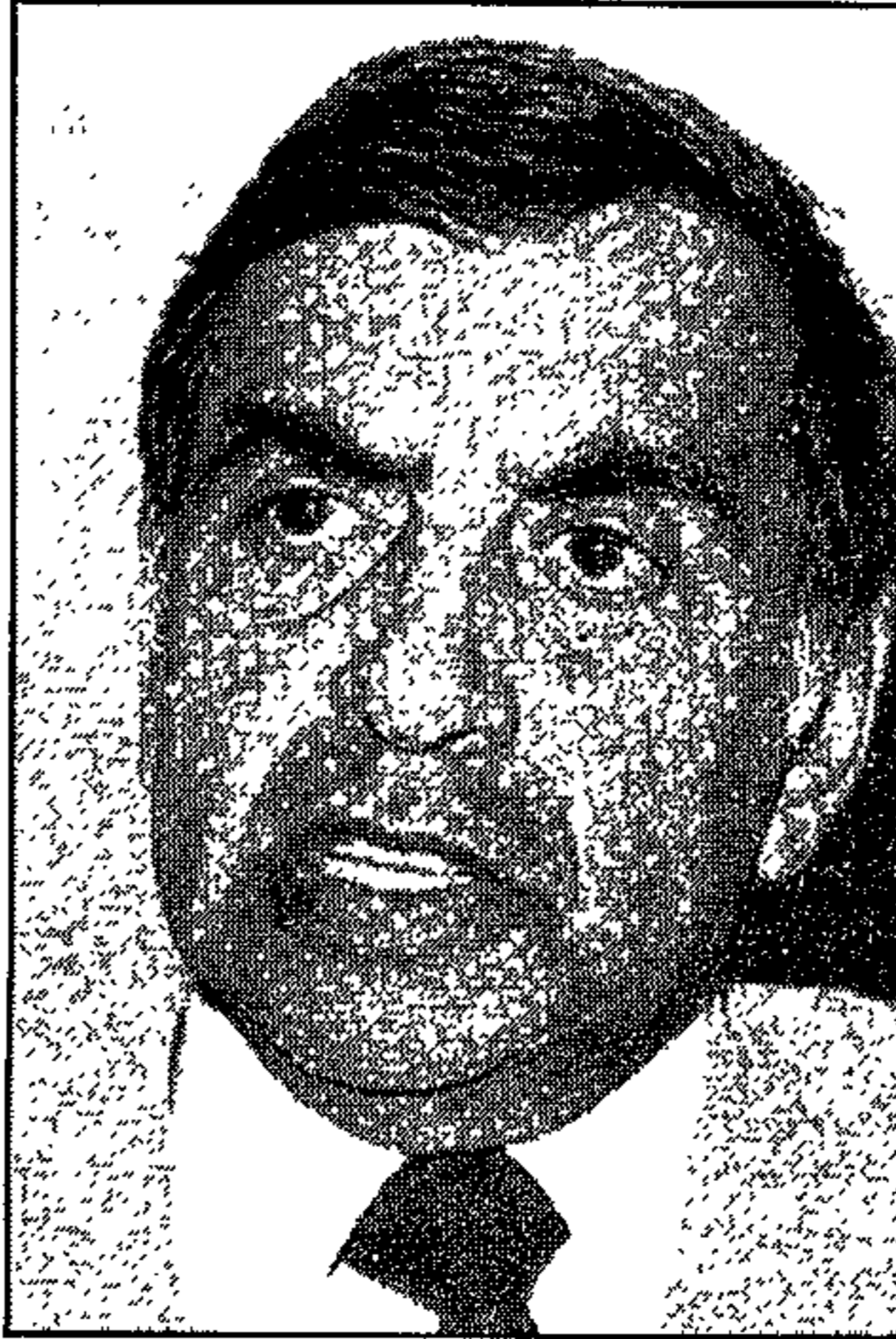
While acknowledging the huge tasks faced by the police, the proliferation of illegal arms, the rise in white collar crime, the country's easy accessibility via land, sea and air, and the fact that South Africa is a new market, especially for drugs, the authors say there is no excuse for the "defeatism" displayed by the police and some in the Government who treat the problem as an inevitable cost of transition.

A big failing on the part of the Government is that there is very little analysis, especially of organised crime – the South African Police Services say there are 278 syndicates operating in the country but are unclear as to how they arrive at this figure.

"Despite abundant published and unpublished material, no serious effort has been made to comprehensively analyse organised crime, to grasp its extent or comprehend its nature. Current understandings of organised crime are often based on crude generalisations and untested assumptions," say the authors.

They define the trend among mainly white affluent professionals to emigrate as "white flight", and point out that there are problems for the tourism industry as international coverage of hijacking incidents have resulted in many potential visitors cancelling tours.

A comprehensive analysis of syndicates and the tackling of negative public perceptions are the missing links in the fight against crime. **Sharon Chetty** explains...



Justice Minister Dullah Omar's department is putting laws into place to create special investigation units.

Landsberg and Masiza say that "the perception that this country is becoming anarchic is one on which international crime syndicates thrive".

They also emphasise the dangers presented by white collar crime and point out that such crime undermines stability by "subverting legitimate economic conduct".

There is much evidence of organised crime in South Africa: drug trafficking across borders, movement of stolen vehicles out of the country, smuggling of illegal weapons, white collar crime and the illegal trade in endangered species all point to this.

At the same time, there are the pressures of globalisation.

The authors point out that states are not the only ones that dictate or influence international relations but that others, especially multinational corporations, are significant players in this arena. As there are no checks on such groups, this opens up vast avenues for criminal activity.

And with the advances being made in telecommunications, there is increasing computer fraud and misinformation.

There are two compelling reasons for government to treat crime as a priority: develop-

ment and democracy.

If crime continues to escalate, spending on critical areas like housing, education and health will be seriously affected.

And when large syndicates with enormous resources entrench themselves in a society, they undermine the system and pose a threat to democracy.

Problems persist although the Department of Justice has started to put into place laws that provide for special investigation units, among other things.

The Office of Serious Economic Offences is two years behind in its investigations and the authors question whether there is the human capacity to staff and manage new agencies.

"If agencies created by law are inactive or ineffective, a loss of public confidence could again follow, making the situation worse than if no law had been passed," they caution.

One way of dealing with specialised crime like economic fraud or money-laundering would be for the Government to delegate some of the work to the private sector, for which they would be paid.

Clearly, another part of the solution is for South Africa to work more closely with its neighbours and Southern African Development Community counterparts. For example, having comprehensive laws on extradition is not much use until this country has agreements with many other countries.

Significantly, this country has extradition agreements with only 17 of the more than 190 members of the United Nations and with only three of its Southern African Customs Union neighbours.

But already there is some cooperation with other countries: a Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Organisation has been set up to represent all the police chiefs in the region and its primary aim is to coordinate the policing of cross-border crime.

As a result, there is a dedicated computer system through which all the police chiefs in the sub-region can communicate.

Improved border controls, technical cooperation among neighbours and bilateral agreements are some ways to deal with organised crime, the perpetrators of which recognise no boundaries.

The first step, though, would be for South Africa to deal with the growing perception at home that the Government is losing its battle against this scourge.

Remittance
Resettlement
Retail trade
Rural communities
Rural development
Rural employment

SOWETAN Tuesday February 18 1997



Manpower
Manufacturing
Market economy
Mentally handicapped
Merchant marine
Metalworking industry
Microenterprises
Merchant workers

Steps to revamp fight against crime

Star 20/2/97 (34)

By JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Correspondent

Cape Town - The Government has embarked on 14 projects at a cost of R1,2-billion to rid the criminal justice system of major bottlenecks and make it more efficient in the fight against crime.

The bulk of the money, R267-million, will be spent on information management that would make it possible to track offenders throughout the criminal justice system.

National Crime Prevention Strategy manager Dr Bernie Fanaroff said yesterday the justice, safety and security, correctional services and welfare departments were co-operating and taking steps to address priority crimes. The main emphasis would be moved from reactive to preventive measures.

Fanaroff said the 14 projects included:

■ R267-million for a common information management system for the departments involved.

■ R21-million for human resource development in the Department of Justice.

■ R60-million for an automated fingerprint identification system.

■ R43-million for upgrading the court management system.

■ R33-million for secure-care facilities for juveniles.

■ R25-million for upgrading court infrastructure.

■ R30-million for victim support and empowerment.

■ R29-million for upgrading of prison facilities.

Fanaroff said the SAPS was also co-operating with the SA National Defence Force in patrolling ports of entry and border posts, and the SA Air Force was helping to monitor unauthorised flights in South African airspace.

He said the Government had also embarked on projects to upgrade the witness protection programme and the rehabilitation programme for offenders and to improve the training of policemen in

proper crime-scene handling and case management.

"There has been a 12-member team from the United Kingdom helping with the upgrading of control measures. Another team from the United States has been assisting with improving our border control in relation to firearms, drugs and vehicles," Fanaroff said.

He said Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi had identified detective training as an area that needed attention. "It is not enough to have bobbies on the beat if you don't have investigators," he said.

Azhar Cachalia, Secretary of the Ministry of Safety and Security, said his department was in favour of the decentralisation of police powers in order to make crime prevention effective. His statement was in response to a question from Inkatha Freedom Party MP Abraham Mzizi who called for increased police powers for provinces and for traffic officers to be used in the fight against crime.

Crime fighting projects to cost R1,2bn

(34) CT 20/2/97

POLITICAL STAFF

THE government has embarked on 14 projects at a cost of R1,2 billion to rid the criminal justice system of major bottlenecks and to make the system more efficient in its fight against crime.

The projects are expected to take up to four years to complete.

The bulk of the money, R267 million, will be spent on common information management.

This should make it possible to

track offenders throughout the criminal justice system.

National Crime Prevention Strategy manager Dr Bernie Fanaroff said yesterday that the Justice, Safety and Security, Correctional Services and Welfare departments were co-operating and taking steps to address priority crimes.

"It's not enough to have bob-bies on the beat if you don't have investigators," he said.

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"There has been a 12-member team from the United Kingdom helping with the training to upgrade control measures," said Fanaroff.

"Another team from the United States has been assisting with improving our border control."

Intelligence services to remain separate

THE National Intelligence Agency and the South African Secret Service will continue to function as independent services maintaining their present geographical spheres — the NIA as a domestic and the SASS as the foreign intelligence service, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said yesterday.

Briefing the media on directives to the services resulting from the Pikoli Intelligence Review Commission, he said both services would intensify their collection efforts on crime in support of the police's crime intelligence task.

The purpose of the commission was to recommend ways to strengthen the civilian intelligence services.

Key directives included that all intelligence work by the services on behalf of the government would be subject to approval, ratification and/or amendment by the cabinet.

A single national independent signals intelligence capacity would also be established to combine the capabilities of the national intelligence structures, he said.

The directors-general of the NIA and the SASS would conduct an urgent audit of all human resources and covert structures employed by the services.

The directors-general also had to ensure that no official documents were destroyed in contravention of proper procedures. They also had to submit for approval a declassification policy of documentation held, Omar said.

Consideration would be given to legislation regulating the conduct of private intelligence and security companies, as well as for regulating the activities of former members of state intelligence and security activities.

Intelligence priorities for this year included domestic security and stability, such as taxi violence, political violence, terrorism, third force activities, illegal arms dealing and stock theft.

Attention would also be given to organised crime and corruption in the public service. — Sapa



HUGE TASK: Mr Dullah Omar

Third Force behind crime

ET 20 | a | 97

POLITICAL STAFF

"THIRD FORCE" networks operating in South Africa were involved in activities aimed at undermining the government and South Africa's democracy and unleashing crime throughout the country, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar has revealed.

He told a press conference the National Intelligence Agency and the South African Secret Service

had a huge task on their hands to "break the back" of the "third force" activities.

"When at high levels there is participation in gun running, drug trafficking and gangsterism, and when investigations into the violence are undermined, evidence is prevented from coming to court and cases are derailed, I think there is sufficient evidence of third force activity," Omar said.

"The Third Force started off with a political motive but today we have others working to cause disillusionment in democracy," Omar said.

He said these activities were coordinated in networks but had no political masters behind them.

Omar said South Africa's intelligence service would intensify its collection efforts on crime in support of the police's crime intelligence task.

R10-m available to research reasons for SA crime spate

Star 21/2/97 (34)

By Rodney Victor

There has been an enormous response to an offer by the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology to make R10-million available for research projects on South Africa's rampant crime problem.

The department, recognising that innovation was the key to tackling crime, has invited the country's research councils to submit proposals for research projects dealing with the issue, said departmental spokesman Andile Xaba.

The seven statutory research councils responded by submitting projects costing some R38,6-million at a public hearing in Midrand this week.

The winning projects are expected to be announced within two weeks.

The Agricultural Research Council proposed spending R16 250 000 to establish irrigation projects on the fringes of the cities to create employment for former prisoners and other unemployed people.

It suggested another project costing R880 000 to investigate the feasibility of fish farms on public dams, also designed to create employment.

It also requested R1 811 950 to establish a DNA database for domestic livestock, to counter the country's R120-million a year stock theft problem, and R450 000 to research the use of insects in investigating homicides and other serious crimes.

Insects present on dead bodies could

establish the time of death, and they could also help determine whether there were any poisons involved in the death.

Forensic entomology had already been used to investigate the Cleveland killings, it said.

The Council for Mineral Technology suggested a R1,4-million project to investigate alternative ways of milling gold-bearing ores, to counter the massive theft of gold concentrates.

Thirty tons of gold was stolen each year from the mills, the council said, which cost the country R1,5 billion in lost foreign exchange earnings and R700-million in lost taxes.

The most expensive proposal, costing R17-million, came from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in a consortium with the Human Sciences Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Fund for Research and Development.

The consortium suggested the development of new technology to help police track criminals and criminal activity, and to tackle high priority crimes such as vehicle theft and hijackings.

It also suggested projects to improve the monitoring of violence and to identify its causes.

Finally, the Council for Geosciences suggested a R1 775 000 project to ensure that optimum use was made of resources in the development of the Government's Maputo Corridor project, to reduce the likelihood of crime in this new area.

inspected and... a gas leak, she says. They told her the

But it was shut on the next morning...

Mokaba vows

to make SA safe for visitors

ARt 21/2/97

The increased number of criminal attacks on tourists to South Africa is a national disgrace, says Deputy Environmental and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba.

In a faxed statement yesterday after an attack on two German tourists in Cape Town, Mr Mokaba said a campaign was underway to make the country safer for tourists.

His department was working towards the formation of a directorate for safety and security of tourists and he called for speedy judicial handling of cases involving tourists.

He said his ministry was also in discussion with other ministries to halt crime, especially against tourists.

Two Swedish women volunteers from the Christian mercy ship Anastasis were attacked and robbed on the sand dunes between Eastern and Nahoon beaches in East London yesterday, police said.

The names of the women, aged 24 and 25, have not been released. Three suspects were arrested in the vicinity soon after the incident. - Sapa

Pagad claims Cape attorney

general supported protest

ARt 21/2/97

JERMAINE CRAIG AND LINDSAY BARNES

STAFF REPORTERS

Pagad has vowed to release a tape recording on Monday that it says will embarrass Cape attorney-general Frank Kahn "out of his office".

Pagad chief co-ordinator Abdoes-Salaam Ebrahim said the group had a tape recording of a conversation in which Mr Kahn suggested that Pagad go to Cape Town International Airport to demonstrate - with his support.

The protest held in December was banned by Transport Minister Mac Maharaj, but Pagad went ahead with it and 26 members were arrested after violent clashes with police.

Five policemen were shot and wounded later when the members appeared in the Bellville Magistrate's Court.

Mr Kahn has rejected Pagad's claim as absurd, saying the conversation took place before the demonstration was banned and at no time did he indicate support for an illegal march

Mr Ebrahim said Mr Kahn was aware the recording was being made as the recorder was displayed openly on his desk.

Mr Ebrahim and other Pagad leaders Aslam Toefy and Sharief Khan yesterday met Enver Daniels, an adviser to Minister of Justice Dullah Omar, to discuss the contents of the tape.

Mr Ebrahim said Pagad had had a letter from Mr Omar to the effect that Mr Kahn was withdrawing from a meeting between Pagad and various ministers to discuss the fight against gangsterism and drugs.

He said Pagad had 40 copies of the tape and "will definitely bring it to the people".

Mr Ebrahim said Pagad was still committed to getting rid of gangsterism and drugs "within the framework of the law".

"Our mothers are still dying and our children being raped," he said.

Mr Kahn challenged the group to stop making threats and to publish a transcript of the tape. He said he was not aware that the conversation was being taped.

"That tape will not indicate support for any unlawful activity," he said. "I showed sympathy for the cause of a legal march and they have deliberately sought to say I was encouraging an illegal march."

"Their logic falls flat when viewed against the background circumstances."

The taped meeting was held before Mr Maharaj withdrew permission for the group to march at the airport, he said.

Mr Kahn said he met Pagad leaders again and informed them they would be prosecuted if they marched.

"It's absurd to suggest I told them I would support them if they marched unlawfully," he said.

"I see this latest devious move by Pagad as an attempt to intimidate my office because we have taken a hard line on them and applied the law very strictly."

"It's an empty attempt to discredit me and I treat it with the contempt it deserves."

He would continue to apply the law in a strict manner, he said.

DP to fight for crime-busting national service

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The Democratic Party (DP) is to launch an initiative in Parliament to establish a voluntary system of national service dedicated to fighting crime.

At the Institute of Citizenship yesterday, DP leader Tony Leon said that volunteers could be trained "to make a difference where it matters most in our communities".

The party would introduce a private member's bill mooting de-

centralised police forces and had submitted legislation to change the constitution to recognise crime victims' rights.

"In the coming year we will give legislative teeth to seven more innovative, effective and tough anti-crime proposals," Leon promised. While the constitution recognised cities' right to local police forces, there was no mechanism to achieve them.

The creation of decentralised police forces was one of the pillars of the DP anticrime strategy as

statistics showed that wherever they operated, crime went down, he said.

The key to effective crime prevention was the recognition that crime varied markedly from community to community and required different strategies.

In the final half of last year, for example, Gauteng had roughly as many assaults and drug-related crimes as Western Cape, but twice the number of murders, rapes and housebreakings and six times as many vehicle thefts.

BD 21/2/97 (34)

Crime rate stabilised as '97 priorities identified

POLITICAL STAFF

ALTHOUGH crime levels were still unacceptably high, the government had begun to get a grip on the scourge, with statistics showing a decline and a stabilisation of a majority of the 20 most serious crime categories, according to Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi.

There had been a decrease in murders, robberies with aggravating circumstances, house-breaking in both residential and business premises, stock theft, shoplifting and theft out of cars.

Crimes that had been stabilised included assault, common assault, attempted murder, car theft, commercial crime, arson and drug-related crimes and driving under the influence of alcohol.

"It's important to point out that even in categories where crime has stabilised, this is often at unacceptably high levels, and should not ... encourage us to become complacent. It's heartening, nonetheless, to see that the short-term steps have already halted further deterioration.

"This leaves us poised to see the medium and longer-term measures under the National Crime Prevention Strategy umbrella deliver significant, sustainable

ET 21/2/97 (34)

advances. The challenge for us is to consolidate the limited progress we have achieved and build on it," Mufamadi said.

The minister said some of the results from measures implemented last year included the arrest of 1 062 gang members in the Cape Peninsula alone. Vehicle theft declined by 4,1% and more than 6 200 people had been arrested.

Mufamadi said priorities for 1997 "The Year of Service Delivery" included focus on high impact areas such as:

- The control and reduction of illegal and legal firearms.
- Attacking criminal organisations.
- Focusing on crimes against women and children.
- Increasing the crime prevention drive.
- Eradicating corruption in the criminal justice system.

"We have decided to identify priority issues that would deliver the greatest leverage in reducing crime levels," he said.

Mufamadi said human and physical resource management was a key area to be worked on in order to improve service. He said the government had sought to improve the availability of resources, particularly in formerly disadvantaged areas.

Take the anti-crime fight to the cities

Star 22/2/97

(34)

South Africa's criminal justice institutions, most notably the police force, require such urgent and fundamental restructuring that they will virtually have to be reinvented. **MARK SHAW** looks at the difficulties of the process

It is not enough to propose a set of "band-aid" solutions to merely hold together a system which is clearly failing. Radical new policy directions are needed. These include not only the creation of new structures - for example, a national drug commission responsible for both reactive and proactive anti-drug strategies - but also better use of powerful organs of government which currently are not heavily, or at least intelligently, engaged in law enforcement and crime prevention work.

Stories of the lack of capacity of the police are common. South African dinner-table talk - police stations with only three cars for 80 officers or detectives in Hillbrow carrying more than 70 dockets. And as public hysteria towards, and violent counter-actions to, crime have grown, so too have calls for the greater involvement of the military in crime control and prevention.

The Defence Ministry and the South African National Defence Force, while conceding that there is no conventional threat in the short to medium term, and that no such threat can be identified, are still spending the military budget on re-equipping for a conventional war.

In fact, all the hardware they lacked in the seventies and eighties during the arms boycott and the war in Angola is again being requisitioned. Not only corvettes and light fighters, but new submarines, tanks and supersonic fighter aircraft.

But the country is not threatened by a conventional war. Instead, all evidence points to the fact that military resources are being committed piecemeal to law-and-order tasks within the country itself.

While the SANDF argues that this is only for an agreed period of five years - after which the army will be withdrawn - officers privately concede that the SANDF will be committed domestically for as long as internal instability continues.

Instead of being divorced from messy issues around safety and security, the military is being drawn more closely into it, but without the necessary planning and budgetary changes. It is the sort of reluctant commitment which is not only piecemeal and unco-ordinated in practice (and effect), but also in spirit.

The current defence budget for the military is R10,5-billion, a figure unlikely to increase. If breakdown of this that the



DIFFERENT FUNCTION: Army Buffels patrol a township street during one of the many political disturbances of the past. Now, when crime is the most serious problem facing the country, rather than simply putting troops on the streets, the military could play a number of more specific and focused roles in crime prevention

Anti-crime bills aim to 'tighten up on bail'

Tougher jail sentences on the cards

AR 22/2/97 253 (34)

WILLIAM-MERVIN GUNDE
POLITICAL STAFF

South Africa's hard-working Ministry of Justice is going into overdrive this parliamentary session.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar, in his blueprint to win the country's war against crime - the Justice Vision 2000 unveiled last week - has set out a long list of anti-crime bills to be pushed through Parliament this year.

The tightening up of South Africa's much-maligned bail system is at the heart of the upcoming Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, which will allow the courts, in certain circumstances, to refuse bail.

"My view is that courts should be compelled to refuse bail in appropriate cases, and legislation is being considered in this direction. At the same time consideration will be given to the constitutional implications," Mr Omar said.

He said the tightening up of bail conditions would strengthen the hands of Government and the courts in protecting the community against serious criminals.

The Judicial Matters Amendment Bill provides that the ceiling on maximum sentences - that regional courts can impose - will be raised from five years to 10 years; and in the case of smaller district courts, from one year to three years.

The Cabinet had approved the principle of legislation for compulsory minimum sentences for certain serious crimes, such as gang and drug-related offences.

The community will also have a hand in sentencing - recommending whether the courts should hand out lenient

or tough sentences in individual cases.

The Department of Justice is also thinking about putting together a "national sentencing policy".

Mr Omar's dream of greater community involvement in criminal courts will move a step closer to realisation when laws to expand the lay-assessor system in lower courts will be introduced to Parliament. Mr Omar said draft proposals have been worked out.

South Africa could have its first Office for Witness Protection, responsible for the protection of witnesses. A Witness Protection Programme Bill makes provision for the placing under protection of a witness, prospective witness or a person who has given evidence in court or before a commission, at his or her request.

Legislation to provide greater protection to victims is also in the pipeline. The SA Law Commission has urged the Government to establish a compensation scheme for victims of crime.

Mr Omar said Section 300 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 51 of 1977, makes provision for the payment of compensation to victims of crime at the request of the prosecutor. However, these claims are limited to damage or loss of property. The Act does not make provision for compensation to victims for injuries sustained, or the payment of compensation to the family, if the victim was killed.

There is no State compensation fund to assist victims of crime. And, as far as protection

of witnesses, which includes the victim, is concerned, only a limited service is provided, due to the lack of funds.

Mr Omar said the Prevention of Crime Fund Bill will, for the first time, provide for the formation of a State fund to compensate victims of crime.

In line with popular thinking that the courts should mete out tougher sentences to deter crime, the Minister said legislation would be introduced this year that would increase the sentencing powers of the lower courts. The Justice Department has launched the "No Violence Against Women" campaign. It has re-examined whether the laws regarding violence against women and children are still relevant.

It has, for example, been re-examining at the definition of rape.

Bills aimed at making prosecutions - and court management of cases involving violence against

women and children - more sensitive and compassionate are also being drafted, he said.

Special courts are also mentioned as an option, although many Attorneys-General are sceptical of such courts.

The magistrates' debt collecting procedure will also see a major revamp with the Court Amendment Bill, which hopes to simplify the country's confusing debt collecting procedures. It wants to regulate the at-times chaotic debt collecting profession. A Bill to establish a Council of Debt Collectors, to set minimum standards for debt collectors, are in the pipeline.

The Bill also supports the Constitutional Court's landmark judgement that to be jailed for debt was unconstitutional. Then there is corporal punishment: Mr Omar wants to make whipping as punishment unconstitutional.

South Africa's law at present allows for whipping as a punishment for adult males between the ages of 21 and 30 years. Juvenile whipping has been outlawed.

The possibility of creating a separate juvenile justice system is also being investigated.

And, the Department of Justice wants to give natural fathers a greater say over their extra-marital children.

The Powers of Natural Fathers of Extra-marital Children Bill will deal with the right of access to, custody and guardianship of these children.

The Bill, suggested by the SA Law Commission, gives fathers an undisputed right to approach the courts to gain access to their children.

The courts will be able to provide such access, if satisfied that it is in the best interest of the child.

Mr Omar hopes to finally scrap the apartheid-inspired Divorce Courts for Blacks, which dates back to 1927.

These divorce courts were established under the Black Administration Act to hear separation and divorce cases of blacks.

This Act is in conflict with the equality clause in the new Constitution, and the Department hopes to introduce new legislation to scrap these courts replacing them with family courts.

Tougher legal action is envisaged for men avoiding contributing to maintenance for their children.

'Legislation to provide greater protection to victims is also in the pipeline'

Destabilisation blamed for SA crime

(34)

Nov 4/3/97

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — Defence Minister Joe Modise claimed yesterday that the current spate of serious and violent crime in South Africa could be linked to "deliberate destabilisation" by unknown "counter-revolutionaries".

He made the startling suggestion to journalists during a goodwill visit to troops stationed along KwaZulu Natal's borders with Mozambique and Swaziland, in the company of SANDF Chief Georg Meiring and Army Chief,

General Reg Otto.

Asked who could be behind the "destabilisation", Modise appeared to be either unwilling or unable to provide any proof to back up his claims.

But he stated, nevertheless, that police and the intelligence services had been asked to investigate this possibility.

Hinting that the army would become increasingly involved in fighting crime, Modise said: "We have an enemy terrorising our community internally. It is not safe to sleep in some areas."

Pressed to elaborate on his destabilisation theory, and who might be behind it, the defence minister replied: "Who knows? Speculation is very problematic. We need to have the facts. But you have to ask in whose interests is this? The police are working on that angle. So are the intelligence services. Once we know (the answers) we will let you know."

He added that the level of rape, murder and robbery was both "dramatic and traumatic", and this is what led to suspicion about possible destabilisation.

Crime levels remain unacceptable

(34) 00 5/10/97

Stephen Laufer

SERIOUS crime rates dropped in nine out of 20 categories last year compared to 1995, while seven groups remained stable and four — including rape and serious assault — increased, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Pretoria yesterday.

Categories which saw a decrease included murder, car hijacking, drug-related offences and aggravated robbery.

Presenting the SA Police Service's (SAPS's) quarterly crime statistics, Mufamadi said he was

pleased with the stabilising or declining trend in most serious crime categories, but "crime levels in SA remain unacceptably high".

Police commissioner George Fivaz would present him with detailed proposals for the selected lifting of a moratorium on recruitment to the SAPS by the end of the month. The aim was to strengthen important arms of the service, such as the detective branch.

High crime levels meant that each of the SAPS's 13 000 investigators was responsible for an average of 141 new cases last year, not including carry-overs. More

and better-trained detectives would reverse a decline in the clear-up rate for serious crimes, which had declined from 50,1% in 1994 to 48,6% last year, leading to the carry-over of 617 578 unsolved cases from last year.

The carry-over rate had risen 55% in the last three years. Improvements had been registered only in the clear-up rate for murder, attempted murder, arson, theft from vehicles, and stock theft, while they had declined in 15 other serious crime categories.

Higher crime levels in Gauteng and the Western Cape than else-

where for most categories gave cause for concern, Mufamadi said, as did the rise in reported rapes from 105,3 per 100 000 in 1994 to 115,2 in 1995 and 119,5 last year.

Murders fell nationally to 61,1 per 100 000 people last year against 64,6 in 1995 and 66,6 in 1994 and were at their lowest level in KwaZulu-Natal for 10 years. Mufamadi attributed this decline to the success of police task groups which had targeted organised political violence.

Car hijackings were down in Gauteng by 18,6%, the only province in which comparable

statistics were available. Truck hijacking was up nationally, but the frequent complicity of drivers indicated fraud. Robbery with aggravating circumstances dropped from 210,8 cases per 100 000 in 1994 to 159,2 last year.

Fraud, forgery, embezzlement, malappropriation and other commercial crime remained virtually stable at 75,3 cases per 100 000.

SAPS crime statistics head Chris de Kock said that the typical murder in SA involved alcohol or drugs and that victims were most frequently killed by acquaintances in weekend brawls. This

was borne out by the highest murder rates in the Western and Northern Cape, both predominantly rural provinces.

De Kock said statistics showed that the rate of alleged murders and attempted murders by SAPS members was double that of the population as a whole. This was possibly connected to the fact that a docket was opened each time a police officer killed or injured someone in the line of duty.

Drunken driving by police personnel was also almost double the national rate, believed to be stress-related, De Kock said.



Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, centre, police commissioner George Fivaz, right, and safety and security secretary Azhar Cachalia, left, at yesterday's briefing on crime statistics. Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Mufamadi

He has been lecturing on the technology of film-making at the University of Natal, Durban.

Cops worse than public in some crime categories

Proportionally more police than members of the public were arrested last year for murder and attempted murder according to a quarterly SA Police Service crime report.

The report, released in Pretoria, also revealed that 100 out of 100 000 police members had been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, compared with 57 out of 100 000 members of the public.

Crime information management services head Dr Chris de Kock stressed that the murder and attempted murder cases against police also sprouted from on-duty incidents.

The document expressed concern at the high number of police members arrested for assault and commercial crime.

More than 440 members were acquitted, and complaints were withdrawn in 63 of the cases. More than 1 880 cases were still pending.

Nine of South Africa's 20 most serious crimes had shown a downward trend last year, while incidents of rape, serious assault, robbery and illegal possession of firearms had increased, the report said.

Crimes that decreased included murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, stock theft, shoplifting, theft from and of vehicles, and drug-related crimes.

The document said seven priority crimes, which included attempted murder, common assault, housebreaking, commercial crime, arson, malicious damage to property and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, had remained stable

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said that although the Government was pleased about the stabilisation or decline of most serious crimes, the increase in rape was a matter of concern.

The report said higher rape and serious-assault figures might be attributed to an increase in reporting of the crimes, while the rise in arrests for illegal possession of firearms might be explained by effective police work.

"On the other hand, it may well be true that there is a massive influx of weapons of war from Mozambique and Angola, and a proliferation of stolen and lost firearms in circulation, becoming available to criminals."

The increase in robbery could be explained by the country's socio-economic situation. "These are people who steal

because of need, not because of greed," De Kock said.

He added that although the incidence of most priority crimes stabilised or decreased last year, the total number of cases reported had increased in some instances.

"One has to keep in mind the growth of the population."

On police performance in solving reported cases, the report said it was a matter of great concern that the number of suspects' fingerprints received by the Criminal Record Centre had decreased since 1996.

"During 1996, 4% (fewer) fingerprints were received than in 1995, contributing to a 10,3% decrease since 1994."

The solving rate for murder

cases had increased by 7,6% and that for attempted murder by 4,8% since 1995, while decreases had been reported in clearing rates in cases of robbery with aggravating circumstances and of rape.

Mufamadi said clearing rates in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal had declined, bringing down the national average.

It was also a matter of concern that a large number of unresolved cases, 617 578 in total, had been carried over to 1997, the minister said.

This was on top of 1,8 million new crimes reported in South Africa last year, which had been assigned to just less than 13 000 investigators.

Mufamadi reiterated the Gov-

ernment's willingness to consider a general lifting of a moratorium on police recruitment.

In order to improve the police detective services, the Government would consider lifting a recruitment moratorium in a way that bolstered specific units, if such a request were put forward by police management with compelling arguments, he said.

"This is a part of our willingness to consider a general lifting of the moratorium, based on the human resource plan which the police are scheduled to submit by the end of March."

The report said organised crime was a potent reality in South Africa. "This threat therefore requires special attention as it poses the danger of becoming the most destructive force active in the field of crime."

A comprehensive threat analysis on this matter had been

prepared and was subject to review. Preliminary findings said the extent of organised crime in South Africa was influenced by the country's strategic location on trade routes between the East and West.

Insufficient border controls and lack of legislation dealing with activities such as money-laundering also played a role.

More than 100 projects by the Organised Crime Investigation Unit had resulted in 687 arrests last year, including those of 10 syndicate leaders.

Nearly 300 trucks valued at R20-million, R2,6-million in endangered species and wildlife products, R13-million in drugs and R4,3-million in stolen property were seized.

Diamonds, gold, precious metals and valuable stones worth R1,2-million were also retrieved.

More than 6 510 suspects

were arrested in connection with possession or dealing in drugs last year, 47 063 stolen and hijacked vehicles were recovered, and 18 059 firearms were seized.

The police Diamond and Gold Branch arrested 2 784 suspects for crimes involving precious metals and gemstones last year while the Endangered Species Protection Unit arrested 112 suspects.

Of 54 846 commercial crime cases involving R3,8-billion reported to the SAPS detective service last year, 48 941 were concluded. And 77% of these were disposed of without any court appearance.

Mufamadi stressed the importance of crime information to enable the police to successfully fight crime.

He had appointed a task team to look into crime-information-gathering methods. - Sapa

(34) ~~SA~~ 8/13/97

Stress fracture lines beginning to show

Star 10/3/97 (314)

Embattled South African Police Service is slowly losing its grip in the fight against crime

By Derek Rooney
Crime Reporter

The beleaguered South African Police Service - overworked, underpaid and woefully short on manpower - is still shaking off the teething problems of its amalgamation, coupled with a high crime rate. Although official statistics for 1996 show a drop or stabilisation in certain crime areas, the cracks are beginning to show.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, releasing statistics last week, said short-term measures adopted by various role players affected by the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) announced last year, have shown partial success. But more energy was required to reduce crime in Gauteng and Western Cape.

The truth is that the police, slowly starting to come to grips with crime fighting, rather than amalgamation and transformation, is losing its grip in solving crimes which require active and efficient investigation.

According to Dr Chris de Kock, head of the police's crime information management services, the effectiveness of the police in combating crime can be measured by the general reported crime rate and the clearing or solving rate achieved by the police in relation to reported cases.

The incidence of most crimes per 100 000 of the population, with the exception of rape, serious assault and common theft, may have stabilised or dropped but the total clearing rate has dropped for the third year in succession.

The clearing rate is determined by the total number of cases disposed of (either referred to court, withdrawn or unfounded) and is calculated as a percentage of the latter total added to the number of unsolved cases.

With the exception of murder, attempted murder, theft out of vehicles, arson and stock theft, 15

major crime categories show a lower clearing rate.

An analysis of the clearing rate shows Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal police are buckling. Gauteng investigators cleared 47,6% of its load and Kwa-Zulu Natal 48,4%, well below the national clearing average of 67,5%.

Another indicator is the continuous annual escalation in the number of unresolved cases brought forward from one year to another which increased by more than half over the past three years.

In 1994, almost 400 000 cases were brought forward from 1993. This figure increased to more than 617 000 by the end of last year.

With a moratorium on recruiting of police in place since 1995 and an estimated loss of more than 5 000 a year, the SAPS has shrunk from more than 140 000 in 1995 to just over 131 000 late last year.

investigators, lured out of the service by the private sector or disenchanted with the new order, has placed tremendous strain on the remaining 12 986 detectives who had to investigate more than 1,8-million cases last year.

This amounts to about 141 cases an investigator and excludes the more than 600 000 unsolved cases carried over from 1995.

The detective service has a further handicap: more than 75% of detectives had not completed any formal training although 3 600 were expected to have completed investigation courses by the end of this month since an accelerated training programme was introduced in January last year.

Mufamadi has hinted at partially lifting the recruitment moratorium. "We are determined to improve our detective service through better training and refocusing our resources, both

human and financial, and will consider lifting the recruitment moratorium in a focused way that bolsters specific units."

Specialist units also experienced a dip in successes. It is ironic that, despite international warnings and an ever increasing number of large drug seizures, the South African Narcotics Bureau arrested fewer suspects in 1996 than in previous years. De Kock said this might be due to law enforcers lacking expertise and technology to counter highly organised syndicates.

Identifying suspects for crimes is difficult and labour-intensive and would be virtually impossible without forensic evidence. And yet, in spite of a high national crime rate and less than average solving rate, the police's Criminal Record Centre received 4% fewer fingerprint records last year and totalled a 10% drop since 1994. An analysis of fingerprint records has shown almost half of these suspects have had one conviction or are repeat offenders.

This fact and a vigorous approach to all crime including the arrest and fingerprinting of petty crime offenders led to a significant decrease in crime levels after a visit by New York Police Department Commissioner William Bratton in the early 1990s.

Bratton made a number of recommendations to police management, but these still have a way to go before implementation.

Low morale and a worrying corruption record has further blunted the Government's anti-crime initiatives.

Clearly, the SAPS, with the justice system, will need a budgetary boost to employ more skilled personnel with better pay (to keep existing officers) and be given the technological resources to track and trace criminals more efficiently if they hope to turn the tide on crime.



NATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS

	RATIO PER 100 000 OF THE POPULATION		
	1994	1995	1996
INCREASE			
Rape	105,3	115,2	178,9
Assault (serious)	521,9	535,8	630,5
Robbery	80,5	99,1	273,2
Illegal possession of firearms	27,6	28,8	38,7
DECREASE			
Murder	66,6	64,6	80,0
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	210,8	194,1	388,0
Housebreaking-Business	221,1	209,4	259,8
Theft-motor vehicle	258,9	245,0	701,3
Theft-out of/from vehicles	453,3	460,2	852,2
Other thefts	949,3	941,3	1,552,2
Drug-related crime	117,5	98,9	83,7
STABLE			
Attempted murder	67,8	64,3	99,2
Common assault	481,0	497,3	633,2
Housebreaking-Residential	566,0	591,7	1095,3
Commercial crime (fraud)	155,3	147,3	317,8
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	66,5	56,2	97,7

•Provincial position in relation to national average

BUDGET

Govt shows it is serious about preventing crime

(34) ED 13/13/97

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Controlling crime emerged as a primary government focus yesterday with the three departments in the criminal justice system being allocated large real increases in their budgets for 1997/98.

As part of this, spending on the SA Police Service will increase sharply by 14,4% before the salary increases for policemen are added. The increase in spending on prisons is even greater, with a budgeted 23,5% increase which takes correctional services' share of the budget to 2%. The justice de-

partment also gets an increase of almost double the inflation rate with a budgeted amount 13,3% higher than the 1996/97 level. Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said: "Expenditure on police, justice and correctional services will increase about 15% once the improvements in conditions of service are taken into account."

"This provides a clear indication of the seriousness with which government is approaching the issue of crime."

The increases are in sharp contrast to those provided in last year's budget when all three departments had nominal increases

by 6,4% and prisons by 0,2%, excluding salary increases.

Manuel said it was also important to note that in all these departments, and more particularly in the police service, a substantial programme aimed at improving the management or resources was underway, including extensive training initiatives.

"The work, assistance and support provided by the Business Against Crime Project has had a marked impact on the management of the police service and government is in full support of this new partnership," Manuel said.

The increase in allocation to

97 BUDGET

that were less than the 7,2% inflation rate, meaning reductions in real terms. Police's budget was increased last year by 4,6%, jus-

been included in this year's budget. Projects that would be implemented included the automated fingerprint identification system, training and systems design for improved crime scene handling.

About 70% of the money allocated to the three departments would be used to pay salaries. There are 138 000 policemen or one for every 320 citizens.

The budget review says a significant amount for improvements in the physical care of prisoners, monitoring of probationers and parolees as well as rehabilitation programmes is provided in the correctional services budget.

Education handed largest single slice for third consecutive year

Kevin O'Grady

EDUCATION spending was the largest single item for the third year running in the budget yesterday, with the sector receiving a R1,11bn or 2,8% increase over last year's spending of R99,165bn.

About R34,7bn of the R40,27bn grant goes to the provinces and R5,431bn of the R5,59bn allocated to the national education department will provide a much needed boost to tertiary institutions which, until recently, were expecting significant cuts to their state subsidies.

However, the total allocation, which accounts for 21,3% of government expenditure and 6,5% of gross domestic product (GDP), was greeted with dismay by teacher and student organisations and runs contrary to a statement by Education Minister Sibusiso Ben-

gu after last year's budget that consistent increases of 5% a year were needed.

In his speech, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said the amount allotted to education was high by international standards -- 5,4% of GDP in industrialised and 3,9% in developing countries -- and it showed "the high priority which government attaches to investing in our children's future".

Manuel said the R5,431bn directed to universities and technicians would include a 12,3% increase in the general subsidy formula -- bringing subsidiary allocations to tertiary institutions to R4,934bn from last year's R4,395bn -- and with R200m going to the national student financial aid scheme.

Another R100m was being sought from international donors for the aid scheme and to support,

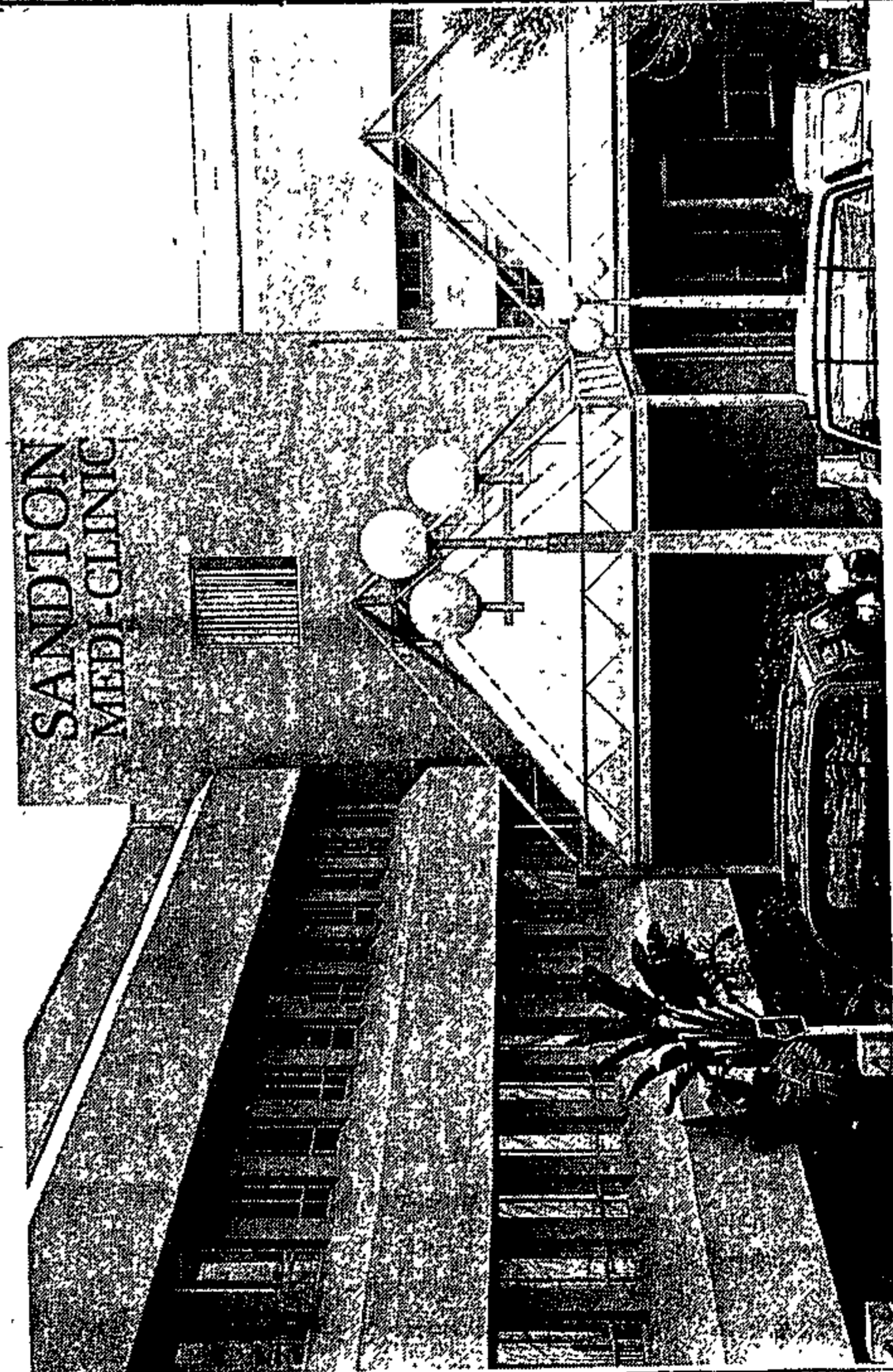
the redress of inequities and imbalances in the higher education system, the Budget Review said.

Manuel said that government would also increase adult education spending from R6,5m last year to R13,1m in 1997/98 while projected expenditure on primary, primary and secondary education would increase from R32,332bn last year to R33,074bn.

National Party education spokesman Renier Schoeman welcomed the allocation of such a large percentage of the budget to education, but said "one would obviously like to see even more".

Taking into account pupil increases, SA Democratic Teachers' Union general secretary Thulas Nxesi said a much larger increase in last year's budget should have been set aside.

It also seemed government had "not considered what needs to go



Picture: SELWYN TAIT

... increased 0,2% to 0,5% increase over its previous budgetary allocation.

Units formed to fight graft

BD 14/3/97

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela has abolished the Heath commission and appointed special investigation and tribunal units to root out corruption in government departments.

This is in line with the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act which was gazetted in November last year. (34)

The proclamation was signed on Wednesday by Mandela and would be published in the Government Gazette tomorrow, officials said.

Judge Willem Heath will head the special investigation unit while retired appeal court judge Mr Justice D P C Kotze will head the special tribunal.

It follows on the Heath commission appointed by former Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba last year to investigate malpractice and maladministration in the province, including in the former Ciskei and Transkei.

Judge Heath said in January the investigations had saved the taxpayer R10bn to date after malpractices were uncovered and stopped. Cabinet decided last year to extend the probe countrywide. — Sapa.

Heath to head govt corruption-busting unit

David Greybe

BD 18/3/97

(34)

CAPE TOWN — A commission "with teeth" to probe government corruption countrywide, similar to the former Heath commission in the Eastern Cape which saved the taxpayer an estimated R10bn, will be unveiled today.

Judge Willem Heath was appointed last week by President Nelson Mandela to head the commission's special

investigation unit, while retired Appeal Court judge Gerhardus Kotzé will head the special tribunal unit.

Further details are expected today.

Mandela last week abolished the Heath commission and appointed special investigation and tribunal units to rout out corruption in government.

Judge Heath yesterday described the national commission as "a new system of judicial control".

Landmark ruling enshrines rights of company directors

The Constitutional Court judgment has implications for prosecutions of white-collar crime, writes CARMEL RICKARD

ST (BT) 23/3/97

LEGAL controls, long used to hold directors personally responsible for crimes committed by their companies, were eased earlier this month when the Constitutional Court declared sections of the Criminal Procedure Act invalid.

The controversial section 332 (5) of the Act said that "servants or directors" of a company which had committed an offence were legally presumed to be guilty of the offence and were personally liable for punishment unless they could prove they did not participate in and could not have prevented the offence. The court had heard that this infringed the right of company directors to be presumed innocent until proved guilty, as well as certain other constitutional rights.

This month, the court upheld this view, and declared that the section was unconstitutional. However, the decision was not unanimous. Many of the judges remarked on their concern about white-collar crime, the prevalence of fraud and the need to protect the public. However, the majority decided that the inroads into the constitutional rights of directors could not be justified by considering these crime-control questions.

The issue has proved so difficult for the court to decide, that the judgment has taken a year to be handed down, while 10 of the 11 judges wrote their own decisions, spelling out where they agreed or disagreed with each other.

The court was asked to settle a second question, and its decision on this

matter was unanimous. The judges had heard a challenge to the validity of another provision of the Criminal Procedure Act, which says that if someone is charged with an offence involving "false representation", and it was proved that the false representation was made by the accused, he or she is legally assumed to have made the false statement knowing that it was false.

All the judges agreed that this section infringed the right of individuals to be presumed innocent and that the infringement was not justified. In his opening remarks, Judge Pius Langa took a swipe at the prosecuting authorities for continuing to rely on provisions of the law which were unconstitutional. He said the Criminal Procedure Act had been drafted when the legal validity of its provisions could not be questioned. This law had been the target of many challenges in the Constitutional Court and a number of sections had been declared invalid.

Langa said important provisions of this law in particular were being struck down by the Constitutional Court because they were inconsistent with the Constitution, and this left "gaps in the law" which only parliament could fill.

The Department of Trade and Industry said this week the Standing Advisory Committee on Company Law, chaired by Judge Richard Goldstone, would consider whether to recommend appropriate amending legislation consistent with the judgment of the Constitutional Court.

'The Criminal Procedure Act was drafted when the legal validity of its provisions could not be questioned'

Warning that corruption is killing SA (34)

SA 26/3/97

Government can't deliver basic needs if funds are siphoned off into private bank accounts, says Asmal

By **JOVIAL RANTAO**
Cape Town

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal has come out strongly against corruption and called for urgent changes to public service regulations, to enable the Government to dismiss inefficient and corrupt officials without going through lengthy procedures.

Speaking during the first reading debate on Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's 1997-8 Budget, Asmal warned that, if left uncontrolled, corruption could destroy the country's new-found democracy, as well as development and delivery to disadvantaged communities.

Asmal said corruption in the Government had brought shame to the new patriotism, but pointed out that action had been taken to root out the plague.

He said whistle-blowers in the public service, in the press and in Parliament who drew attention to

corruption and maladministration should be saluted.

"This is the year of delivery but we cannot put houses on the ground, taps near people's yards, medicines into clinics or books into schools if government funds are being siphoned off into private bank accounts by unscrupulous individuals.

"Nor can we build the respect for the Government, and for the functioning of a democratic society, if the administration is known to be corrupt," Asmal said.

"Building houses on a mass scale may prove to be a challenge to our engineering and organisational skills. Winning the war against crime may prove to be slow and a grinding task. Providing safe drinking water to 14 million people will take many years.

"But the battle against corruption constitutes a completely different mission because it is essentially a battle for the soul of the nation. And in this battle, the greatest corruption is not to act," he said.

IFP leader and acting president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi complimented the Government for doing well so far but called for a shift in emphasis when seeking solutions to problems.

"I believe that the time has come to take the gloves off when we confront problems such as criminality, unemployment and

Varied reaction to Manuel's Budget

the progressive deterioration of our education, health and welfare systems. Let us acknowledge the dramatic nature of these problems," Buthelezi said.

He said special attention should be given to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Government's administrative machinery, ranging from the top

structures of state departments right down to local government level.

He called for the elimination of administrative bottlenecks. The lack of skills and delivery capacity at provincial and local levels were delaying the implementation of policies made by central government, he said.

On crime, Buthelezi said the present centralised system of policing could not meet the challenges of the day.

Signalling his party's intention to vote against the Budget, the Democratic Party's Ken Andrew said the Budget did little or nothing to create jobs or alleviate poverty through investment and economic growth, while the Government as a whole was squandering taxpayers' money through inefficiency, incompetence and lack of delivery in a number of areas.

Andrew praised Manuel for some positive elements in the Budget. However, South Africa needed

a quantum leap in economic growth and a sustainable growth of 6% to make a real impact on unemployment and poverty, he said.

The Freedom Front's Dr Willie Botha said his party was unhappy with Budget proposals that would adversely affect farmers, including the reduced diesel subsidies and increase of excise duties on alcohol and tobacco products.

Pan Africanist Congress president Dr Stanley Mogoba called for the introduction of a development tax for three years so that "we will all be singing our way to a better South Africa".

African Christian Democratic Party leader, the Rev Kenneth Meshoe, welcomed the Budget but said future budgets should be reviewed so that those who created wealth received the necessary incentives to do so.

The National Party's Dr Theo Alant said his party would vote for the Budget, despite its reservations on certain issues.

Crime crisis blamed on apartheid dirty tricks

POLITICAL STAFF

Durban - Rampant crime and lawlessness in South Africa, and KwaZulu Natal in particular, can be blamed to a large extent on secret strategies by the former cabinet's State Security Council, says the author of the dossier on secret apartheid military operations.

Howard Varney was convener of the disbanded Investigation Task Unit, which probed hit-squad activities for two years.

His 160-page dossier on clandestine military operations conducted by the former government was presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission this week.

According to the report, although the former state was under violent attack, its political leaders adopted strategies that cast aside the rule of law - and "which still impact on society today".

Mr Varney said rampant crime in South Africa was not due to emerging democracy: "The very institutions that were meant to uphold the rule of law were involved in massive campaigns that subverted due process."

"This, in my opinion, contributed in substantial measure to the state of lawlessness we face today. Whole communities that could not rely on the police for protection turned to self-help and retribution." Mr Varney drew on top-secret military

and SSC documents. One referred to an alleged top-level SA Defence Force meeting in 1988 at which the officer commanding of the SADF's Natal Command, Brigadier Hattings Pretorius, said the KwaZulu police were not effective and promoted Inkatha's cause.

"Further, the neutral masses believe the South African Police has chosen sides with Inkatha and that they can expect no protection from the police," he said.

Documents in the report show that Inkatha recruits - secretly trained in the 1980s by the SADF in the Caprivi near Namibia and deployed in KwaZulu Natal - were being arrested for involvement in planned attacks. The trainees were told to

talk only to security forces personnel if arrested by the CID or detective branch.

Documents detail a meeting in 1988 in Pretoria, allegedly attended by the then SAP national commissioner, General Johan van der Merwe.

Documents quote him as saying (in reference to Inkatha trainees being arrested for offensive operations): "Where a member (trainee) is in difficulty, bail can be arranged, but then the member must be taken away."

The report also makes reference to a Caprivi trainee who confessed to killing 60 people and another who admitted to 24. One of these men was concealed from arrest for some time.

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Crime epidemic: private sector hits out at police

Key units being probed

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - A damning private sector report on crime has highlighted bad management, slack police methods and inefficiency as major obstacles to any attempt to combat crime in Gauteng.

The report, commissioned by the theft and fraud-afflicted container industry, is the result of an eight-month independent investigation of thefts at the City Deep container depot. The report highlighted the role of police incompetence and involvement in a crime epidemic which led to industry losses of more than R70-million last year alone at the depot.

It coincides with all-time low levels of confidence in three key local police units after a spate of disclosures of gross misconduct at the Kaserne Truck Theft Unit, Brixton Anti-Hijacking Unit and Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit. Special internal investigations of these units are nearing

completion and new commanders have been appointed.

As police investigations of the three sidelined special unit commanders near completion, irritation at the lack of accountability of senior police officers earlier this month prompted container industry representatives to appeal to Gauteng Minister for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte to intervene.

In a three-page letter to Ms Duarte, industry representative Isabel Louw appealed for an inspection of all police stations and units in Gauteng.

"We fear that they (with the exception of a few units who have top commanders) will all reveal the Kaserne and Brixton problems," the letter said.

The latest crisis comes after a vote of no confidence by national Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi and seven African National Congress provincial ministers in national police commissioner George Fivaz's ability to fight crime.

ARG 10/4/97 (24)

Theft from containers may have cost businesses R70-m

Star 11/4/97

(34)

CRIME REPORTER

Container crime syndicates are flourishing in South Africa, because the public is too eager to snap up stolen goods at bargain prices.

A privately-funded investiga-

tion at Johannesburg's City Deep depot, which handles almost 75% of SA's container traffic, has revealed that organised groups have been systematically stripping containers of goods. Top items are imported liquor, cigarettes, tyres and wheel rims, TV

and hi-fi sets, packaged foodstuffs, clothing, footwear and precious (processed) metals.

Businesses could have lost more than R70-million last year.

► Full report
Page 5

Leon urges Mandela to declare state of emergency in anti-crime

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Democratic Party leader Tony Leon took the lead in an opposition onslaught in Parliament yesterday, calling on President Nelson Mandela to declare a state of emergency to combat crime which had created an effective state of anarchy.

Leon's speech calling the government to task over its failure to combat crime was echoed by National Party (NP) leader FW de Klerk and Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen. The

public row between Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and national police commissioner George Fivaz was seen as a matter of concern.

The strident opposition calls came in sharp contrast to a presidential address, during Mandela's budget vote in the National Assembly, which noted that there had been progress in bringing a better quality of life to all South Africans. Mandela also acknowledged that SA had a budget in place which spelled out choices, but where success will elude us unless we frankly and ur-

gently address the serious capacity problems we face in the civil service; in the criminal justice system; in our provinces and local authorities; in our economy."

Mandela also moved to reassure the nation that there was no "racial, linguistic, or ethnic" group in the dock and that the truth commission was aimed at achieving a clearer picture of history to put the nation on a lasting road to reconciliation "determined never to repeat the injustices of the past. Leon said that the dictionary mean-

ing of anarchy was "general lawlessness and disorder, especially when thought to result from an absence or failure of government."

He said this was the position in SA today. He said there was a culture of lawlessness which required decisive moves which could come only from the president.

The president had the power to halt the "fundamental breakdown of law and order and the violence which has been unleashed" through the declaration of a state of emergency. "This is a

PD 16/7/97

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WAR

Mandela

Continued from Page 1

backed or sacked. He said that Fivaz was Mandela's first and most visible appointment and that the argument between him and Mufamadi was telling criminals that "our back is turned". He said the quarrel did not mask the real issue which was that now, after the row, South Africans could see that even government believed that the police could not cope with crime.

He suggested that SA was in need of defence and the new constitution should not be interpreted as a charter for crooks and criminals.

Both De Klerk and Leon praised Mandela for his work in pursuit of national reconciliation and the efforts being made by government to achieve a negotiated settlement in Zaire.

However, De Klerk charged that Ribn had been wasted in the packages of public servants who were vitally needed. He said many of the provinces under ANC control were in danger of collapse. All this required the urgent attention of the president.

Continued on Page 2

"drastic step and I am not suggesting that the president undertake it lightly or without due consideration."
De Klerk said that the confrontation between Mufamadi and Fivaz was ominous and spelt danger for the country. He also called on Mandela to "crack the whip" and fire those in government who had failed to perform. Only the president had the power to do so, he said.
Leon said Fivaz should be either

SANDF helping police

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

IN WHAT could be described as a mini state-of-the-nation address in Parliament yesterday, President Nelson Mandela announced the greater involvement of the army in the battle against crime.

However, he avoided directly touching on the feud between Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi and Commissioner of Police George Fivaz.

Referring to the crime situation, he said that in the short term a series of high density crime prevention operations were launched around the country this week.

"Additional members of the SA National Defence Force have been tasked to assist the police. All other institutions involved in the National Crime Prevention Strategy will be playing a part, including the full capacity of our intelligence structures," he promised.

This will be a campaign that will not stop until "the criminals have fully under-

stood that we mean business," he warned.

In what could be interpreted as an oblique aside aimed at the feuding Mufamadi and Fivaz, he said that it was important to achieve "maximum cooperation on the issues of political authority and operational authority".

But, in a strong rebuttal, leader of the Democratic Party Mr Tony Leon called on Mandela to either back Fivaz or sack him.

"Mr President, if you decide your commissioner is not delivering and you replace him, you must go for the best in the world for South Africa is the most murderous society in the world."

Speaking during the President's budget debate, Leon said to Mandela: "Commissioner Fivaz was your first and most visible appointment. You must back him or sack him."

Referring to the Mufamadi-Fivaz feud, Leon argued that while the law and order community was "hopelessly" divided, the criminals were "unified as never before"

In his address, Mandela said the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was not a witch-hunt against Afrikaners.

"Today the old fault lines in our society are showing more sharply," he said.

Mandela reminded Afrikaners that they "are an inextricable part of our rainbow nation.

"There is no place for any sense that any racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or other group is collectively in the dock. Afrikaners will know that when a specific perpetrator of gross human rights violations who is an Afrikaner appears before the commission, it is not the Afrikaner in general who is being called to account," he pointed out.

Reacting, former deputy president Mr FW de Klerk said that a way had to be found to handle conflicts of the past so that new polarisations were not created.

He said the current "reckless efforts" to demonise individuals, organisations and parties went against the reconciliation aspect of the Truth Commission.

(34) Soweran 16/4/97

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Demand for...
**Report on crime trends gives
cause for optimism - minister**

POLITICAL STAFF

ARC 18/4/97

(34)

Statistics on South Africa's crime trends show features which have given the Government reason for optimism, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Parliament today.

At the same time Mr Mufamadi said the Government was worried about an increase in reported rates of social crimes.

Introducing a debate on the police budget vote, the minister disclosed that:

■ Reported thefts of vehicles in 1996 decreased by 4,3 percent against 1995 fig-

ures. Last year, 47 083 stolen vehicles were recovered by the police.

■ Robbery with aggravating circumstances decreased from 80 071 cases in 1995 to 67 249 in 1996, a decrease of 16 percent.

■ Break-ins at business premises increased from 86 379 in 1995 to 87 863 in 1996. Housebreaking at private homes increased from 244 063 in 1995 to 246 438 in 1996.

He said the most disturbing crime trend in 1996 was the rise in reported rates of social crime. Incidents of rape increased by 6,3 percent from 47 506 to 50 481.

AGE CELLPHONES

**Man
ster**



Cold shoulder for crime victims

M+G 18+24/4/97 (34)

Hein Marais

GROWING fears about South Africa's crime rate have failed to prompt business to finance one of the country's most successful anti-crime projects.

The Johannesburg-based Trauma Clinic, which provides free counselling to victims of crime, has had its funding requests turned down by a welter of major South African corporations. They include South African Breweries, Johnnic, Sun International, Rembrandt and Foodcorp.

Run by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the clinic has been swamped by requests for counselling by victims of hijack-

ings, armed robbery and domestic violence. In 1996, it handled more than 175 new clients a month.

The clinic has been forced to run on reserve funds for the past four months. It has sent out 150 funding applications to corporations this year, but has so far received less than R10 000 in pledges.

"We've been slightly distressed at the initial responses from business," the director, Graeme Simpson, says. Only three companies — Anglovaal, JCI and Standard Bank — contributed funds to the clinic last year.

The main reason cited by the companies is that they have already donated elsewhere. "Requests to support worthy causes have now

increased to such an extent that it has become impossible to help even some of the most deserving causes," Rembrandt's communications office wrote to Simpson.

Simpson believes part of the problem is a perception that victim counselling is mainly remedial and does not prevent crime.

"This work is proactive — it's an important intervention in the cycle of violence in our society," he says.

Corporations contacted by the *Mail & Guardian* this week cited exhausted funds as the reason for declining the clinic's requests. But observers say many companies still devote negligible amounts to their corporate social responsibility programmes.

Crime wave: It's worse than you thought

Tangeni Amupadhi

THE banks and police have been concealing crucial information about the growing wave of bank robberies, including statistics that police apprehend only 10% of culprits.

The information reveals that the crime wave besetting South Africa is even worse than the public has been led to believe.

The *Mail & Guardian* has established that the top banks suffered more armed robberies last year than during the whole of the preceding 10 years.

The banks are also understood to be keeping records which show that 98% of the robberies have been carried out by black males.

Police and the Council of South African Banks (Cosab) agreed last year to withhold information of this kind — apparently because of fears that releasing details of the police's low success rate would encourage more robberies.

Cosab this week again refused to release detailed information, saying that the decision to do so rested with its individual members.

However, the top four banks — First National



Body bag: Yet another bank robbery

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY THE STAR

Bank, Absa, Standard Bank and Nedcor — are close to finalising their own detailed study about the effects of burgeoning crime on them and this might be released soon.

A study by internal security divisions of the

banks shows that they suffered 150 armed robberies from October 1995 to September 1996 — 50 more than during the preceding 10 years.

First National Bank suffered 20 robberies in the 12 months to 1987, with nine arrests. But this had jumped to 130 robberies in the 12 months to 1996, with just 12 arrests.

Police estimate that total bank robberies hit 600 last year. But figures for past years are not available and arrest rates cannot be given.

"The arrests and recovery rate is extremely low," says Standard Bank's head of security Ian Coult. "We are concerned at the growth in the incidence and the authorities — the police, the courts and prisons — are not producing the kind of results that we want to see."

Reg Crewe, head of the National Detectives Service, said half the 14 most-wanted bank robbers targeted last year had been arrested. Murder and robbery units, which also investigate bank robberies, were being "beefed up".

Cosab's chief executive, Bob Tucker, says: "There is nothing sophisticated about the robberies. It is just brutal ... an unbelievably callous attitude towards the lives of all South Africans."

MFG 18-24/4(97) (34)

Academy to boost battle against crime

ARG 19/4/97

(25) (34)

JOHAN SCHRONEN
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A national police detective academy, to be established soon, is poised to professionalise the police's investigative arm and produce more client-orientated policing.

National Commissioner of Police, George Fivaz, yesterday announced the establishment of new academy as part of the policing priorities and objectives for the 1997/98 financial year.

With South Africa having among the worst crime statistics in the world, police priorities this year were the combating of crimes involving firearms, the investigation of criminal organisations, crimes against women and children, the eradication of corruption within the criminal justice system and the implementation of crime prevention strategies, Commissioner Fivaz said.

He said the academy would help to enhance the quality of investigative services and improve case management by improving the capacity and skills of investigators.

Professionally trained detectives would result in effective crime investigation, proper feedback to victims and witnesses and would ultimately improve customer satisfaction.

Deputy National Commissioner Zoli Lavisa, who is overseeing the establishment of the academy, said that after careful consideration it was thought that the detective school should be based in Gauteng, but there was also talk that it could be established in Paarl.

"The launch of a police academy, which is a trend all over the world in developing countries, would help alleviate the vast backlog of untrained detectives," said Commissioner Lavisa.

He added that the structures for the academy were in place and the tender process for outside resources was under way.

Commissioner Fivaz said the training of all policemen was a priority in the entire service.

"We have inherited a complete mess from the old police force.

"At least 30 000 members do not have standard eight and 45 000 members have

no drivers licence," said Commissioner Lavisa.

Commissioner Fivaz said other "organisational focus areas" included "victim empowerment", budget and resource management and "affirmative training".

Affirmative training should provide basic skills to those who were unskilled, but should also develop an accelerated training programme for members of previously disadvantaged groups.

Commissioner Fivaz also announced the development of a Service Charter in consultation with the community who would then be able to evaluate the service of the police.

Expected annual outputs and targets at police stations at area and provincial levels will be specified to measure performance, identify weaknesses and ensure service delivery, according to Commissioner Fivaz, adding that the police's objectives and priorities would contribute to the success of this year being a "year of service delivery" in line with the Government's overall objective for the country.

Banks unite to stamp out robberies

Information pooled in bid
to bring gangs to account

PETER DE IONNO

THE country's major banks have set aside their rivalry in an attempt to fight a reign of terror being waged against them by ruthless gangs of robbers.

Bob Tucker, the new chief executive of the Council of SA Banks, said this week he wanted an "urgent" meeting with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to discuss ways of ending the epidemic of well-organised heists.

It was eroding confidence in financial institutions, he said.

The assault last weekend on a branch of Volkskas in Randburg in Johannesburg, which left three people dead, has focused attention on a spate of robberies which have netted about R5-million in Gauteng alone so far this year.

Bankers and police fear that the gangs will soon start targeting banks in other areas as well.

Now banks have decided to pool their information on the gangs, who continually elude the police and make a mockery of sophisticated security systems.

Tucker said: "It's not only about the money that is stolen, it's about the hidden cost that is draining society — additional security, trauma, the erosion of confidence in financial institutions. South Africa's bank robbers are especially violent

by international standards and their readiness to shoot beats the most stringent security."

A frightening feature of recent bank robberies has been a threat to shoot customers or staff unless videotapes are removed from security cameras and handed over.

Police admit that they know little about the four main gangs suspected of being behind the 44 armed hold-ups in Gauteng this year.

Superintendent Rudie van Olst, appointed this week as the intelligence co-ordinator of a task force that includes murder and robbery specialists from all over Gauteng, said the unit was dependent on information from informers.

Fingerprints have been left at crime scenes and some raids have been recorded by cameras, but there are few other clues. Police have begun profiling the gangs and their members but the groups splinter and reform almost daily, spreading and sharing expertise.

Until recently, the key to identifying the gangs was the way individual robberies were conducted. But the trend now is towards copycat robberies, raising speculation that a single gang or syndicate is co-ordinating the heists.

The robberies are always carried out by between four and six gunmen, though a woman has taken part in several of the Johannesburg robberies. The gang always splits up, with one group vaulting the

counters and scooping cash out of tills and the other keeping customers and security staff face-down on the floor at gunpoint.

Van Olst said: "These people are specialists. They don't just walk into a bank and pull a job. The first gang members go in with inquiries or stand around filling out forms, but what they are doing is checking the layout and security systems."

Banks could improve their security by adopting industry-wide common procedures and standards, he said.

The task force has made 18 arrests within six weeks.

Ten days ago, in a series of raids in Johannesburg, Hillbrow and Soweto, nine suspects were arrested, including three Zimbabweans. They had allegedly taken R4-million from a Fidelity Guards vehicle in Randburg in March, leaving two people dead and five wounded.

Also arrested were two men allegedly involved in a Trust Bank robbery in Norwood last month. They are believed to have links with the Fidelity Guards attackers.

Arrests were also made in connection with two Trust Bank robberies in Rosebank. One of those suspects has been linked to the Fidelity Guards robbery and the Norwood Trust Bank heist.

One of two suspects arrested after a Trust Bank raid in Primrose last month is believed to be linked to one of the Rosebank robberies.

ST 20/4/97

(34)

Public demands stricter gun control, poll shows

Business Day Reporter

AN OPINION poll on gun ownership conducted for Business Day by Market Research Africa shows overwhelming support for far stricter ownership and licensing regulations.

Respondents thought licences should be granted only after applicants had satisfied stringent qualifying conditions, both initially and then through tests every five years.

There was nevertheless a predominant view that every adult citizen, except for convicted criminals and the mentally ill, should be allowed to own a firearm.

The survey was conducted in February. The area-stratified probability sample of 2 508 people represented approximately 92% of SA's urban adult population.

The survey comes at a time of grave public concern about violent crime, and follows Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's recent disclosure that 19 600 people with criminal convictions are licensed owners of firearms.

In the survey, seven in 10 respondents felt that people should not be allowed to own as many guns as they liked. This view was held by eight in 10 Indians and coloureds, seven in 10 blacks and six in 10 whites.

Just fewer than half of those questioned thought that every adult should be allowed to own one

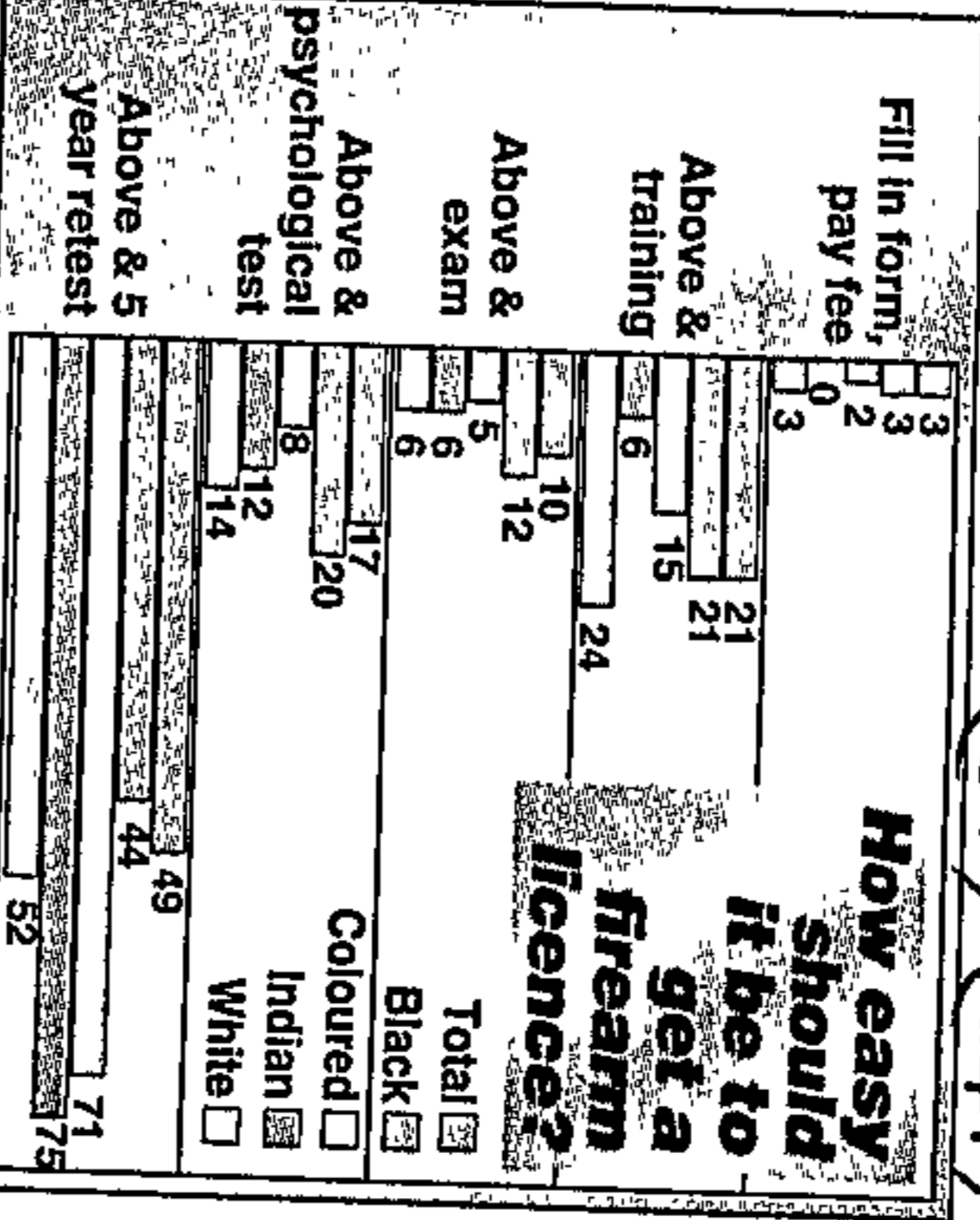
firearm, but that special permission should be required for the ownership of two or more firearms.

When it came to wearing or carrying firearms in public, 60% overall said that only police or soldiers on duty should be allowed to do this without special permission. Whites, at 52%, were not quite as supportive of this limitation as blacks (62%) and Indians (70%).

The attitude of white adults to the carrying of firearms in cars differed strongly from those of other races.

Nearly seven in 10 Indians and six in 10 blacks felt that nobody except policemen should be allowed to carry a firearm in a vehicle without special permission. However, half the white respondents thought anyone should be allowed to do so, compared with 26% of blacks, 28% of Indians and 32% of coloureds.

Market Research Africa MD Hanna Fourie said:



Graphic: KAREN MOOLMAN Source: MARKET RESEARCH AFRICA

(34)

BD 22/4/97

"This could be in reaction to the threat of car hijackings, although crime statistics indicate that far more blacks than whites are hijacking victims.

"Black respondents, overall, appear the most concerned about uncontrolled gun ownership and usage. It is possible that black adults regard firearms more as offensive weapons, whereas to whites they are a means of self-defence."

An interesting point was the reaction of coloured respondents to a question about the cost of a firearms licence (currently R50): 61% said licences should cost much more than they did.

In sharp contrast, only 47% of whites and 43% of blacks favoured a price increase, while 42% of both groups thought that the cost should stay the same.

If South Africans had their way, licensing requirements would be tightened up. Almost half the respondents said that in addition to the current requirements of filling in a form and paying a fee, prospective owners should have to do a training course on how to use and keep firearms safely, pass an exam on gun handling and usage, undergo psychological testing and be re-examined and retested every five years.

A further 17% endorsed this process without the retesting condition.

Support for the full spectrum of suggested qualifying criteria varied across the provinces. Seven in 10 Free State residents supported all the suggested additions to current procedures, as did six in 10 KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape respondents, but just fewer than four in 10 in Gauteng felt the same way.

Only in Northern Cape and North West did a majority of people (37%) believe that adding a training course to the current procedure would suffice.

There was much less support for the suggestion of having to pass an examination after the course—only 9%.

"This was quite a widespread tendency," said Fourie. "With the exception of those in KwaZulu-Natal, respondents thought far more of the idea of prospective gun owners having to do a training course than they did of measuring the results in an exam."

'Octopus' of fraud spreads its tentacles

Crime syndicate has sucked up millions of the taxpayers' rands in countrywide scams, KwaZulu Natal legislature told

Star 22/4/97 (34)

OWN CORRESPONDENTS
Durban

The KwaZulu Natal legislature has been told of a massive "octopus-like" crime syndicate which has sucked up millions of rands of government funds with tentacles stretching all over the country, including Gauteng.

Brief details of the widespread network of corruption were revealed in Pietermaritzburg yesterday during budget hearings into the Department of Traditional and Environmental Affairs.

Department secretary Robin Raubenheimer said he had met recently with SA Police Service anti-corruption unit director Margaret Kruger and provincial auditor-general Chris Foster to discuss the disappearance of more than R3,8-million from the KwaZulu Natal directorate of nature conservation.

The same tentacles had also been sucking away in at least two other provinces, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, and in four government departments in KwaZulu Natal.

The fraud was not perpetrated simply by "a few clerks in

Ulundi" but appeared to be the work of several people, including "certain business people sitting in Durban".

Raubenheimer was responding to questions by Brian Edwards, who wanted to know who would be held accountable for the funds.

"It looks like we are protecting someone ... hiding something," Edwards suggested.

“
**They are
very clever
at covering
their marks
in the sand**
”

Raubenheimer said he agreed that someone had to be held accountable, but he did not want to release further details because the police had asked him not to endanger their investigation.

"This is as far as I'm pre-

pared to go ... because we need to get at the head of the beast and bring the whole octopus to book.

"They are very clever at covering their marks in the sand."

Police spokesman Superintendent Hendrik Engelbrecht said the investigation into this "octopus" of fraud and corruption was in its early stages.

He did not know at this stage whether the other two provinces would be drawn into the investigation.

"This takes time ... especially if we are dealing with organised crime," he said.

Engelbrecht said he was not sure how many KwaZulu Natal government departments would ultimately be involved in the investigation but added that his unit was already investigating many welfare cheques.

Some cases from the department of local government and housing were also being investigated.

The KwaZulu Natal transport department is already involved in a joint investigation into driver's licence fraud with the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga provincial transport departments.

Crime hinders foreign investors

By Joshua Raboroko

SOUTH AFRICAN-BORN British businessman Dr Reginald Reed believes foreign investment will only start pouring into the country once violence, crime and apartheid are completely wiped out.

Reed - born Hlongwane and originally from Alexandra Township in northern Johannesburg - says investors fear escalating crime and violence will jeopardise their chances of doing good business in South Africa.

He says there are still many remnants of apartheid in our society. He singled out the corporate world as an example but also pointed to the general behaviour of some whites - which he says is still far from changing.

Political change

"We have to learn to change attitudes, especially those of racists, if South Africa is to become a world power. However, there are those who have accepted political change. Now we have to seek economic power."

As an anti-apartheid activist, Reed left South Africa in the wake of the government clampdown on the PAC and ANC during the 1960s.

After seeking political refuge in



Businessman Dr Reginald Reed believes foreign investment will help reduce the high level of unemployment in South Africa.

many African countries, he settled in Britain where he obtained a doctorate in psychology and philosophy. He later started his own business consultancy and obtained British citizenship.

Reed spoke to *Sowetan* on a two-week visit to South Africa during

which he visited his family in Tembisa on the East Rand. He also held talks with government officials and former president FW de Klerk.

He says the dawn of the new political dispensation here has sparked enthusiasm among foreign countries, including Britain, the United States and Germany to resume business in this country.

But, he adds that his experience is that the international community fears investing in South Africa because of the escalating crime. They are also concerned with what will happen after Nelson Mandela's presidency.

They have high regard for Mandela, and believe he is one of the "world's greatest leaders and prob-

ably the most prominent African statesman", he says.

Reed notes a large increase in the number of business visitors to South Africa, with around 1 000 people passing through the trade directorate's

doors during the past year.

The directorate offers them services such as market research, identification of potential agents, checking of these agents and lobbying of South African authorities on trade issues.

Britain is the biggest investor here, with around one third of all foreign investment. This is the result of the traditionally close relationship between South Africa and Britain.

High crime rate

However, Reed adds, other countries willing to do business with South Africa are still sceptical about the future of their investments here because of the country's high crime rate.

He is surprised that crime has increased in the aftermath of apartheid. During the epoch of segregation, he says, police were able to keep crime low. "Why are they not doing so now?"

This seems to indicate that there are people who wish apartheid was still entrenched.

However, he believes foreign investment will help to reduce the high levels of unemployment in poor black communities. Education will also have to be spread equally among the different population groups.

He blames low productivity in South Africa on workers lacking the necessary skills and training to make them productive. As a result, employers will have to pay for training.

In conclusion, Reed says, everyone will win by making the country more competitive.

He lauds Labour Minister Tito Mboweni's recent Green Paper on a skills development strategy for all industrial sectors. It proposes to raise money for training by imposing a profit levy of 1 percent to 1.5 percent.

Reed intends to return to South Africa to start several business projects as well as to share his experiences with "my people - because I believe we are a winning nation".

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Banks have to balance safety with books

WHEN a robber walked into an American Express branch in a Johannesburg shopping centre and threatened staff with a hand grenade this week, he was acting logically, security experts believe.

The man got away with traveller's cheques worth R315 000 and a briefcase filled with cash — proof, some say, that increased physical security in banks, foreign exchange bureaus and retail outlets handling large amounts of cash can give rise to an arms race in which callous criminals resort to ever more lethal weapons.

Recognition that upgrading physical security can be only a part answer to the spate of bank robberies in Gauteng — there have been more than 40 since January — places the banks in a dilemma.

Their task is to balance improvements in the security of staff and clients with the need to keep banking halls attractive and accessible, while limiting the costs of security and losses through robberies.

"Built-in security systems should never be assumed to be lasting," says Institute for Strategic Studies' policing expert Mark Shaw. "Criminals are always on the lookout for ways of overcoming security, and there is a need for banks and other institutions to keep one step ahead."

To do so, it is necessary to understand the nature of the crime, Shaw argues.

Effective counter-measures can only be the result of a more sophisticated understanding of why bank robberies are occurring at some branches and not others.

Closer analysis of the current spate of robberies should show whether they are targeting branches where security has not yet been upgraded, or whether the improvements do not matter to criminals.

"Many banks have double-door systems controlling access. Are they ineffective in preventing the bank robbers from making a quick getaway, or are the criminals avoiding them and targeting

(34)

The incidence of bank robberies has risen markedly in recent months. Specialist writer Stephen Laufer investigates what is being done to counteract the trend

20 25/4/97



Those who did not get away ... aftermath of a bank heist attempt in central Johannesburg. Picture: RUVAN BOSHOFF

banks without them?" Shaw asks. Studies in other countries show that visible policing — uniformed officers on patrol near banks — has a significant deterrent effect.

Shaw says it appears significant that many of the recent robberies have been in Johannesburg, not known for its successes in putting large numbers of highly visible police personnel on the streets. Graeme Simpson of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation believes that the double-door system is largely ineffective in the face of the massive firepower available to robbers, who enter banks individually before regrouping, robbing the institution and staging a blazing getaway.

One aim of new built-in security systems must therefore be to keep weapons out of banks entirely, he believes. "Metal detectors and other sophisticated systems which allow people carrying guns to deposit them safely before entering the bank could be part of the solution." Arming guards more heavily is not the answer, experts believe. "There is no way to match gangs with automatic rifles without getting a lot of people killed," Simpson says. A recent bank robbery shootout in Randburg, in which 10 people were wounded, illustrates the point. The emphasis must shift to preventing bank heists rather than reacting to them in kind. For many European banks, the solution lies in high technology. Commerzbank, one of Germany's big four, is in the process of intro-

glass, but that meant all the money was in one place — just what the robbers wanted, Schütz said. "Now every time a branch is refurbished, we take out the protective glass, open the place up, and put in the smart machines."

A key element in the Commerzbank strategy is to publicise widely the conversion of a branch to the new system. "The more people know that there is no easy access to significant amounts of money in a branch, the less attractive it becomes for robbers."

Armed robberies are down, Schütz says, and the bank's security department is happy with the new system.

This is all very well in an ordered society where robbers are armed with pistols at most, and often only with vegetables — one man was arrested in the US after holding up a bank up with a zucchini — or toys, say the SA experts. In a context where criminals are particularly callous, it becomes more likely that hostages will be taken in an attempt to extort the cash if robbers already inside a bank find it harder to get at the money.

"We have reached a crisis situation where it appears as if security systems alone cannot do the trick," Council of Southern African Bankers (Cosab) chief executive Bob Tucker says.

"The banks do not see private armies as an alternative even if they could match the firepower of the criminals, because we believe that the police must be strengthened as part of building a democracy governed by law."

In the long term, Tucker believes, SA must reduce its reliance on cash. Although police have been successful in recovering most of the more than R4m seized in a spectacular highway robbery last week on the N1 between Pieters-

burg and Louis Trichardt, the attack illustrates the vulnerability of banks and transporters in heavily cash-dependent society.

Cosab and its members want to accelerate initiatives aimed at reducing reliance on cash. Immediately, this means encouraging the increased use of debit cards.

A more viable solution for people used to budgeting by observing the cash flows in and out of their wallets might lie in stored value or smart cards. Like phone cards they would have a certain amount of money stored electronically from which purchases would be deducted.

The system is cheaper than debit cards because there is no need for the point-of-sale device to be on-line. And robbers could find stolen cards cancelled electronically before they can use them.

In the meantime, Cosab has arranged meetings with government ministers responsible for finding, arresting, prosecuting and incarcerating bank robbers — safety and security, justice, and correctional services — in an effort to find ways of breaking the limited number of syndicates the organisation believes is behind the wave of robberies.

Getting policing and the criminal justice system's response right is the medium-term key to cutting the number of bank robberies significantly, policing experts believe.

Besides making heists more difficult through improved security measures, criminals operating in this field — like their counterparts involved in other counter-activities — must get the message that they will be caught and spent time in jail.

Commenting on a drop of 42% in attacks on security vehicles transporting money and a fall of 39% in building society robberies in London last year, Metropolitan Police Det-Const Steve Flack said the success was "a tribute to our partnership with our customers". The policy of targeting criminals rather than crimes had been critical to the success of the London police force's organised crime group, he said.

The business of crime

(34) MTC 25/4-1/5/97

South Africa is battling to contain a criminal economy whose roots lie in the covert war and cross-border struggles of the past, reports **Stephen Ellis**

SOUTH AFRICA has become a democracy, but the country is now witness to a level of crime which causes deep concern to its citizens and its government.

The notion that South Africa has solved its outstanding political problems while being saddled with a problem of crime is not a satisfactory analysis. Politics and crime are interconnected and are not always amenable to conventional analyses, one in the discipline of political science, the other in that of criminology.

Although the history of the constitutional transition represents the triumph of reason and moderation over violence and bitterness, some regional struggles continue, most obviously in KwaZulu-Natal. That local violence between competing factions is, nowadays, generally regarded as criminal rather than political in nature should not blind us to the fact that many of the participants are the same as those who were regarded as political actors when apartheid was still in place.

At the local level, particularly in poor black communities, armed militias or gangs today attempt to control territory from which they derive economic benefits. Some reach an understanding with local police officers who are unable to enforce the law fully and who may, in any case, have developed alliances with various unofficial armed groups over many years.

Some such groups develop vertical alliances with national political parties and individual politicians who encouraged violence in various ways over many years, or with businessmen who can import the goods which they most require — guns — and wholesale the goods which they offer for export. Prominent among the latter are marijuana (of which South Africa is now the world's leading producer, according to police statistics) and stolen cars (of which there were 98 000 in 1995).

Some criminal middlemen have good connections in politics and the security services, especially those who are themselves veterans of the covert actions of the past.

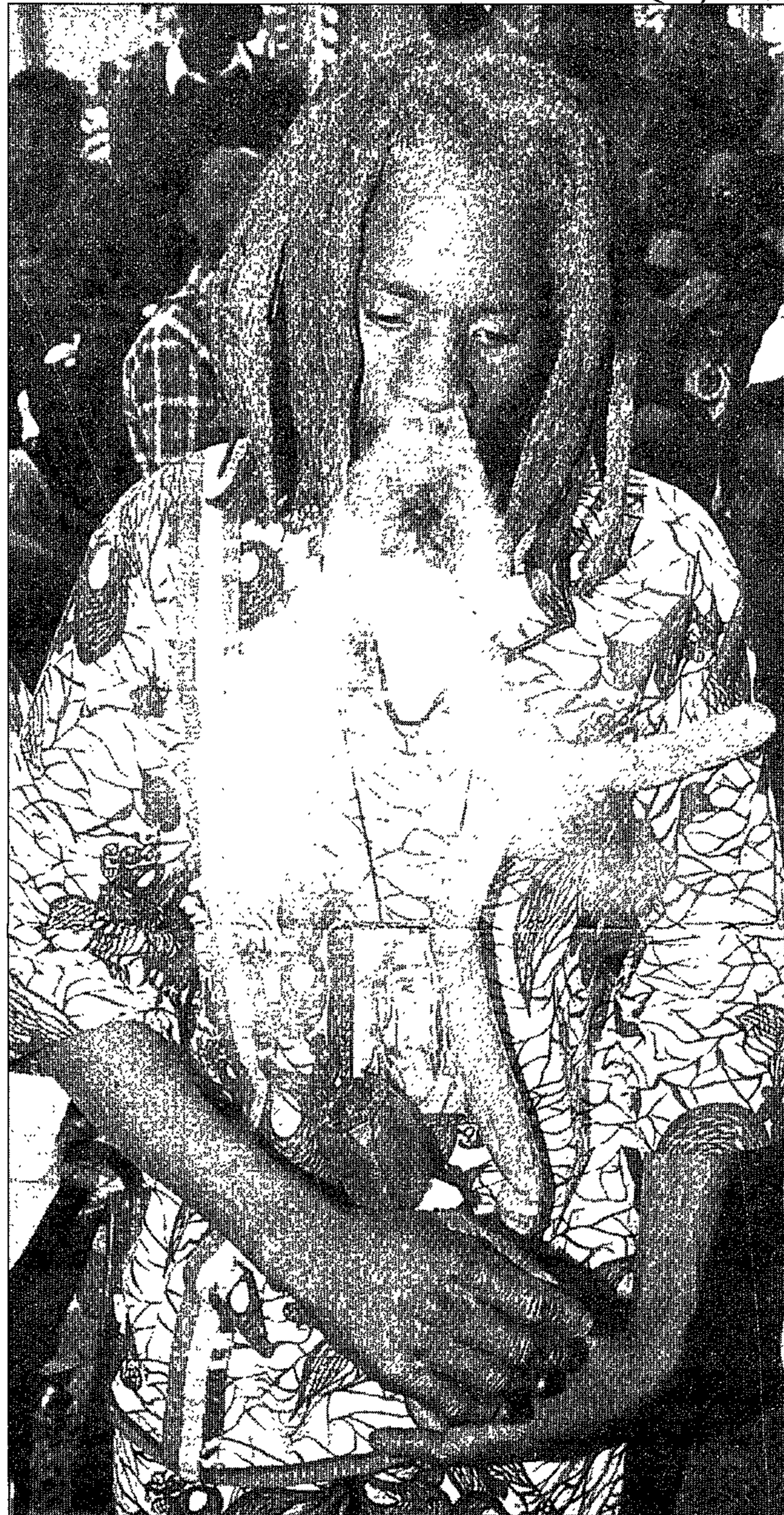
During the cross-border struggle between the South African security forces and the African National Congress, South African Communist Party, Pan African Congress and South West African Peoples' Organisation, armed groups of all types sprang up throughout Southern Africa, and many of the security and intelligence forces of the region have been penetrated by criminal groups in a complex network of relationships.

Senior politicians and intelligence officers in Mozambique are widely believed to have interests in smuggling concerns, including the drug trade.

Part of the reason for the changing pattern of crime and its relation to politics is that, during the end-phase of the war for South Africa, the police were so intent on the struggle with the ANC and the SACP that officers failed to halt an influx of sophisticated professional criminals from abroad who, after 1990, were able to take advantage of the normalisation of the country's foreign relations to base themselves in South Africa.

These international operators have transformed South Africa in just a few years from a country in which heroin and cocaine were almost unknown to a leading transit point and a significant market for these products. As in all countries where a significant narcotics trade exists, this has important implications for society and politics.

The countries of Southern Africa are closely linked in an economic system constructed by the British government and the great mining houses in the late 19th and



Smoke it up: South Africa, in a few short years, has been transformed into the world's leading producer of marijuana

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

early 20th centuries, with only Angola, of all the countries in the region, standing largely outside this highly-integrated trading system. As the outlying parts of the Southern African economic system have grown poorer — not least as a result of the war for South Africa, which brought about such destruction — so their formal economies have

shrunk to be replaced by informal economies and international trades which are technically illicit, but whose existence is widely known.

If South Africa remains at the hub of the region's formal economy, it also stands at the centre of this burgeoning smuggling economy and even plays a role in the smuggling networks of

the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. It is not only in Mozambique, Angola and Zambia that senior figures in government and the formal economy sometimes play a key role in the smuggling economy, but also in South Africa.

It was South African Military Intelligence

officers who succeeded in establishing Johannesburg as the hub of the ivory and rhino horn trades from the late 1970s, with the personal approval of General Magnus Malan, then head of the South African Defence Force, and later minister of defence.

According to the head of the organised crime unit of the South African Police Service, the leading gold smugglers are often rich businessmen seeking to export capital in contravention of currency laws.

South African mines are estimated to lose some R1.5-billion-worth of gold a year to theft, and gold smugglers export this by air or sea to neighbouring countries and thence to Europe.

The South African diamond marketing cartel, De Beers, has traditionally had an intimate acquaintance with the gem-smuggling trade due to its concern to purchase stones which are unofficially mined and marketed, as well as the official production of various countries.

Traders from Zambia and Zaire seeking to buy consumer goods in South Africa for

resale at home often have no access to a suitable form of cash, since the currencies of Zaire and Zambia have no international value.

They often acquire small quantities of gems, gold, silver, ivory, rhino horn, local works of art or any other goods which are easily transportable and have an international value. These they take to South Africa as a form of currency rather than as a commodity. In a highly-organised trade, cars stolen in South Africa are often exported via Mozambique to points further north as far as Nairobi as a form of easily transportable wealth for settlement of payments agreed, particularly in the course of drug transactions.

In much of Africa formal political institutions and formal economies have declined in importance, as powerful factions and individuals increasingly make use of informal economies and the informal political alliances which produce "shadow states".

Since the abolition of apartheid, South Africa is more than ever before tied to the region in which it is situated. Quite apart from the domestic factors which tend to weaken the state's monopoly of violence and which encourage the development of a criminal economy, it cannot stand apart from the trends taking place elsewhere. Some criminal trades, such as illegal weapons, are international in nature. Large amounts of money are generated by criminal bosses whose aim is to secure political advantage and protection.

Southern Africa is not the only part of the world where politics and crime have become closely associated and South Africa is not the only state which, in its struggle to mobilise all possible means and all available social forces for its own preservation, has condoned the creation of criminal enterprises by its own intelligence officers.

The great majority of South African police officers and politicians are deeply concerned by the incidence of crime and its penetration of the state, and they can at least count themselves fortunate that the process has not proceeded as far as in some other countries.

The formulation of new power-blocs by professional criminals, secret-service officers and senior officials working together has not claimed control of the state itself to the same degree as in Russia, for example. Nor have South African politicians combined tenure of public office with personal enrichment to anything approaching the same extent as in some other important African countries, such as Nigeria and Zaire.

In practice, the most pressing question for South Africa is probably to know whether it is possible for criminal activity to be successfully contained so as to permit the functioning of a conventional political and economic sector, with all that that implies with regard to the rule of law and the security of individuals.

Private security guards and fortified suburbs have no doubt become permanent features of South African life, as they have in many other parts of the world. In some parts of South Africa a form of warlordism may have become endemic for the foreseeable future, again like some other parts of the world.

This does not necessarily imply the further erosion of the state or even of the conventional business sector, since warlordism does not exist in a separate world from official politics but has become an integral part of the political system through the relations between party bosses and the actual perpetrators of violence.

The examples of Mexico, Italy and Colombia, to name but three, may well be of relevance to South Africa in showing how a highly-developed system of criminal syndicates with connections to political parties and the security forces can co-exist with high rates of economic growth and conventional activity.

Stephen Ellis, formerly editor of *Africa Confidential*, is an academic at the African Studies Institute, Leiden University, the Netherlands

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The man got away with traveller's cheques worth R315 000 and a briefcase filled with cash — proof, some say, that increased physical security in banks, foreign exchange bureaux and retail outlets handling large amounts of cash can give rise to an arms race in which callous criminals resort to ever more lethal weapons.

Recognition that upgrading physical security can be only a part answer to the spate of bank robberies in Gauteng — there have been more than 40 since January — places the banks in a dilemma.

Their task is to balance improvements in the security of staff and clients with the need to keep banking halls attractive and accessible, while limiting the costs of security and losses through robberies.

"Built-in security systems should never be assumed to be lasting," says Institute for Strategic Studies, policing expert Mark Shaw. "Criminals are always on the lookout for ways of overcoming security, and there is a need for banks and other institutions to keep one step ahead."

To do so, it is necessary to understand the nature of the crime, Shaw argues.

Effective counter-measures can only be the result of a more sophisticated understanding of why bank robberies are occurring at some branches and not others.

Closer analysis of the current spate of robberies should show whether they are targeting branches where security has not yet been upgraded, or whether the improvements do not matter to criminals.

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Those who did not get away ... aftermath of a bank heist attempt in central Johannesburg.

Picture: RUWAN BOSHOFF

banks without them?" Shaw asks.

Studies in other countries show that visible policing — uniformed officers on patrol near banks — has a significant deterrent effect. Shaw says it appears significant that many of the recent robberies have been in Johannesburg, not known for its successes in putting large numbers of highly visible police personnel on the streets.

Graeme Simpson of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation believes that the double-door system is largely ineffective in the face of the massive firepower available to robbers, who enter banks individually before regrouping, robbing the institution and staging a blazing getaway.

One aim of new built-in security systems must therefore be to

keep weapons out of banks entirely, he believes.

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Arming guards more heavily is not the answer, experts believe.

"There is no way to match gangs with automatic rifles without getting a lot of people killed," Simpson says.

A recent bank robbery shootout in Randburg, in which 10 people were wounded, illustrates the point. The emphasis must shift to preventing bank heists rather than reacting to them in kind.

For many European banks, the solution lies in high technology. Commerzbank, one of Germany's big four, is in the process of intro-

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ducing sophisticated computer-controlled dispensers which limit the teller's — and therefore any bank robber's — access to cash. Programmed according to demand patterns observed in individual branches over a long period, they allow the teller access to only a certain amount of cash each hour, and only once the account number has been entered from which the money is being withdrawn.

"The machines also have a limit of one major payout of DM50 000 every half hour," said Commerzbank spokesman Dieter Schütz. "Clients requiring larger amounts must give notice, and those payouts are made in secure offices away from the public banking hall."

Commerzbank used to have a single teller behind bullet proof glass, but that meant all the money was in one place — just what the robbers wanted, Schütz said. "Now every time a branch is refurbished, we take out the protective glass, open the place up, and put in the smart machines."

A key element in the Commerzbank strategy is to publicise widely the conversion of a branch to the new system. "The more people know that there is no easy access to significant amounts of money in a branch, the less attractive it becomes for robbers."

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Commenting on a drop of 42% in attacks on security vehicles transporting money and a fall of 39% in building society robberies in London last year, Metropolitan Police Det-Const Steve Flack said the success was "a tribute to our partnership with our customers' rather than crimes" had been critical to the success of the London police force's organised crime group, he said.

'Stop crime or we'll block roads' - threat

ARLT 26/4/97

PAUL KIRK
OWN CORRESPONDENT

A revolutionary plan of a motoring journalist threatens to bring the country to a standstill if the government does not take drastic action about crime.

The programme of massive civil disobedience, which would see airports and main roads blockaded, has been drawn up by the chairman of the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists, Patrick O'Leary, and apparently has the support of many key figures in the motor industry, including Nissan.

O'Leary's desire to force the government to confront crime was first when a

crippled friend was raped and her father shot dead for his watch.

He wrote a hard-hitting letter to President Mandela that carried an ominous threat should the president fail to crack down on crime. And O'Leary is adamant that he will not back down.

The letter demands immediate action from government, adding: "Should you fail to do so we will call on all our readers, listeners and viewers - who number in the millions - to take to the streets in a protest the likes of which has never been seen before."

The letter, which has been circulated in the motoring industry for comment, has yet to be delivered. So far O'Leary claims to have received "massive positive feedback"

from the industry as well as from his guild, which represents 98 percent of motoring writers as well as TV and radio presenters.

"Initially the campaign was to happen on June 11. It has now been postponed to the end of July to give people enough time to call for a major campaign," O'Leary said.

"I can assure you this is not idle talk. One trucking company in Cape Town that I know has had five trucks worth R1-million each hijacked. The other day the MD told me that if I wanted him to close off Cape Town I need only tell him."

Johan Kleyrhans, communications director of Nissan South Africa, said: "The whole campaign has snowballed for O'Leary. He now has all sorts of people

offering him all kinds of support. We have yet to hear specifics but we fully support O'Leary in principle."

TransSizwe, a security company that employs former MK guerrillas, has also offered support.

Steven Manjaro, director of the company, said: "I would support Patrick O'Leary in almost any sphere of action that would bring down crime levels. Crime is making my blood boil."

"I have been involved in anarchy for too long to want to go out and block roads, though. I don't support that."

"What I will say is that I have no doubt the motor industry could bring the country to its knees quite easily, even in a day or two."

Fivaz 'dithered' over offer from top US cop

'Doesn't have relevant experience'

ARG 26/4/97 (34)

CRAIG URQUHART
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg – Police Commissioner George Fivaz may have lost his best weapon in the fight against crime – by dithering for five months over an offer from one of the world's top policemen.

The opportunity may now have passed to make use of the services of former New York police chief William Bratton – despite the fact that he managed to dramatically reduce New York's crime levels.

Mr Bratton has proposed a strategy he believes could help stamp out crime in South Africa by putting police back on the street – and criminals behind bars.

In December last year he offered his services and the services of a "dream team" of top American security experts in the fight against crime in South Africa, but Commissioner Fivaz has yet to finalise the deal.

Now Mr Bratton may be snatched up by the Los Angeles Police Department following the recent retirement of its commissioner.

Mr Bratton, who is president of First Security Consulting which offers strategic thinking on crime reduction, offered Commissioner Fivaz a "comprehensive" package at an extremely reasonable fee.

The proposal is still on Commissioner Fivaz's desk and no decisions have been taken, despite the fact that an American organisation, Business Against Crime (BAC), has undertaken to foot the bill.

BAC chairman Wendy Lucas-Bull said Mr Bratton's "Compstat philosophy" involves uniting different police regions by gathering all the information available and

focusing on proactive policing. She said Mr Bratton intended launching his operation in Gauteng where it would have the most visible impact.

Commissioner Fivaz last night said that despite Mr Bratton's "enormous talents" he may be out of depth in the South African scenario "which is so unique".

"I have a lot of respect for William and I regard him as a good friend (but) let's be realistic. The name of the game is experience and he has never been a police officer in South Africa – he doesn't have the relevant experience."

He added that the South African Police Services (SAPS) had taken note of Mr Bratton's advice "and we are implementing it in many different areas".

Divisional Commissioner Andre Pruis, the head of National Standards and Management Services, said Mr Bratton's proposal would require the use of a different computer system.

He said Mr Bratton's system had been evaluated but there was a concern that "our computers are capable of doing the job".

"If this system is implemented, you will have to scrap or modify a lot of the systems which are already in place – at an enormous expense," he said.

He said three SAPS members would attend a conference on the Compstat system in New York next month after which a decision would be taken.

A spokesman for Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said that Mr Bratton's expertise could be put to use in improving management systems and service delivery in the SAPS. "But the ministry does not feel it is appropriate to become involved with Bratton's proposal as it is an operational policing decision."



ANDREW INGRAM

Remember: New Zealand honorary consul Ian Sims CBE and Major Bryan Sterne of the Dukes, a citizen force unit of the SA National Defence Force, cast a wreath into the water outside Table Bay harbour from the BT Global Challenge yacht *Pause to Remember* to commemorate Anzac Day. *Pause to Remember*, backed by the Royal British Legion, has on board a number of British and Irish servicemen, including skipper Tom O'Connor, who is a helicopter pilot in the Irish Air Force. Anzac Day is especially important for Australians and New Zealanders, as it commemorates the losses of these two countries during the fighting at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I

Death penalty won't halt crime, claims Omar

Reintroducing the death penalty would not halt the crime wave that has swept the country because the majority of criminals escape the inefficient judicial process altogether, Justice Minister Dullah Omar has said in an interview on Radio C-Flat.

The minister said yesterday: "The death penalty is gone for good. It is unconstitutional and we now have to look at how we can build an efficient deterrent to crime."

Omar said this could be achieved through a proper criminal justice system and by addressing the root causes of crime through socio-economic transformation.

Communities also had a key role to play in intervening and stopping crime before it started, said Omar.

He blamed the "inherited

culture of violence and domination" from the apartheid era for the escalation of crime, which created an environment that "bred crime".

Criminals were also taking advantage of the uncertainty that surrounds the future of the police and justice systems during its transition phase.

Corruption in the lower ranks of both the justice system and police further undermined the transformation process, he added.

Asked about his relationship with People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), the minister said he has built up a "good understanding" with the group, although that does not mean he necessarily agrees with them.

"As long as they fight crime within the framework of the law, there will be scope for in-

teraction with government departments, but we cannot allow anyone to break the law."

He said there were "bad elements" within the organisation with their own political agenda, but he invited "good" Pagad supporters to participate in anti-crime activities on a non-religious basis.

In his position as ANC leader of the province, the minister said the legacy of apartheid had caused the previously disadvantaged groups to "scramble for the crumbs from the white ruler", causing division and conflict.

The challenge for the ANC was now to equalise society by being sensitive to the needs of the coloured and Indian people, while recognising that black people were still the poorest in the Western Cape. - Own Correspondent

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Star 29/4/97

War zone or storm in a teacup?

M+G (PM) 2-8/5/97 (34) (748)

Opinions differ strongly about the effects of South Africa's crime wave on foreign investment.

Miepje Commandeur and Helma van de Vondevoort report

LOCAL representatives of South Africa's leading trade partners regularly suffer from crime, a snap survey by the *Mail & Guardian* shows.

Staff members of foreign embassies and chambers of commerce are often at the forefront of deals running into billions of rands of imports and exports. (Some indication of these are contained in trade figures from the Department of Customs and Excise for the first nine months of 1996.)

These diplomats and trade attaches are the very people who have to sell South Africa as a viable trading partner and a land ripe for investment.

But many of them, and still more of their employees, have fallen victim to the crime wave. Some say this will have an impact on trade and investment; but others are not as concerned.

JAPAN

Imports: R8,7-billion
Exports: R6,3-billion

Three members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce have had their cars hijacked. According to a chamber representative, the Japanese embassy has increased awareness among Japanese nationals about crime.

The police need to be strengthened and become less corrupt, he says.

The director of the Japanese External Trade Organisation in Johannesburg, Shintaro Matoba, had his car stolen in Sandton City. He believes that the reasons for the current crime are the high unemployment rate and the poor quality of policemen.

Investments from Japan are "half-and-half" affected by the crime level, he says.

AUSTRALIA

Imports: R2,6-billion
Exports: R1,5-billion

Noel O'Brien, a director of the Australian South African Business Association, has had a personal experience of local crime. Four months ago, two robbers held a knife to his chest in the garage of his office building in central Johannesburg and grabbed his portable computer.

During the past six months, three other employees have been mugged, one was hijacked and the bakkie of



Bomb victim: Italian Maria Haenen believes that South Africa is not safe and feels obliged to advise companies planning to invest in the country about the crime level

PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

the association's driver has been stolen twice.

Earlier this year the association moved its offices to the suburb of Parktown.

O'Brien says that he has lived in South Africa for 22 years, but crime has grown worse in the past three years. "The police can't cope with it anymore. It's a war zone out there. That's why I think troops should be patrolling the suburbs at night, or at least there should be roadblocks or control points on the streets."

O'Brien says Australians are not keen to invest in South Africa: "The security situation, the labour unrest, low productivity and the high level of taxation in South Africa are the main concerns from Australian investors."

"Why should they look at South Africa as a good investment area? They would rather go to Asia."

GERMANY:

Imports: R16,2-billion
Exports: R4,5-billion

A German study last month found that one in five local managers had one or more murders reported among staff.

The survey by the German Chamber of Commerce in South Africa, representing 82 companies with

more than 35 000 employees, found that, on average, every 18 months the family of a managing director of a German company in South Africa becomes a victim of crime.

More than three-quarters of the German companies say that their future growth is endangered by the high crime level.

One of the managers surveyed said: "We see the present state of anarchy, lawlessness and escalating violent crime as a major threat to the survival of our business."

Another manager warned: "The whole economy is being damaged by the virtual non-existence of a criminal justice system. Crime is eroding consumer confidence, forcing many people to leave the country."

Only 15% of German companies claimed they would not change their future plans because of crime. This group employs 47% of the total workforce — and this indicates that smaller companies are more likely to change their investment strategies owing to crime.

UNITED KINGDOM

Imports: R12,3-billion
Exports: R12,3-billion

The experiences of British diplomats

include the hijacking at gunpoint in Johannesburg of the second secretary of the British High Commission.

But Britain — South Africa's largest trading partner — is not discouraged by the high crime rate. The press representative at the High Commission, Andrew Noble, says crime is not "a significant factor" in Britain deciding about investment in South Africa.

"What matters are the business prospects and British investors feel that they are very good."

The High Commission is encouraging trade, investment and the establishment of more businesses in South Africa, says Noble. "We are very committed to this place."

CANADA

Imports: R903-million
Exports: R715-million

Canadians also prefer to look at the opportunities that the South African market offers rather than worry about the high crime rate. Senior Trade Commissioner Ron Hoffmann of the Canadian High Commission Trade Office says that in 1993 there were only six Canadian companies with offices or operations in South Africa; now there are more than 70.

"And it is growing fast. Most of our

companies here are doing well. The South African market is changing rapidly and the Canadians are very interested in investing in South Africa."

ITALY

Imports: R4,6-billion
Exports: R2,43-billion

Giorgio Marini, first counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Pretoria, says that staff as well as consular representatives in both Pretoria and Johannesburg have suffered several thefts and attempted hijackings. Alarm systems at the embassy and at the homes of staff have been improved.

He believes that criminals should be sentenced more severely and there should be more visible policing.

Farini says, however, that Italy is "rather optimistic" about the future and adds: "Investment from Italy is not being adversely affected by current crime levels."

More than a year ago, as a result of a dispute with squatters, a petrol bomb was thrown into the bedroom of the son of Maria Haenen, the assistant to the secretary-general of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg.

She says she now finds it more difficult to advise Italian companies to invest in South Africa. "It is not a safe country and I have to tell them that," she says.

THE NETHERLANDS

Imports: R2,7-billion
Exports: R3-billion

Staff at the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria have not personally suffered from crime, but they have become more careful in their daily lives because of all the stories they hear and read.

Although no research has been done, they believe that Dutch companies are discouraged by the "poor South-African investment climate", of which crime is one factor.

However, at least one highly placed diplomat — who did not want his nationality to be identified — says that anxiety about crime is just a storm in a teacup. "There are too many diplomats with too little to do, leaving them with too much time to worry about the crime situation in this country," he said.

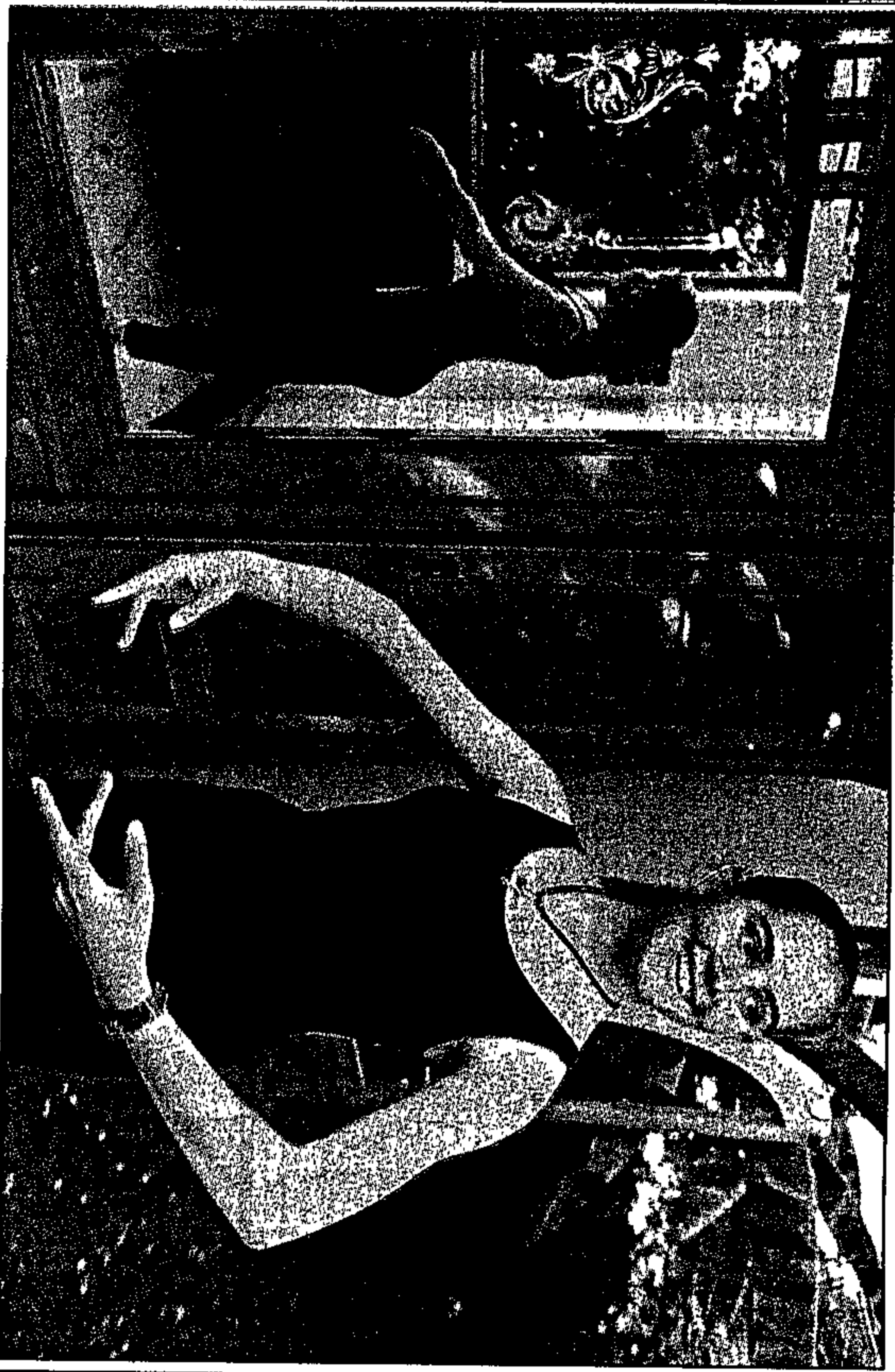
Jenny Cargill of the consultancy BusinessMap says investors display many shades of opinion concerning the impact of crime. It's certainly a factor in the decision to invest foreign funds, but it is only part of a good investment backdrop. Foreign investors are also looking for sound macro-economic policies, incentives and a strong regional market. However, "consistent reports of reduced crime" will only mean greater confidence, says Cargill.

Fivaz's plans to cut crime

Police training and a crackdown on illegal firearms are top priorities for the next year

MARLENE BURGER

(34) ST 4/5/97



THE DANCE OF LIFE: Few people can believe that Lene Smit, 18, suffers from cystic fibrosis, a terminal condition
Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

THE crime wave that has held South Africa hostage for the past three years has finally reached a turning point, national police Commissioner George Fivaz said this week.

And practical measures to be introduced in the next few months will furnish the police with the skills and resources they need to ensure that serious crime levels, which have stabilised in the past two months, show a steady decline.

While admitting that the levels at which crime has stabilised are "too high", Fivaz believes the implementation of policies formed since he took office in 1995 will "see an acceleration" in the drop in crime.

One of the first moves will be the signing of agreements for judging the performance of police management.

By the end of May, Fivaz himself, his deputy commissioners and all nine provincial commissioners will have committed themselves in writing to "realistically attainable" policing goals for the next year.

A month later, similar contracts will have been signed by all area commissioners and station commanders.

Other measures to be implemented by the end of the year include the following:
● Completion of a basic



FIGHTING BACK: Police Commissioner George Fivaz says crime is decreasing
Picture: RUVAN BOSHOFF

detective training course by thousands of policemen who are working as detectives but have never had instruction in investigative techniques.

Those who fail will be re-assigned to the uniform branch; ● Achievement of a Sids 8 certificate by 10 percent of the 30 000 policemen who do not have this minimum qualification;

● Obtaining of driver's licenses by the 40 000 policemen who are unable to drive;

● Opening, within a month, of a detective academy in Johannesburg which will offer specialised training such as advanced investigation techniques, cross-border

der probes, and the use of polygraphs;

● The introduction, within "two to three months" of the first phase of a multibillion-rand computerised fingerprint identification system and national crime database, expected to be fully operational by the year 2000 and based on the "most advanced systems in the world";

● Appointment of suitably qualified middle management. Fivaz wants these people in place by the end of the year;

● Deployment at border posts of 1 000 retrained policemen to stem the tide of illegal aliens and firearms,

and training of another 700 for this task.

● Post-specific recruitment of new policemen to understaffed units. The Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, has been given recruitment plans for 10 service providers such as the child protection unit and the forensic laboratory, and is expected to seek cabinet approval within a month for a partial lifting of the moratorium on recruitment to bring these units up to strength;

● Dramatic decrease in the approval of voluntary severance packages. These will be granted "only in exceptional cases" in future;

● Provision of cubicles in charge offices to give complainants a measure of privacy; and

● Tightening of police firearm regulations, which would see policemen subject to the same stringent penalties as civilian licence holders for being negligent with their firearms.

According to Fivaz, the scourge of illegal firearms will be "policing priority number one" this year.

"The key to ending the high rate of violent crime lies in getting stolen and uncensured firearms off the streets. The man in the street has to know that he can depend on a secure environment, and there will be ongoing nationwide, anti-crime operations such as those launched on April 14."

● See Page 23

CONTRARY to popular belief, police Commissioner George Fivaz's early career was not spent pushing pens in an obscure corner of the police force.

The first commissioner in decades to bypass the ranks of apartheid's securocrats, Fivaz began service as a constable on the beat, moving to anti theft units in Cape Town and the narcotics bureau in Bloemfontein before his appointment in 1976 to the national inspectorate.

So when he talks of the "almost irreconcilable" challenge of restructuring the SAPS while tackling the worst crime wave in memory, one senses that he views the problem as both an administrator and policeman of 30 years' experience — and therein lies his dilemma.

In transforming a quasi-military machine into a credible police force, Fivaz has to integrate 11 homeland forces with the apartheid regime's security arm, win back the hearts of the people and change the mind-set of those who lost those hearts.

Fivaz admits that he had "no idea" how huge the problem would be when he was appointed to the job in 1995.

"We have had to reinvent policing," he says in defence of the fact that restructuring is "about 50 percent complete" after 20 months.

"Critics say the restructuring should have been completed by now and they are right, but it took some time to appreciate fully the enormity of the task."

"We've had to place personnel in the right jobs, rationalise the services, instill a hitherto foreign culture of human rights and catch as many crooks as possible, all at the same time."

"There is no precedent anywhere in the world that could serve as a guideline."

To make matters worse, Fivaz has lost thousands of experienced policemen to the voluntary severance package deal.

He has also had to accommodate vast numbers of poorly trained and sometimes illiterate policemen from the former homelands — 30 000 policemen have not passed Sid 8, deal for the first time in policing history with trade unions, reassure loyal cops that they have a future in the force, set up nine provincial police structures and face his critics daily.

"We have superintendents (formerly majors and lieutenant-colonels) who have never done basic training, detectives who have never trained as investigators and of whom 16 000 cannot even drive a car. It will take at least another two years before all our members reach a uniform level of

The long arm that doesn't stretch far enough

When victims seek someone to blame for the rash of crime that threatens to engulf South Africa, fingers point most often to the man at the top, MARLENE BURGER spoke to police Commissioner George Fivaz about the country's most difficult job

ST 4/5/97

levels have stabilised or are dropping. For the first time since taking office, he believes the war can be won.

"The stabilisation levels are far too high and in the short term, we may have to rob Peter to pay Paul, focusing our resources on high-priority areas and sacrificing peripheral problems," he says.

"I'm not suggesting that all laws should not be enforced, but, at least for the moment, we have to stop clogging up the system with minor offences like traffic violations and disturbing the peace, and concentrate on the serious criminals."

Later, once the situation has normalised, we can catch up with the petty offenders.

But right now, we have to get rid of the illegal firearms, break the organised crime syndicates, stamp out corruption in our own ranks and halt violence against women and children. Does this view reinforce

Leon and business as the man who should be running the police here, Fivaz is frank.

"I have the highest regard for the man, and for what he has achieved, but Bratton would be out of his depth in South Africa just now."

"On one of his visits, he admitted that the managerial problems we are wrestling with sent shivers down his spine."

"He has no experience of things like tax violence and border policing, and his programme was designed for a metropolitan environment."

"When it comes to street crime Bratton is an expert, but we are dealing with a national problem, where more than 2 000 police stations are involved, not 27 precincts like New York."

Fivaz also points out that to achieve his ends, Bratton imported an additional 8 000 policemen for a two-year period. Still, some of Bratton's strate-

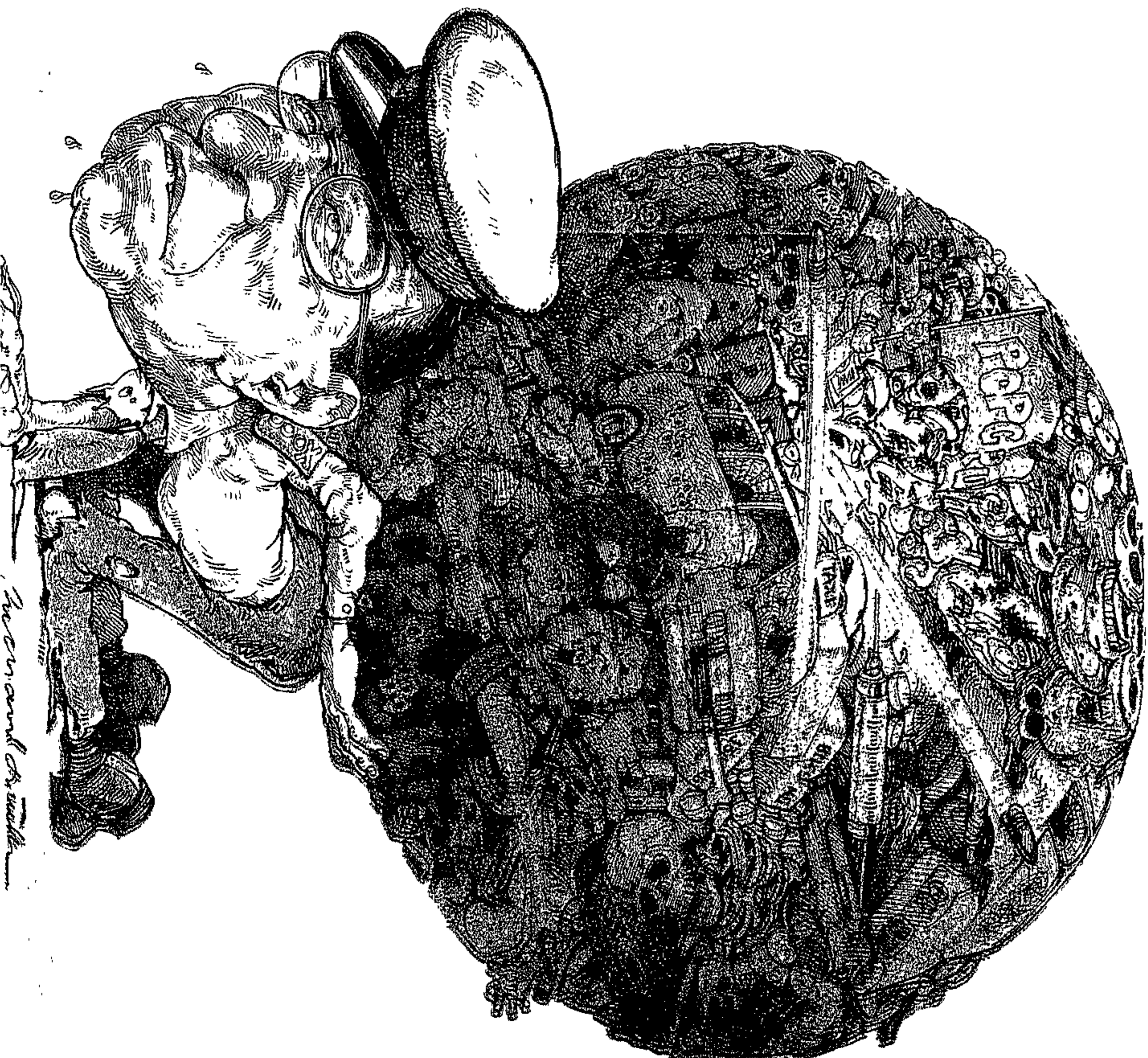


Illustration by Mervyn Dymally

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"We have superintendents (formerly majors and lieutenant-colonels) who have never done basic training, detectives who have never trained as investigators and of whom 16 000 cannot even drive a car. It will take at least another two years before all our members reach a uniform level of training," he says.

At the other end of the spectrum, those who learned policing in the "old" South Africa must learn anew that suspects have rights and, "that assault is not one of the tools they can use." All 130 000 members will undergo human rights training under the *Ubuye* programme.

However vital the transformation process may be, it is of little consequence to the increasingly frightened South African living behind barricades and pleading daily for action against criminals.

The facts are, says Fivaz, that the police arrest far more suspects than the criminal justice system can process and, mind-numbing though they are, the latest statistics show that crime

DOESN'T stretch far enough

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Does this view reinforce claims that Fivaz has rejected offers of assistance from the former New York police chief William Bratton?

Bratton's "broken window" or zero tolerance policy, under which trivial offences are prosecuted vigorously to deter potential criminals from more serious offences, saw a dramatic drop in crime levels under his jurisdiction from 1993.

"Not at all. Zero tolerance policing is vital at all levels. People must feel the law is being enforced but, in our present situation, perhaps petty offenders could be given a ticket and a fine rather than having to go through the lengthy court procedures," he says.

On the subject of Bratton, championed by the DP's Peter

Leon and business as the man who should be running the police here, Fivaz is frank.

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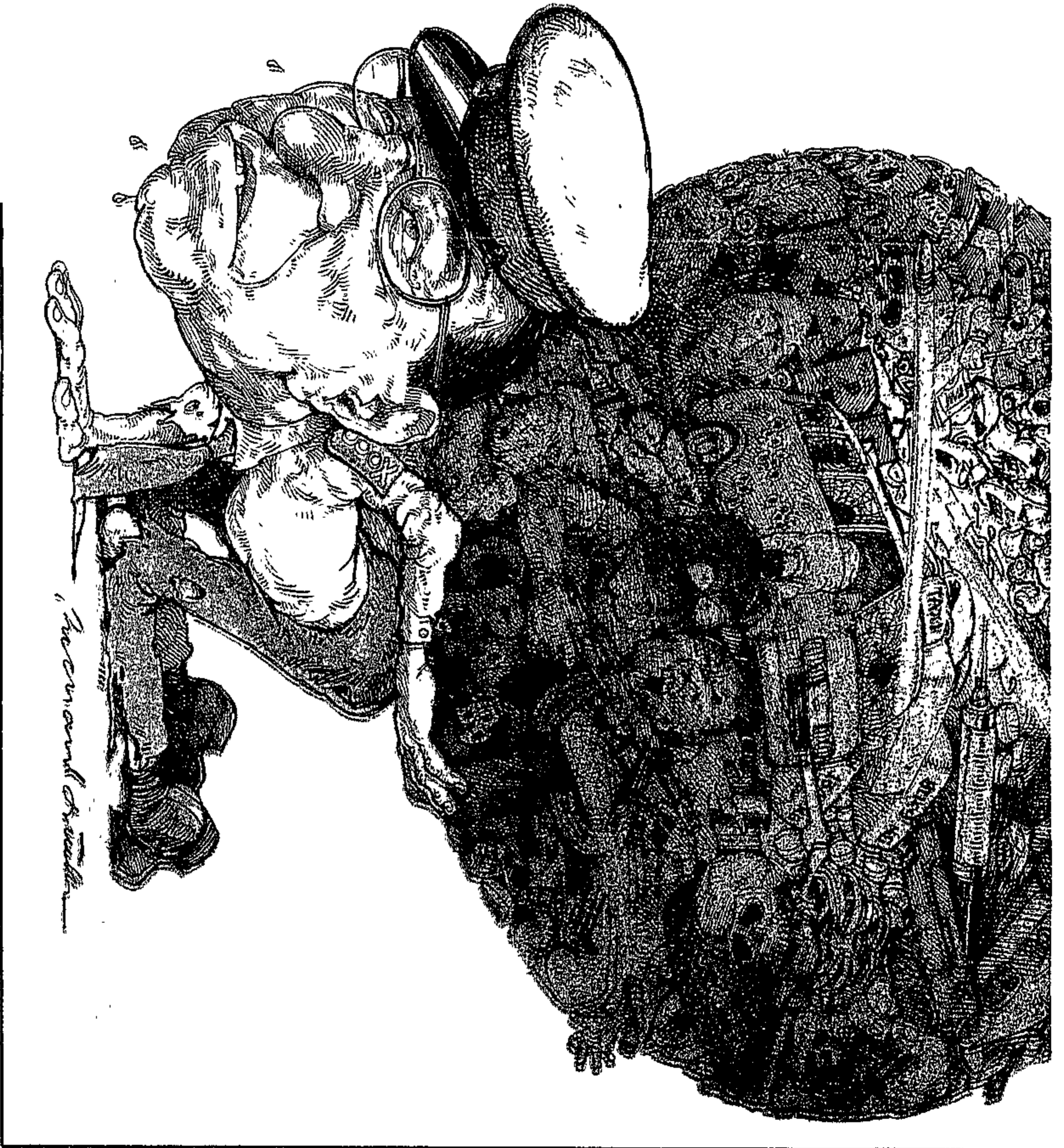
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Still, some of Bratton's strategies, like immediate access to criminal data, have been adopted, and there is ongoing liaison between Bratton, who offered his services for R6-million, and top SAPS members.

Fivaz also rejects suggestions that police management should be put in the hands of business, though he is grateful for donations of BMWs to the highway patrol, cellphones and financial contributions to a computerised database and fingerprint identification system.

"The partnership approach initiated by Business Against Crime is a healthy one, and it should be extended, but the primary role of business is to turn a profit, while the primary role of the police is to serve."

"I see a serious conflict of



interest in proposals that business should be brought in to manage the police," he says.

With most of his plans now in place and the first practical benefits about to accrue to South Africans, Fivaz has no intention of stepping aside, as some critics would like to see him do.

He plays down his recent clash with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi as "a misunderstanding... blown up out of context." "I'm not going anywhere," he says, then adds enigmatically, "But of course, you never know what's around the next corner..."

Bank robbers stole R113-m in SA in 1996

(34)

Wits authorities are considering the wisdom of bank outlets on campus

Star 9/5/97

OWN CORRESPONDENT,
GILL GIFFORD AND TROYE LUND

Bank robbers got away with more than R113-million last year and bankers fear they will steal even more this year, according to Bob Tucker, chief executive of the Council of South African Banks.

He told a conference in Johannesburg that local bank robbery statistics were among the highest in the world and that there had been a marked increase in the number of bank robberies in the first four months of this year.

Tucker said British banks had lost only R1,1-million last year in holdups. "What is alarming is the uniquely violent character of bank-related crimes in South Africa," said Tucker.

Robberies often included mindless violence resulting in psychological trauma, injury and death.

Cash lost in robberies had increased 100-fold in ten years - in 1986 only R1,3-million was lost, compared with the shocking R113-million last year.

He warned that if nothing was done to curb bank robbers, the problem could become an "epidemic". But, he said: "It would be

wrong to move in the direction of hiring more guards and installing more security. This would only aggravate the problem and intensify the level of violence."

Meanwhile, the Nedcor branch at Wits University has stopped over-the-counter cash transactions after yesterday's robbery in which a lone gunman killed a cashier at the neighbouring United Bank.

The raided bank is closed "until further notice".

"The staff are still in tears," Jay Brummer, who manages the Nedcor branch, said this morning.

Brummer said the Nedcor branch would only have ATM facilities for its student customers from today. Money would no longer be kept on the premises.

This morning Wits University vice-chancellor Robert Charlton said that while no decision had yet been taken, "the question of whether there should be banks on campus at all is being discussed".

According to Superintendent Chris Wilken the gunman, who hid behind the bank's security door before forcing his way in, escaped by crossing the Senate House concourse back to lifts which took him down to Jorissen Street.

Robbers grab R30-m in 164 hits this year

SA high on world list ^{ARG 10/5/97} (34)

Johannesburg - In 164 bank robberies committed this year, robbers have netted more than R30-million, statistics released by the Council of South African Banks reveal.

COSAB head Bob Tucker said yesterday this reflected a projected increase of 25 per cent in robberies since last year.

In 1996, R105,3-million was stolen in bank robberies. A further R10,3-million was stolen from automatic teller machines and in after-hours thefts from banks. The total monetary loss increased by 38 per cent from 1995 figures, said Mr Tucker.

Broken down according to provinces, the statistics revealed Gauteng as the crime king, leaving its relatively law-abiding cousins in its yellow dust.

Gauteng recorded the highest number of robberies with 100, followed by KwaZulu Natal with 27, the North-West Province with nine, Western Cape with eight, Free State with seven, Eastern Cape with five and Mpumalanga and Northern Province both recording four robberies this year.

South Africa's bank robbery statistics rank among the highest in world. Only R1,1-million was lost in branch robberies in Britain during 1996, Mr Tucker revealed.

He said he had met Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi on Thursday to discuss the growing crisis.

"Among the issues we will investigate is how the reward system could be significantly improved, and how the newly established units could be held accountable for rapid progress and monitored. It is also imperative that those teams are dedicated to this task alone - which I have been assured

they will be," he said. Mr Tucker added that officers appointed to head up these teams should be above all suspicion.

Bank robbery was not endemic in South Africa, he said, describing the phenomenon rather as "a bubble on the surface of transformation".

He said information pooled by the banks and obtained from police indicated the robberies were the work of four or five syndicates involving about 100 robbers. It was possible that a breakthrough could be made in relation to these syndicates, he said. However, he could not supply details on the syndicates.

Mr Tucker said the public's money remained safe with the banks. Assets under the control of the nation's banks totalled R350-billion.

He did, however, indicate that the robberies had caused dramatic increases in the cost of supplying cash. The top four banks would spend an estimated R376,1-million on protecting cash supplies in 1997. This could be compared with the R297,9-million spent in 1995.

"The cost of providing cash is taking on extraordinary proportions, and this is likely to result in individual banks acting to recover that cost from clients actually withdrawing and depositing cash."

The long-term solution to the problem was a decreased dependence on cash in South Africa, said Mr Tucker.

"All of us should try to move towards the use of electronic banking services instead of cash. That method is cheaper, easier and much safer," he said.

Mr Tucker was not able to supply statistics on how many people had been killed or injured in bank robberies. - Sapa

'Bank robbery is not endemic, but a bubble on the surface of transformation'

'All of us should move towards the use of electronic banking services instead of cash'

Cops mum on crime stats

(34) Star 10/5/97

By PETA KROST

The South African Police Service has once again failed to release the results of its flagship anti-crime plan launched last year.

During the past three weeks, the *Saturday Star* has attempted to give readers detailed information about the success, or lack thereof, of the 10-month-old Sword and Shield police plan and an assessment of progress.

Twice, the *Saturday Star* sent a detailed list of questions to police headquarters and the minister of safety and security on six key elements. Twice, we have been refused answers: first on April 17 and then again this week. The questions were:

■ The plan committed the Government to hunting down 10 000 of the most wanted criminals. Have they been caught and, if so, convicted? What has happened to the 42 additional task forces supposed to be hunting down these criminals – did they catch the criminals?

■ Technological aids for crime fighting (such as camera surveillance) were proposed. How many were installed?

■ What progress with a national computerised fingerprint system?

■ Some 800 policemen were reportedly under investigation for criminal conduct. How many were prosecuted? Convicted?

■ A plan to establish mobile police stations in containers was outlined by police. What has happened about this?

On April 17 the police promised answers and then, on deadline, declined. A representative said it would be "unethical" to give this to the press before Parliament, which would happen "in the coming days".

The same questions were sent to the national police commissioner George Fivaz's office this week. Once again, it seemed as if they would respond.

But yesterday we were informed the information "will be included in Commissioner

Fivaz's report for the 1996/7 financial year – available by the end of June".

However, Fivaz's spokesman, Director Joseph Ngobeni did say that between the start of the Sword and Shield plan until March 31 this year, "26 967 people wanted for serious crimes were arrested".

"The target figure of 10 000 which had been set to be arrested within the period of a month in Operation Sword and Shield was supposed to be a once-off operation. More than 7 000 arrests were made in that period."

Ngobeni said that because of "the success" of the Sword and Shield operation, police had decided to extend it and to include all people for whom warrants of arrest had been issued.

While they obviously have reason to believe the plan was a success they still won't furnish the number of convictions and prosecutions, or say if there was ever a list drawn up of 10 000 of the most wanted criminals.

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VOLKSKAS BANK

The bank you can rely on

Banks suffer ⁽³⁴⁾ *same as 12/5/97* heavy losses

By Coudjoe Amankwaa

FOUR major South African banks have spent R1 billion on crime prevention and security to curb heavy losses resulting from bank robberies.

Council of South African Banks (Cosab) chief executive Bob Tucker revealed on Friday that banks lost a staggering R113 million last year alone.

Bank robberies increased from 268 in 1995 to 316 last year, a 38 percent increase in money stolen. The banks believe most robberies are organised by crime syndicates.

The Absa group, First National Bank, Nedcor and Standard Bank have since 1995 spent R1 billion in an attempt to stem the ever-growing tide of violent robberies in South African banks.

"Cash in transit is an area where millions of rands in additional security have already been spent. Securing the movement of large amounts of cash to branches, government pension pay-points and other destinations cost R165 million during 1996. This year R200 million has been budgeted for this," Tucker said.

He said expensive high-tech security amounting to R90 million had already been installed to ensure that banking halls were safe.

SA 'under new onslaught by criminals'

(24)
CHRIS BATEMAN

ET 13/5/97

A NEW form of security threat faces South Africa — that of arms-smuggling, drug-trafficking, money-laundering and commercial crime, Deputy Minister of Intelligence Services Mr Joe Nhlanhla has told Parliament.

Nhlanhla said yesterday it was "dangerous" to the country's well-being to pretend there were no fresh security demands under the new political dispensation.

The country and its borders were under continual threat from organised national and international crime syndicates.

Activities included "people-smuggling", environmental crimes and bank robberies.

Syndicates' operations included supplying contraband to criminal gangs, forging passports and other official documents, rigid hierarchical structures, restricted membership, tight secrecy, easy access to weapons and corrupt links with police and other officials.

Nhlanhla appealed to his colleagues to increase the country's capability to protect its coastal resources against piracy, which he said was internationally acknowledged as a security priority in the developed world.

Appealing for more funding, he said he feared that greater cuts than the 12,8% sliced off his department's budget of R723,5 million would "render this country defenceless and vulnerable".

His department had been praised by Customs and Excise last year for helping with probes, Nhlanhla said. As a direct result of joint investigations, it had saved Revenue Services about R160 million.

"I offer this as a direct example of the enormous contribution intelligence can and should be allowed to make to the national fiscus," Nhlanhla said.

Property industry urged to join crime campaign

MAGGIE ROWLEY

Sun City — The property industry was yesterday urged to join the fight against crime and channel its resources to support police stations in central business districts.

Barbara Holtmann, the resource station manager with Business Against Crime, told the Sapoa convention that Business

Against Crime was not looking to take over the government's responsibility in tackling crime. However, business had the necessary skills and resources to help ensure the maximum use of existing resources within the South African Police Service, she said.

A major problem facing the police force was ineffective management, and this was where

business could assist as it had an abundance of resources.

She said the police had approved a resource utilisation plan and implementation had begun.

This was being done in association with a support partnership for police stations, launched by Business Against Crime, which aimed to involve business, communities and the police in a

partnership focused on improving the performance of police by increasing efficiencies.

A number of businesses had already lent their support to smaller stations, but the central business district stations were too large for any one business to assist.

These required the assistance of partnership groupings like Sapoa.

CT (BR) 13/5/99 (34)

Diplomats not immune to crime

CLIVE SAWYER

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARG 15/5/97

Diplomats serving in South Africa have been victims of crimes from hijacking to armed robbery and credit card theft in the past year.

All but four of the 29 crimes reported happened in Gauteng.

Serious crimes included:

■ Theft of the British Minister of Trade's credit card.

■ Hijacking of a vehicle belonging to a Greek consular official in Durban.

■ Hijacking of a vehicle belonging to Iranian diplomatic staff.

Housebreakings were reported by staff of the embassies and consulates of the Sul-

tanate of Oman, Portugal, Sudan, Lebanon, Ukraine, International Red Cross, Kenya, Switzerland and Denmark.

In the break-in reported by Lebanese officials, two people were injured and furniture and appliances worth R125 000 were taken. Zairian staff reported an armed robbery, and Swedish officials reported an assault and robbery. This case has been closed as "undetected". (34)

More unusual complaints included one from the Consul of Kiribati about an impostor posing as the Consul of Kiribati.

Details of the crimes were disclosed in Parliament by the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, in reply to questions by Douglas Gibson of the Democratic Party.

Five hurt in Pagad raid in Bo-Kaap

From page 1

ARG 1/5/97

(Handwritten signature)

and collapsed on the ground. Salie Jardien was pistol-whipped and afterwards had blood gushing down his face from a deep cut in his head.

A family friend, Patrick Matthews, also had serious head injuries and was taken to hospital with Mr Abdurachman Jardien.

The attackers damaged a minibus parked in the backyard of the house.

Today's raid followed four previous Pagad-related attacks in the past five days.

In Athlone a car was damaged early yesterday after a home-made device exploded on it.

The car belonged to George Smith of Kudu Street. Mr Smith also denied he was connected to drug-dealing.

Two home-made bombs were hurled at homes of suspected drug dealers early on Monday and a bomb exploded at the home of an Ottery man on Sunday, causing severe damage to the house and vehicles.

Police said the home-made devices which were hurled at houses in Cassel Street and Bolton Road, Crawford, did not explode but broke windows.

The angry owner of the Ottery house that came under attack early on Sunday, Hendrik April, challenged Pagad to meet him "face to face" in daylight.

Mr April said he had been warned earlier to stop dealing in drugs, but still came under attack.

More than R200 000 damage was caused to a minibus, a car, the house and garage.

Meanwhile police have intensified their efforts to investigate Pagad, drug-dealing and gangsterism.

Police spokesman Mark Romburgh said police had prioritised Pagad-related attacks since the weekend and would focus their anti-crime plan on these activities.

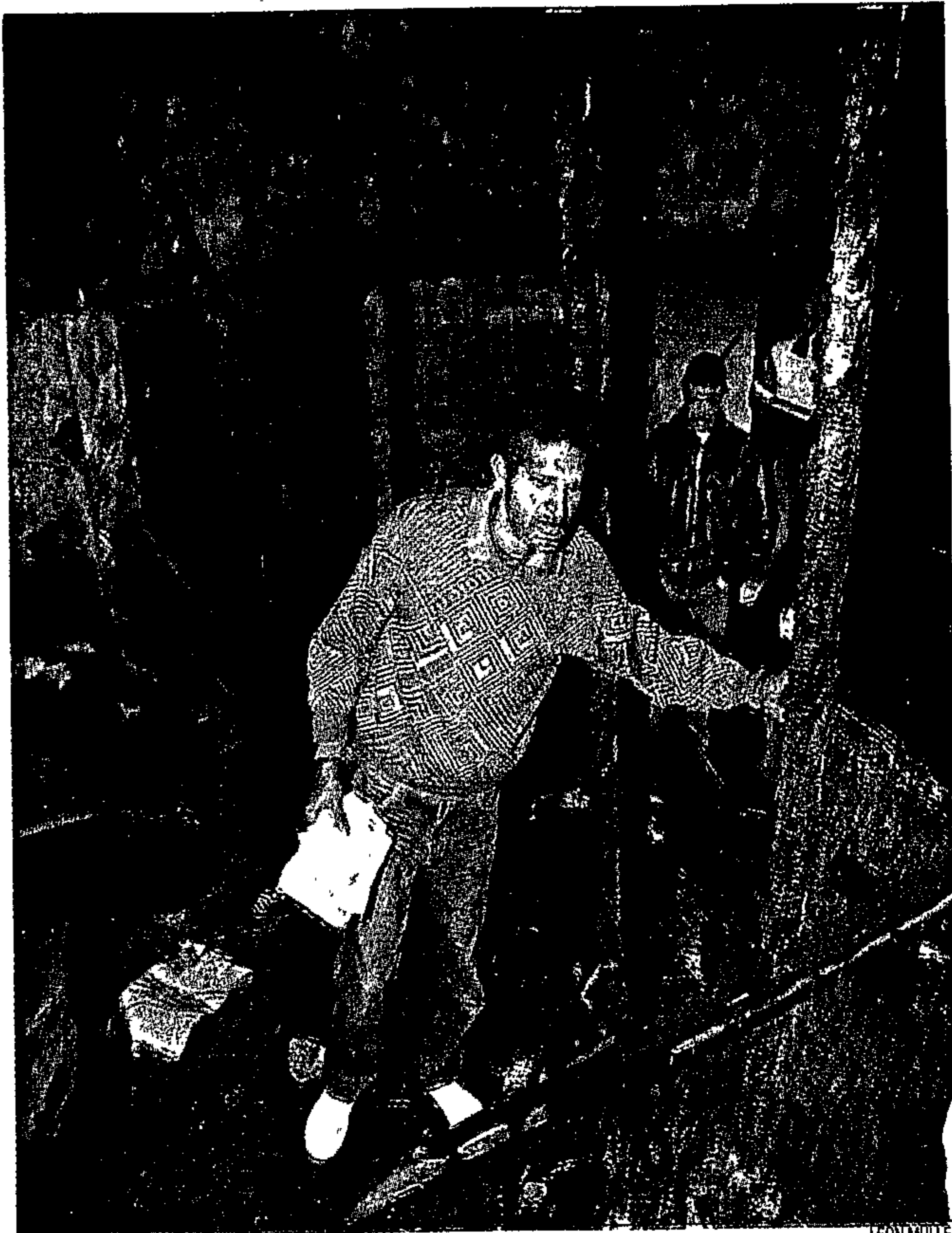
Captain Romburgh said the continuous attacks on drug-dealers, or people thought to be drug dealers, was illegal and could also target innocent people.

"We will leave no stone unturned to bring the perpetrators to book," he said.

"Police management appreciates the community's stance against gangsterism and drugs.

"But people cannot be allowed to take the law in their own hands.

The community must supply police with information about drug dealing or any other illegal activities - then we will act," said Captain Romburgh.



LEON MULLER

Ruined: Salie Jardien inspects the damage done to his Bo-Kaap house in a petrol bomb attack



Injured: the injured Mogamat Jardien in front of the burnt out house after the attack at 3.10am today

White collar crime does pay

R3,8-bn loss for SA

JACQUI REEVES
OWN CORRESPONDENT

South Africa is reeling from a shocking R3 834-billion rand loss due to white collar crimes – more than double the amount spent by the Government on the justice department.

Less than one in ten of the commercial crime cases probed by police last year resulted in a conviction.

More than three quarters of the cases probed by police never made it to court.

The R113-million that South African banks lost in armed robberies last year pales in comparison to the amount snatched by white collar criminals in the 54 846 cases that were reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) Commercial Crimes Unit.

Although white collar crime may be considerably less violent than the recent spate of bank robberies plaguing Gauteng, it requires considerably more expertise and offers far more lucrative results.

More than R3,8-billion was lost to commercial crime last year according to the SAPS' latest report on the incidence of serious crime.

The justice department's 1995/96 budget was a little over R1,6-million.

The figures in this new report only reflect the initially reported amount and not the actual loss.

The monetary value could either increase or decrease depending on the subsequent investigation.

It appears that Gauteng is South Africa's financial capital in more way than one – more than 40 percent of the nation's commercial crimes last year were committed in the province.

However, the huge number of nationally reported cases appear to be just the tip of the iceberg.

A survey, completed by KPMG Aiken

(34) 8010 ARG 17/5/97
and Peat Forensic Auditors in 1996, revealed that of the total number of respondents who admitted to having been victims of fraud, only 53 percent reported it to the SAPS.

The percentage is, however, an improvement on a 1994 survey that showed that only 20 percent of all respondents admitted being victims of fraud.

Despite the gravity of the problem, the report points out that the vast majority of commercial crime cases are finalised without a court appearance.

During 1996, of the 48 941 dockets concluded, close on 77 percent of them were disposed of without spending a single day in court.

According to the SAPS report, of the cases that did get to court, 3 363 or 6,9 percent were concluded "with at least one conviction being achieved".

Those cases that never faced a judge were either withdrawn by the complainant or the Attorneys-General.

This week, the Emerald Group, an international security management firm of "fraud busters" visited South Africa, hosted by the chartered accounting firm, Price Waterhouse, with whom they share a close working relationship.

The company's international network of former FBI agents and Scotland Yard detectives specialise in fraud and embezzlement, industrial and foreign espionage, copyright and trademark infringement.

Emerald chairman, Thomas Parker, a former senior FBI agent who specialised in white collar crime, said: "There is definitely an increased awareness of white collar crime in South Africa but the problem comes about in the shifting of resources.

"Local law enforcement is being overwhelmed by the levels of violent crime in this country.

They have to cope with this first, so we need to find extra resources from the private sector," he said.

2/News

FROM PAGE 1

◆ Hidden cheats

(34)

Star 17/5/97

Although police are aware of the extent of white-collar crime, Parker said South African officers faced the same challenges as their counterparts in Los Angeles.

"There is definitely an increased awareness of white-collar crime but the problem comes about in the shifting of resources. Local law enforcement is being overwhelmed by the levels of violent crime in this country. They have to cope with this first, so we need to find extra resources from the private sector," Parker said.

Technology appeared to have been the catalyst in the development of this "fraud monster". Parker said highly advanced computer technology had fast become the preferred tool of the fraudster. "Fraud through a computer can be done off-site, has an invisible record and no paper trail. It can be very easy if you know how."

The Emerald group, although it investigates fraud and other commercial crimes, advocates prevention rather than detection. The group set up system "firewalls", identifying areas of weakness that someone might find while "turning doorknobs at night".

Parker believes much of the prevention can be achieved simply by screening potential clients and employees. "We will screen potential business partners, clients or employees, checking into their backgrounds. It's our job to find out whether they are legitimate."

Corporation

Weeding out fraudsters in a company is another of Emerald's talents. Some US companies have even set up toll-free "internal informant" hotlines.

The South African statistic which reveals that only 53% of all fraud victims report the crime is, according to Price Waterhouse executive James Hunt, an international trend, but it is up to the corporation involved whether to report the crime to the police.

"In the US, a company is only required to report fraud losses if it had a material impact on the financial report of the organisation, as most companies are covered by insurance. But if they want to get a claim, they must be able to explain how the cash was lost, which is where the private investigators come in, and why cases are often handled internally," Hunt said.

William Sessions, the former chief director of the FBI who is working with the Emerald group, said companies needed to turn themselves into "porcupines".

"A bear does not try to eat a porcupine. We help to facilitate a tight business corporation so that when a potential fraudster comes near the company, he says 'Oh no, I'm not touching that'. The more companies are like porcupines, the less chance they have of being gobbled by the bear," Sessions said.

Parker said that internationally, police and forensic accounting firms worked well together, in a win-win relationship. While the specialised accountants succeeded in catching the crooks, the tight package they presented to the police - in instances where the client had requested criminal action - often secured a conviction. The police had all the information and did not need to spend more time investigating the case.

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SA's hidden

(34)
Only one in 10 white-collar criminals are convicted

Star 17/5/97

By JACQUI REEVES

White-collar crime cost South Africa almost R4-billion last year - more than double the budget allocated to the Justice Department.

And less than 10% of the almost 50 000 commercial crime cases probed by police last year have resulted in a conviction.

More than three-quarters of the cases probed by police did not even make it to court.

The R113-million that South African banks lost in armed robberies last year pales in comparison to the amount snatched by white-collar criminals in the 54 846 cases reported to the SAPS commercial crimes unit.

Although white-collar crime may be considerably less violent than the recent spate of bank robberies, it requires considerably more expertise and offers far more lucrative takings.

The 1996 commercial crime figure of more than R3,8-billion is reported in the SAPS's latest Incidence of Serious Crime report. The Justice Department's 1995/96 budget was a little more than R1,6-billion.

The figures supplied by the SAPS reflect only the initially reported amount and not the actual loss: the monetary value could either increase or decrease depending on the subsequent investigation.

An example of a fraud case, which began with a relatively insignificant amount that proved to be substantially larger during the course of an investigation,

was the Masterbond debacle.

Gauteng, it appears, is South Africa's financial capital in more ways than one - more than 40% of the national total of commercial crimes last year were committed in the province.

The huge number of nationally reported cases do, however, appear to be just the tip of the iceberg.

A survey by KPMG Aiken and Peat Forensic Auditors in 1996 revealed that, of the total number of respondents who admitted to having been victims of fraud, only 53% reported it to the SAPS. The percentage is, however, an improvement on a 1994 survey which showed only 20% of all respondents reported their being victims of fraud.

Despite the gravity of the problem, the report points out that most commercial crime cases are finalised without a court appearance.

During 1996, of the 48 941 dockets concluded, close on 77% were disposed of without spending a single day in court.

According to the SAPS report, of the cases that did get to court, 3 363 or 6,9% were concluded "with at least one conviction being achieved".

Those cases not tried were either withdrawn by the complainants or the attorneys-general. Other reasons could be that cases proved to be unfounded or were disposed of as "undetected".

Superintendent Carl Auret, commander of the commercial crimes unit in Pretoria, said two

possible types of "undetected" cases existed.

"A case where the suspect is not known and cannot be identified may be written off as undetected. The second type of undetected case is when the suspect is known, and a warrant of arrest has been issued, but after extensive investigation the individual cannot be tracked down."

This week, the Emerald group, an international security management firm of "fraud busters", visited South Africa, hosted by chartered accountants Price Waterhouse, with which it shares a close working relationship.

The company's international network of ex-FBI investigators and Scotland Yard detectives specialise in cases of fraud and embezzlement, industrial and foreign espionage, and copyright and trade mark infringement.

They will also investigate executive and celebrity extortion and kidnapping, international terrorism, organised crime and the criminal infiltration of legitimate businesses.

Emerald chairman Thomas Parker, an ex-senior FBI agent who specialised in white-collar crime, told the *Saturday Star* that fraud in South Africa was no different to that in the US.

He said that a few years ago, Los Angeles was fighting a battle against recurring bank robberies. But as banks became more sophisticated and kept less cash, the underworld switched to white-collar crime.

TO PAGE 2

crimes

P.T.O.

Cops meet on bank robberies

(34)
sowetan
20/5/97

Fivaz, Mufamadi tell bankers of their planned strategies to end the crisis

POLICE Commissioner George Fivaz, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, other safety and security officials and members of the Council of SA Banks met yesterday to discuss the problem of bank robberies, Cosab chief executive officer Mr Bob Tucker said.

Tucker said banking representatives were satisfied with the direction of police initiatives to fight the crime, but were "very anxious that real substance was given to those initiatives and that the initiatives are driven to produce results very quickly".

Mufamadi and Fivaz yesterday advised Cosab of actions the police had already taken, notably the establishment of rapid response units and a central investigation function.

"There is clearly a very high level of commitment on their part to addressing the bank robbery crisis. The

rapid response units are backed by two helicopters and various other resources. Nine bank robbery suspects were apprehended on Saturday," Tucker said.

Police also believed they were making significant progress towards the identification of four syndicates involved in bank robberies, he said.

At the meeting some issues were identified for urgent consideration. One of these was that foreign experts in the areas of rapid response, investigation of bank robberies, and investigation of crime syndicates be recruited to help South Africa's police service.

Another was that a significant, well-organised reward system was established to induce people to give information about bank robberies, both executed and planned.

Special units investigating bank robberies needed better resources. — Sapa.

World business executives rate SA third worst for organised crime

Greta Steyn

GLOBAL business executives rated SA the third-worst country in the world for organised crime in a survey by the World Economic Forum as part of its 1997 Global Competitiveness Report.

The survey showed SA ranked behind Colombia and Russia in the list of countries in which organised crime imposed significant business costs.

SA also had the dubious honour of coming fourth in the list of countries whose police did not effectively safe-

guard personal security. Topping that particular hit parade was Venezuela, while Russia again made it into the top three.

The executive survey was used as an input for calculating the forum's global competitiveness index. Other inputs for the index were economic and social statistics.

SA ranked 44th among 53 countries rated, against last year's 43rd among 49 nations.

The index was designed to measure the capacity of an economy to achieve

high rates of per capita gross domestic product growth in the medium term, loosely defined as five to 10 years.

The report singled out eight factors that determined competitiveness: openness of an economy to international trade and finance; government's budget and regulatory policies; development of financial markets; quality of infrastructure; quality of technology; quality of business management; labour market flexibility and quality of judicial and political institutions.

SA's report card showed its labour

market was almost at the bottom of the class. It came 52nd out of the 53 countries rated. The breakdown for the labour section showed it was rated the worst of the lot on "industrial relations". It was not clear how industrial relations were measured.

SA also fared dismally when it came to institutions — reflecting the crime problem as well as economic concentration and lack of competition policy. The country's third-worst score was on openness, where its exchange rate policy and lack of foreign direct invest-

ment dragged it down.

BD 21/5/97
The country did relatively well on government (28th), infrastructure (26th), finance (32nd) and technology (34th), while management fared better than labour — but still not particularly well — with its score of 37 out of 53.

The forum's rankings showed the world's most competitive economies were Singapore and Hong Kong, while the least competitive were Russia and the Ukraine.

Crime

BD 21/5/97

Continued from Page 1

The report said the UK had made a dramatic improvement, moving from 15th place last year to seventh. "The two-decade long restructuring in terms of privatisation and deregulation is finally paying off, putting the UK into a strong competitive position for the new global economy," the report said.

However, bad fiscal and labour market policies were weighing on some European Union countries, with Germany slipping two places to 25th and

Italy ranked 39th, the report said.

Among the big emerging markets, Indonesia was the most competitive, leapfrogging to 15th spot from last year's 30th.

China, the world's fastest-growing economy, had moved from 36th to 29th position.

Chile continued as Latin America's "star" — ranked 13th, up from 18th.

When the opinions of executives were taken on their own, a different pecking order emerged. SA was placed 38th by business leaders, ahead of Argentina but behind Russia.

See Page 12

Continued on Page 2

Crime

Banks to stage protest against violent robbery

BY MELANIE ANN FERRELL

Star 21/5/97

Banks will close for two hours tomorrow during their peak lunch-hour trading period to protest against the spate of violent bank robberies.

They will stop trading at noon. Bank employees have asked the public to observe one minute's silence at 1pm to remember those killed in the robberies.

Motorists have been requested to switch on their headlights between noon and 2pm to show solidarity.

Banks have lost R30-million in 184 robberies in the past four months. About R20-million was stolen in Gauteng.

The four major banks - Absa, First National, Nedcor and Standard Bank - have spent about R1-billion on security over the past three years.

They predict that another R376-million will be spent by the end of the year.

Bob Tucker, chief executive officer of the Council of South African Banks, said yesterday all four major bank groups had been hit "pretty badly" and that there was no pattern to the robberies. No particular banking group was being targeted.

Thousands of bank workers march in crime

Db 23/5/97

(34)

protest

Reneé Grawitzky

THOUSANDS of bank workers marched through SA's major city centres yesterday to voice their opposition to rampant crime.

This follows at least 184 bank robberies in which 14 bank workers have been killed this year.

At a rally in Johannesburg SA Society of Bank Officials (Sasbo) general secretary Graham Rowan warned of further countrywide action to highlight workers' opposition to violent crimes. He urged President Nelson Mandela make the elimination of crime his top priority. He said banking workers were "sick and tired" while the authorities did nothing.

Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) general secretary Sam Shilowa redirected the protestors attention to crime in the broader community. He called on communities to participate in crime prevention by joining community policing forums. He assured Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte that Cosatu would support her and government in bringing an end to crime and would make itself available.

Sapa reports that Duarte was heckled by the crowd. She accused bank employees of collaborating with robbers in bank robberies, saying five bank robbers arrested on Wednesday would implicate bank employees.

She called on bank employees to co-operate with law enforcement agencies to combat bank robberies and said business should put its money where its mouth was and support law enforcement agencies.

The thousands of bank workers, who were given paid time off by the banks, enthusiastically displayed hundreds of placards ranging from "no withdrawal without deposits" to "Mbeki forget about Kabila and concentrate on armed robberies and other crimes".

More than 1 000 bank workers marched to Parliament.

Sasbo national president Jan Scheepers handed over a memorandum to Safety and Security

Minister Sydney Mufamadi's administrative secretary Corne Nieuwoudt amid chants of "no more cash for murdering trash".

Meanwhile Bonile Ngqiyaza reports after a rally attended by hundreds of Wits University students and staff yesterday, university officials announced far-reaching measures aimed at tightening security in and around the campus following the murder in recent weeks of two university community members.

United Bank employee Floyd Nkholo was shot dead two weeks ago in an attempted bank robbery on campus while part-time commerce lecturer Ronnie Bethlehem was slain by car hijackers in an

unrelated incident.

Vice-Chancellor Robert Charlton said the extra security measures included the installation of more closed-circuit TV cameras on campus grounds and increasing the number of panic alarm buttons from five to 40.

"The perimeter is being tightened and facilities for access control being installed. This will be considerably less convenient, particularly for visitors," Charlton told the rally attended by hundreds of staff and students.

He said that the banks at the Senate House concourse, which also houses the SRC and student union buildings, would be moved away to a more secure area to pre-

vent students being caught in crossfire in the event of a bank robbery.

Charlton emphasised that apart from five reported cases of assault involving male students fighting over female students, there had been a drop in crime on campus this year compared with previous years.

At the rally, psychology lecturer Yvette Esprey said violence was a phenomenon transcending all barriers between SA people. Esprey also called for a revision of the policy around bail applications so that people facing serious charges like rape, murder and child abuse "should not be led out onto the streets".



Thousands of bank workers marched through Johannesburg yesterday protest against crime. Among the banners they carried was one that read: 'No withdrawal without deposits'. Pictures: ROBERT BOTHA

Staff close banks in crime protest

14 killed in 180 robberies

ARG 23/5/97

(34)

THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

Banking came to a virtual standstill during lunch hour yesterday when staff took to the streets to protest against the increase in bank robberies.

In Cape Town nearly 1 000 bank employees marched from the Grand Parade to Parliament where they handed a memorandum calling for action to a Ministry of Safety and Security official.

They called on the Government to apply stricter bail conditions for serious crimes and proposed better pay and conditions of employment for the demoralised police service.

South African Society of Bank Officials held similar marches in other major centres.

Society secretary-general Graeme Rowan said the aim of the protest was to urge the Government to pull up its socks in dealing with violent crime.

"Gangsters must be removed from society. Bank workers are sick and tired of being victims."

Mr Rowan said there had been about 180

bank robberies since January, most of them in Gauteng.

More than R30-million had been stolen and 14 bank employees killed.

"The South African finance industry is the country's shop window to the world and if the workers in it are not safe, investments are also not safe, tourism will suffer and Cape Town will not get the 2004 Olympics," Mr Rowan said.

Banks whose staff took part in the march closed for business between noon and 2 pm.

The protest had the blessing of the Council of South African Banks which represents the country's major banks. The council published a full-page advertisement with black and white photographs of a bank robbery in a morning newspaper, applauding the action by employees.

"After all our staff have been through in the past few months, we're sure you wouldn't begrudge them two hours to protest," the advertisement said.

It added that the banking industry supported the society's appeal for more effective measures to protect the safety of bank staff and customers.

Countrywide marches by bank workers against crime

Star 23/5/97



Union appeals to Mandela to bring about 'another miracle' and make elimination of crime a priority

By MELANIE-ANN FERES

Thousands of bank workers, who constantly face the danger of armed robberies at work, took to the streets yesterday to protest against violent crimes.

Banks in all the major cities joined a national call by Sasbo (South African Society of Bank Officials) to close down for two hours during the peak lunch hour trading period, to protest against bank heists and other violent crime.

But, Gauteng MEC for

every (security) video seen of a robbery showed weaknesses in bank security.

While the Government had implemented measures to deal with crime, bank robberies were escalating because bank employees were working with syndicates.

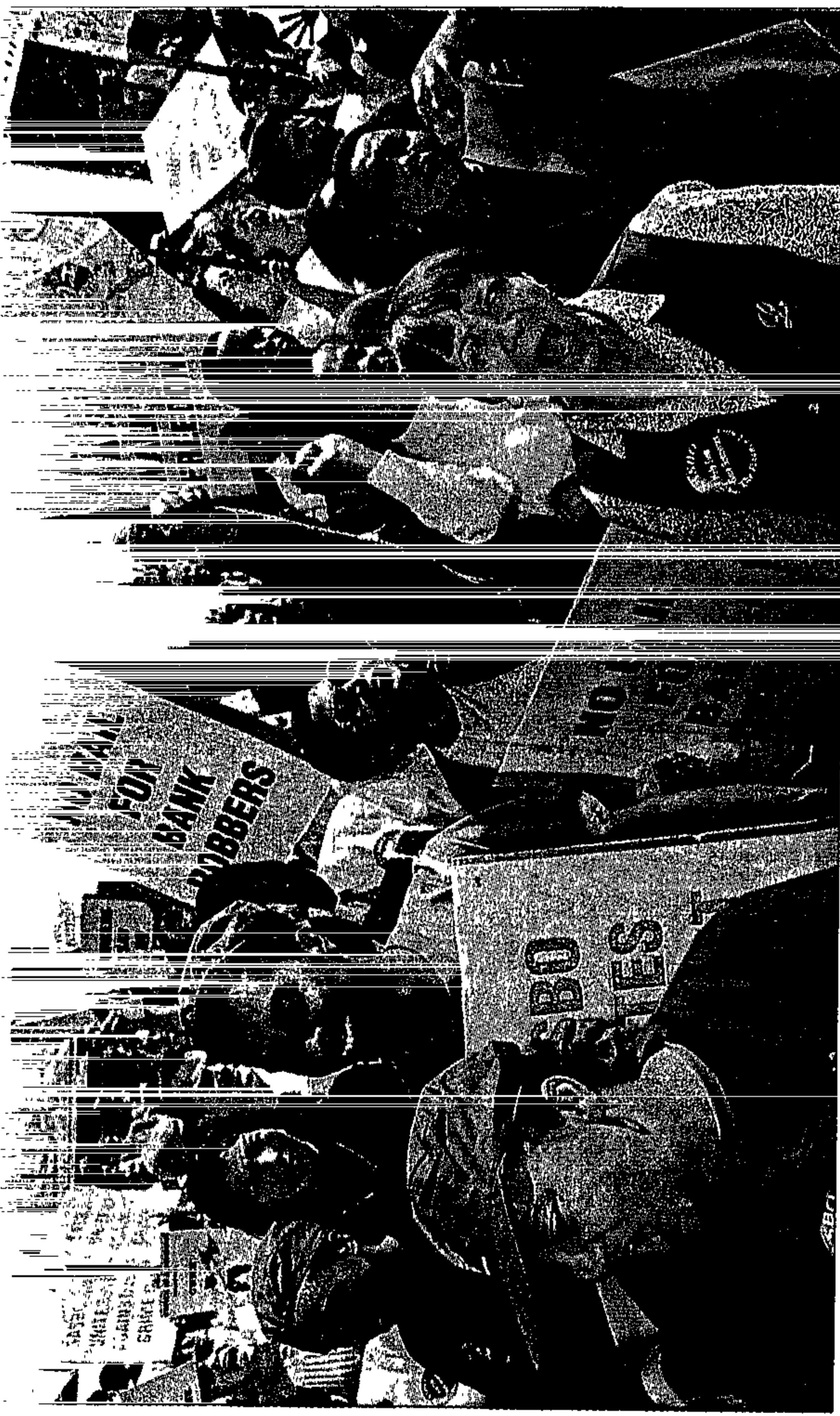
Every cash in transit robbery over the past three weeks had been pulled off with inside information, she said.

"Someone is telling their friends on the outside when to rob you. How are you going to help?"

"You allow criminals amongst yourselves. You allow robbers to open accounts with the money that they stole from you," she said.

While the Government had a commitment of assistance by bank managers, it was up to the rest of the banking staff to be alert, specially to the possibility of colleagues working with crime syndicates, Duarte said.

Sasbo, which was joined by Cosatu and Popcru, warned that yesterday's action was only the start of much wider protest action.



Together against crime ... bank employees gather at Johannesburg's Library Gardens yesterday to draw attention to the dangers they face in the workplace.

The union is attempting to involve all businesses in a similar protest in the future,

People are saying the new SA is corrupt

Graeme Rowan, general secretary of Sasbo said.

Addressing the hundreds of bank employees and supporters at the Johannesburg Library Gardens Rowan said: "You (Mandela) are achieving miracles with the new South Africa, but another miracle is

desperately needed. Please make the elimination of crime your top priority.

"Give it the Madiba magic that has brought our country so many other honours.

"People are saying that the new South Africa is corrupt, they say that the police, who are supposed to be protecting us, are the real criminals.

"That is a blight on your administration, sir. That is a blight that must be eliminated."

Yesterday's protest has received political support from both the ANC and the National Party, who said this was a desperate effort to show that crime was getting out of hand.

They don't know if they will be alive at the end of the working day

By MELANIE-ANN FERES

Hennie Bezuidenhout's bank has been robbed three times in the past five weeks.

"They come in waving their guns and shout at people to lie on the ground. They jump over the counters and intimidate the tellers to give them money. Then they start pulling open the drawers, helping themselves to money.

"It is all over in two minutes, but those two minutes change your life for ever," said Bezuidenhout, who is the manager of Rosebank's Trustbank.

All the tellers at the bank are female. One of them has been hospitalised, not because of physical injuries, but due to psychological injuries as a result of the trauma.

Another has been transferred and two more have applied to be transferred at the end of the month. People who

applied for jobs at the bank have decided against working there and last week only 60% of the staff arrived for work.

"We have reached a stage where we don't know if we will be alive at the end of the day," he said. Yesterday's mass protest by bank employees gave him the opportunity to talk about his experiences: "It was good to know that there are others out there who have been through the same thing."

5 250 MORE POLICE TO BE RECRUITED

At last! Good news on crime

(34)

ET 23/5/97

THE LIFTING of the moratorium on police recruitment could signal a new age for the SAPS — with a refreshed image and better-qualified officers. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** reports.



THE recruitment of 5 250 extra police members — at a cost of almost R150 million — heralded yesterday's historic lifting of South Africa's three-year moratorium on police recruitment.

But the top echelons of the South African Police Service were adamant that the move was not merely a futile exercise of throwing more people at the problem of the country's spiralling crime.

The first phase of the recruitment programme will be financed from the Department of Safety and Security's existing recruitment allocation, and by shifting around the budget for the 1997/98 financial year.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz said the programme should be completely phased in within two or three years.

Lifting the moratorium on police recruitment is seen by many as an opportunity for the police to clean up their act and overcome allegations of corruption and inefficiency by recruiting professionally-trained personnel.

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi announced the immediate lifting of the moratorium at police headquarters in Pretoria yesterday.

Although operational details of the recruitment process have not been released, an "elated" Provincial Police Commissioner Leon Wessels expressed yesterday his

belief that it would significantly boost the Western Cape's fight against crime. Fivaz is expected to release details of the number of recruits in each province today or over the weekend.

Reacting to the announcement, Wessels said: "This will go a long way towards getting staff into areas where police are thinly spread."

The Western Cape has just under 13 000 police officers.

Wessels said the province's new recruits would be assigned mainly to the west metropole — a "priority area" which includes Mitchells Plain, Guguletu, Nyanga, Athlone, Woodstock and the Wynberg District. The new recruits would also allow senior police officers to be seconded to severely understaffed Peninsula detective branches.

Stressing that lifting the moratorium was not a "politically expedient" quick fix, Mufamadi recalled "the ill-fated exercise of recruiting 10 000 'kitskonstabels' in the 1980s — people who were inexpensive, yet often not even functionally literate".

Instead, Mufamadi said the police would apply higher recruitment standards to have better-trained and better-qualified police officers, adding that any applicant with a criminal record or who did not have a driver's licence would not be accepted.

Of the 140 000 SAPS members, 45 000 do not possess driver's

WHAT LIFTING THE RECRUITMENT MORATORIUM ENTAILS:

● 5 250 new police members within three months, including 2 730 police officials and 2 520 civilians

● R149,6 million allocated to recruitment programme

● Priority areas: Family, Sexual Violence and Child Abuse Unit, Anti-corruption Unit, Forensic Science Laboratory Unit, Firearm Unit, Border Control Unit

● Higher recruitment standards: Must have a driver's licence, no criminal record, matric qualification

● Western Cape high priority areas: Mitchells Plain, Guguletu, Nyanga, Athlone, Woodstock and the Wynberg District

● Programme to be fully phased in within two to three years

licences, and a further estimated 30 000 do not have matric.

The lifting of the moratorium will see the 140 000 supplemented by 5 250 extra members over the next three months, at a cost of R149,6m.

Of the new recruits, 2 730 will be police officials and 2 520 will be civilians. Mufamadi said that this would free thousands of police officials, at present on desk duty, to be deployed in real policing.

The new recruitment process will be done under the auspices of the Resource Utilisation Programme (RUP), which was set up to analyse police resource priorities.

The allotment of the new recruits will be centred on "key" policing functions. Among the

priority areas are Family, Sexual Violence and Child Abuse units, the Anti-Corruption unit, Forensic Science Laboratories, the Firearms unit and the Border Control unit.

The RUP report took much longer to complete than had been expected, leading to friction — and ultimately a bruising public clash over the allocation of police resources — between the ministry and Fivaz's office.

The moratorium was imposed in August 1994 by the ANC government, faced with integrating black freedom fighters into a white-dominated police force.

He said the normal, laborious six-month application assessment process would be compressed to three months.

The ANC and the DP welcomed yesterday's announcement.

The ANC said it was particularly impressed by the ministry's intention to ensure new members would be deployed in areas where police were thin on the ground.

This, together with the Justice Ministry's intention to tighten bail conditions for serious offences, showed the national crime prevention strategy was taking root.

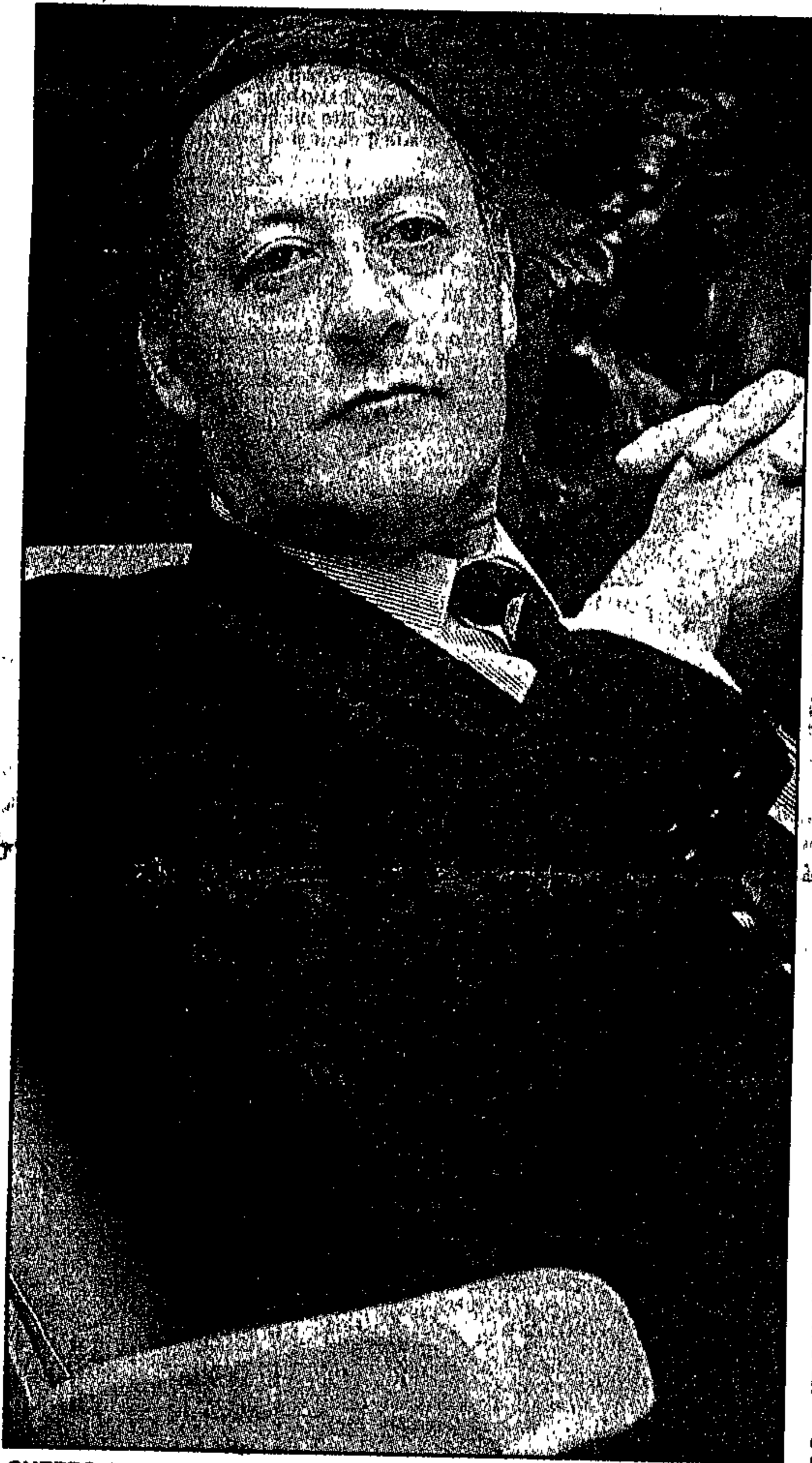
DP law and order spokesman Mr Douglas Gibson urged authorities to confine future recruitment to "high-calibre young people".

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) has provisionally welcomed the lifting of the moratorium.

Popcru spokesman Mr Mnikelwa Nxele said the large numbers of people leaving the service had to be counteracted with new recruitment — but he stressed that such recruitment should be done on an affirmative action basis.

Glee as beer takes over

Meyer Kahn determined to make the s



CHEERS: Meyer Kahn, who will try to succeed where policemen have failed

CHRIS BARRON,
PETER De IONNO
and CAROL PATON

SOUTH Africa's leading industrialist, SA Breweries boss Meyer Kahn, has been appointed chief executive of the SA Police Services for the next two years.

Businessmen and police chiefs applauded the appointment yesterday, citing Kahn as one of the country's best managers and the man who made SAB one of the world's four biggest breweries.

Kahn said last night that managing the SA Police Services was going to be the "mother of all adventures".

"I have only one objective for the next two years. I am going to make sure that the police have the resources, the support and the motivation to make the streets of South Africa safe again.

"Crime has become a national crisis — we have let it get out of hand."

The Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, made the announcement with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki yesterday.

Kahn said he had hesitated at first when Mbeki had called him to his Pretoria home a month ago.

"I knew I could not say no. He told me: 'Your country needs you.' Now I feel strong about it. I feel relaxed and it is flattering to know that my management skills can make a contribution."

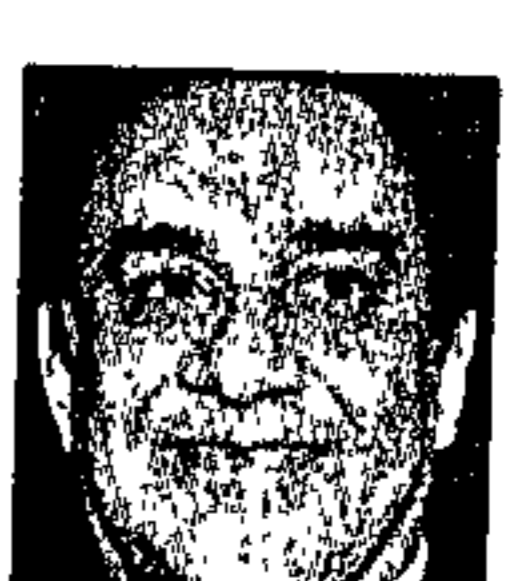
Told that he had been described as one of the toughest taskmasters in business, he said: "I am a nice guy. I just have standards. Things have got to get done and I do not take 'no' for an answer.

"I have always considered life to be urgent and immediate, and nothing is more immediate than

MORE



Safe:
Mpumalanga
two top offici:
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Judge:
'We are deter
freedom of all
those who see

everyone asking themselves what they are going to do to stop crime."

He would not comment on speculation that one of his first moves would be to turn to former New York police chief William Bratton for help.

"I will ask for help and support from everybody and anybody. I intend to start with the Almighty and work my way down."

Kahn joked that he would have more "voters" behind him than any politician in the country.

"The concern about crime is so deep and widespread that I know I will have the support of every South African apart from the criminals themselves."

Kahn said his initial discussions with top police managers, including Commissioner George Fivaz, had left him with a clear understanding of the difficulties the police faced, such as "deep demotivation" and problems with the management of resources.

"I know from 30 years of

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Kahn, who ... secondment for ... with the police ... tinue to get a ... SAB. He will ... other ... the post to ... Widows and ... Fund.

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as beer boss s over cops

determined to make the streets safe again

(34) ST 25/5/97

CHRIS BARRON,
PETER De IONNO
and CAROL PATON

MORE GOOD NEWS ON CRIME

SOUTH Africa's leading industrialist, SA Breweries boss Meyer Kahn, has been appointed chief executive of the SA Police Services for the next two years.

Businessmen and police chiefs applauded the appointment yesterday, citing Kahn as one of the country's best managers and the man who made SAB one of the world's four biggest breweries.

Kahn said last night that managing the SA Police Services was going to be the "mother of all adventures".

"I have only one objective for the next two years. I am going to make sure that the police have the resources, the support and the motivation to make the streets of South Africa safe again.

"Crime has become a national crisis — we have let it get out of hand."

The Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, made the announcement with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki yesterday.

Kahn said he had hesitated at first when Mbeki had called him to his Pretoria home a month ago.

"I knew I could not say no. He told me: 'Your country needs you.' Now I feel strong about it. I feel relaxed and it is flattering to know that my management skills can make a contribution."

Told that he had been described as one of the toughest taskmasters in business, he said: "I am a nice guy. I just have standards. Things have got to get done and I do not take 'no' for an answer.

"I have always considered life to be urgent and immediate, and nothing is more immediate than

have failed



Safety chief forced to quit

Mpumalanga MEC Steve Mabona has resigned and two top officials have been suspended in the wake of the scandal over drivers' licences: **Page 2**



Judges declare war on rape

'We are determined to protect the equality, dignity and freedom of all women, and we shall show no mercy to those who seek to invade those rights': **Page 4**

everyone asking themselves what they are going to do to stop crime."

He would not comment on speculation that one of his first moves would be to turn to former New York police chief William Bratton for help.

"I will ask for help and support from everybody and anybody. I intend to start with the Almighty and work my way down."

Kahn joked that he would have more "voters" behind him than any politician in the country.

"The concern about crime is so deep and widespread that I know I will have the support of every South African apart from the criminals themselves."

Kahn said his initial discussions with top police managers, including Commissioner George Fivaz, had left him with a clear understanding of the difficulties the police faced, such as "deep demotivation" and problems with the management of resources.

"I know from 30 years of

managing Breweries that anything is possible. As an outsider looking in it seems the basic problem is that the police are trying to do too many things at the same time."

Kahn, who will be on secondment for two years with the police, will continue to get a salary from SAB. He will donate any other remuneration for the post to the police Widows and Orphans Fund.

Mufamadi said Kahn would take care of all police management functions, freeing Fivaz to concentrate on hard-core policing.

He said Kahn would be responsible for the police's R11-billion budget and would manage its human and physical resources. Kahn would report directly to him and to the President.

The scale of the problems confronting Kahn was illustrated this week when Mufamadi said that about 10 000 policemen were absent from duty on any given day, supposedly because of sickness.

The number of pen-pushers at police headquarters in Pretoria has grown from 5 000 to 11 000 in three years, and a recent survey showed that 70 percent of staff at police stations were not involved in active anti-crime work.

Fivaz yesterday welcomed the appointment and gave it his "unconditional support".

A member of Business Against Crime, Doug Band, said the forum was "involved in the process"

leading to Kahn's appointment.

Band, the executive chairman of the Premier Group, said: "We needed the best person and we're damned fortunate that the best person was prepared to take it on. We believe crime can be licked and will be licked."

The leader of the Democratic Party, Tony Leon, said it was one of the best appointments the government had made.

See Page 9

Handball, but Barker says he's happy

BAFANA Bafana coach Clive Barker refused to condemn the obvious handball which gave England a 2-1 victory at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday.

The players...

BE P



Breweries chief spells out plan to turn police service around

Stephané Bothma

NEWLY appointed SA Police Service (SAPS) CEO Meyer Kahn will reorganise major assets, personnel, resources and tackle motivation in the force in his drive to convert it into an effective crime prevention agency.

Kahn said last night he would not take a team of business executives with him when he took up the post on August 1, but would go it alone until he had evaluated the service's top structure. "I do not think the quality of hu-

man material in the SAPS is as bad as some people try to make out." However, he would take his secretary.

His appointment, announced by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on Saturday, to help manage police support functions for two years was welcomed by business, police chiefs and organisations, and political parties.

In an attempt to direct and accelerate the conversion of the SAPS into an effective law enforcement and crime prevention agency, Kahn said he would keep to a simple four-pronged

strategy, starting with the major assets of the structure, followed by the people within the structure, on to the available resources and finally dealing with motivational levels.

Initial discussions with top policemen had given him a clear understanding of the difficulties facing the SAPS. These included "deep" motivation and resource management problems.

National commissioner George Fivaz said Kahn's appointment was a huge opportunity which should be applied to all government departments

involved in the criminal justice system if crime fighting was to be effective. "Key bottlenecks" in the system, such as the limited capacity of courts and prisons to handle the rising number of arrests, required urgent attention.

Fivaz said: "Kahn has a golden opportunity to fight for unique status for the SAPS within the civil service in terms of vastly improved salaries, working conditions and other administrative procedures." Police manage-



KAHN

Kahn ⁽³⁴⁾ ~~(25)~~
BD 26/5/97

Continued from Page 1

ment expected Kahn to provide the necessary support to help fight crime more effectively.

Kahn said he felt "strong, relaxed and flattered" by the appointment, which would free Fivaz of administrative burdens and allow him to concentrate on managing policing.

"Initially I viewed the position with lots of fear.... It is fairly traumatic for me to leave the breweries for two years." However, had managed to work up a "little bit of confidence". Referring to Kahn as one of the pri-

vate sector's toughest and most able managers, Mbeki said Fivaz and Kahn would work out the parameters of the new command structure under Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's direction. Kahn would be responsible for the R11bn police budget and would manage its human and physical resources.

SAB said Kahn's secondment to government had been approved by its board. In his absence, Cyril Ramaphosa would become acting non-executive board chairman and Selwyn MacFarlane, deputy breweries chairman, would become acting chairman on the board's general purposes committee. Group MD Graham Mackay would assume full executive responsibility.

Continued on Page 2

BD 26/5/97

Surprise brews (34) ~~SECRET~~ for criminals

CT 26/5/97

THE fight against crime has been bolstered with the appointment of SA Breweries former boss Mr Meyer Kahn as chief executive officer of the SA Police Service.

Welcoming the appointment, the International Association of Business Communications described Kahn as an able businessman and leader.

His tasks will include managing resources and taking responsibility for SAPS's R11-billion budget.

National Commissioner George Fivaz said he hoped his appointment would end bureaucratic procedures which hamstrung management. — Staff Writer

New inter-governmental forum plan to fight crime

(34) BD 27/5/97

Deborah Fine

THE Gauteng provincial government, local authorities and the provincial safety and security department are planning to set up an inter-governmental forum next week to co-ordinate a programme to combat high crime levels, especially increasing numbers of bank robberies.

Gauteng local government MEC Sicelo Shiceka said yesterday local authorities would play an increasingly important role in crime prevention through the introduction of various measures in areas which traditionally fell under their areas of jurisdiction.

The reater Johannesburg metropolitan council, for example, would soon begin installing traffic signs outside banks indicating areas in which vehicles were prohibited from parking. This was considered a vital element in reducing bank robberies because it would prevent armed gangs from parking their get-away cars in close proximity to their targets.

The project would be implemented by the metropolitan council because traffic control, parking

and related issues were municipal functions and had to be enforced by municipal authorities, he said.

The signs would be installed first outside banks which had been identified as extremely vulnerable targets, and would then be extended to other less vulnerable premises.

It was envisaged that the process would be completed within the next three months.

Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte said the council's "welcome" move would send out a clear message that more co-ordination was emerging between the province and local government and that government was now committed to "less words and more action".

She also said her department and local authorities were looking at ways to facilitate faster communication between police and municipal emergency services during robberies.

These could include special 0800 emergency lines.

Shiceka said the new forum would consist of various committees which would examine ways in which traditionally municipal

functions such as emergency services, urban and town planning, and traffic control could be enhanced to prevent crime.

Future buildings, for example, could be designed in such a way as to hinder easy access by criminals, while municipalities could also prevent rapes, burglaries and robberies by ensuring that long grass in their areas was cut regularly.

The provincial government was also in the process of preparing amendments to local government ordinances to allow local councils to close down troublesome taxi ranks with recurring incidents of violence immediately. Current legislation allowed municipalities to close down ranks only after giving 21 days notice.

Shiceka said his department and local councils were also looking the implementation of metropolitan policing services, as well as the restructuring of community police forums, to enable these bodies to help root out crooked policemen and ineffective police stations.

"We are sending out a message to criminals that they are in trouble," he said.

New crime act explained to businessmen

(34) (34)

Farouk Chothia

28/5/97

DURBAN — THE SA Police Service's (SAPS's) commercial crime unit held a workshop for businessmen in KwaZulu-Natal yesterday, explaining the Proceeds of Crime Act which, among others, aimed to combat money laundering.

National unit co-ordinator Flip Wolmarans said the unit expected to receive between 7 000 and 10 000 reports of suspected money laundering each month. This was a "conservative guesstimate", provided by banks countrywide. Investigations would have to be prioritised.

"It takes weeks to launder money, but years to investigate," Wolmarans said.

The act, which came into effect earlier this month after being passed through Parliament last year, compelled businesses to report "suspicions" on "proceeds" of crime — be it money, stock or property — to the unit. No reports had as yet been received.

Business Against Crime KwaZulu-Natal co-chairman Basil Carlston said it was in the interest of businesses to comply with the act.

"It takes the whole process of co-operation with the criminal justice system a step further ... and the battle against crime to perpetrators," Carlston said.

SAPS detective services legal advisor Francois van Graan said police were awaiting supplementary legislation allowing businesses to seek information.

Crime's profits penalised

CT(BR) 28/5/97 (34)
SHIRLEY JONES

KWAZULU NATAL EDITOR

Durban — A workshop conducted here yesterday by the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Department of Justice and Business Against Crime provided some guidelines on a host of new offences created by the Proceeds of Crime Act, which was passed on May 16.

Among the new crimes were money laundering — processing the proceeds of crime — and the failure of businesses to report suspicions that they are dealing in money or assets which are the result of a crime.

Basil Carlston, the co-chairman of Business Against Crime's task group in KwaZulu Natal, said guilty

businessmen faced up to 15 years' imprisonment.

He said it was in their interests to comply, given the high levels of crime in this country. However, those businesses reporting anything to the commercial crime unit in Pretoria had to have sound reasons for their suspicions, to guard against using this avenue to attack business competitors.

The aim of the act, according to workshop delegates, was to take the profit motive out of crime.

Margaret Kruger, the provincial head of the commercial branch of the SAPS in KwaZulu Natal, said the act was so new that rough guidelines only were available; no official policy had yet been devised.

SA battles with rising drug trade

(34)
Sowetan
29/5/97

South Africa could overtake Nigeria as drug trafficking centre of Africa

By Charity Bhengu

ABOUT 18 685 people have been arrested for crossing the borders illegally since the beginning of the year, the Department of Defence reported this week.

The arrests were the result of the deployment of about 7 000 troops around the country in support of the South African Police Service.

About 574 illegal weapons, 18 402kg of dagga and 353 mandrax tablets were confiscated during the arrests.

Other operational successes include that of the SA Air Force which used over R2,1 million to contribute to the National Crime Prevention Strategy, while flying an additional 886,75 hours to patrol the country's borders.

The Institute of Security Studies analysis of the SA government's response to the drug problem had been, thus far, fragmented and poorly funded with no coordination between reactive and proactive programmes.

To take on drug-related violence effec-

tively, the ISS suggested that the National Crime Prevention Strategy should include the departments of Correctional Services, Justice, Safety and Security, Welfare and the South African Police Service.

ISS research showed that the growing presence of illicit drugs in South Africa was a result of the dramatic movement of large numbers of legal and illegal people across poorly monitored borders and ill-equipped customs.

28 Nigerians kidnapped

In Hillbrow, Johannesburg, 28 Nigerians were kidnapped and 10 died in street killings over a two month period as a result of fighting between rival drug dealing gangs.

South Africa could overtake Nigeria as the trafficking centre of Africa and join the ranks of the most notorious in the world.

The ISS said with high unemployment figures in the country and the surging interest in drug dealing, South Africa could face gang wars similar to those of America in the '30s.

Expats warn US of exodus over SA crime

BY RICH MKHONDO
WASHINGTON BUREAU

(34)

ARG 2/6/97
Washington - Worried about the rampant crime in their homeland, South African expatriates have begun efforts to inform the American public, media, politicians and lobby groups about the criminal killings which they say could be likened to "apartheid's gross human rights violation".

They have formed a movement called the SA Community for Public Safety (Sacops) and have launched internet sites where they discuss the fate of their friends and relatives in South Africa.

Angry and fearful stories have flooded Sacops' web site. Some South Africans are calling on President Mandela to declare a state of emergency, reinstate the death penalty and legalise public executions for the perpetrators of heinous crimes.

In strongly worded letters sent to hundreds of American politicians, Sacops has warned that "if the crime is allowed to continue, there will be a massive exodus from South Africa."

"Many of those are highly skilled and many more are the ageing parents of South Africans who have chosen to leave the previous apartheid South Africa. The fledgling South African democracy cannot afford to lose these people. But still, can America afford to absorb what may be at least 100 000 elderly people?"

South African embassy spokesman Daniel Ngwepe said expatriates would serve their country well by channeling their energies into constructive exercises such as campaigning for economic development in South Africa to create jobs, which would help bring down crime.

In the latest edition of Juluka, a newsletter on South African issues, editor Cliff Matheson said he had been inundated with enquiries from South Africans seeking advice on how to make it into the US.

R260m for system to keep track of criminals

Wynndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — More than R260m has already been provided for phase one of an information system which will be able to track criminals from arrest to imprisonment and ultimately release and parole.

This emerged when a team from the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), including national commissioner of the SA Police Service George Fivaz and secretary of safety and security Azhar Cachalia, briefed seven parliamentary committees on progress in the fight against crime.

Answering a question from De-

mocratic Party MP Douglas Gibson, the head of the NCPS, Bernie Fanaroff, said Finance Minister Trevor Manuel had committed R267m "up front" for the Enterprise Process Information System (EPIS). Gibson had suggested that unless the ambitious plans of the NCPS had been costed and budgeted "they will not happen".

Fanaroff, in reply to a further question from National Party MP Sheila Camerer, said there was also R43m in the pipeline for the new automated national fingerprint system. Fanaroff agreed with Camerer that this was a vital component of the reform of the criminal justice

system and the creation of an integrated approach. He said tenders had been sent out two months ago, but the awarding of the contract had been delayed when the tender board had returned the tenders to the companies for "comment".

This meant that the tender process would not be completed until the end of July. He declined to offer an opinion on the actions taken by the tender authorities.

Fanaroff told the assembled committees of safety and security, justice, intelligence, welfare, correctional services and status of women, that tenders for the first phase of the criminal justice projects would

have to demonstrate that they had successful experience of putting integrated criminal justice management systems into place.

Updating the committees on the work of the NCPS, Fanaroff said the transformation of the criminal justice system from its present components — police, courts, prisons and welfare — could not be achieved overnight. Many changes would be completed in two or more years, while the long-term goals would be achieved in the new century.

Cachalia, in his briefing to the committees, said the NCPS was rapidly being transformed from theory into concrete results, with

more than 24 crime-prevention projects launched during the past year. The NCPS had targeted crimes such as illegal firearms, vehicle crime, corruption in the criminal justice system, crime against women and children and commercial crime.

"The NCPS minister's committee meets regularly to review progress and make sure enough resources are available to keep the NCPS on track. The operational work of the NCPS is handled by the co-ordinating mechanism, a committee made up of officials from the NCPS departments who have been assigned responsibility for the various programmes," Cachalia said.

PH 3/6/97

(34)

CT (B2) 316197

German firms take a hard line on crime

About 85 percent of German companies in South Africa said in a recent survey they were considering altering their investment strategies; 15 percent had already stopped their investment because of the crime problem, Jurgen Schrempp, the chairman of Daimler-Benz, said at the weekend. He said this was "not surprising as quite a number of German company executives and employees have been subjected to criminal brutality".

Speaking at the annual banquet of the South African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Johannesburg, Schrempp said the study surveyed 82 German firms. They identified "fighting crime" as the government's highest priority. However, he said while pessimists may regard Africa as the lost continent, "we see it as a market of the future". But he said it was vitally important the government stuck to its macroeconomic strategy and curbed the growing crime rate if the country were to lead the way to prosperity in the region. — Roy Cokayne, Pretoria

(12) (748) (311)

Army may have to drop tasks of crime-prevention

OWN CORRESPONDENT

CT 3/6/97 (34)

JOHANNESBURG: The cash-strapped army may have to withdraw from crime prevention tasks in support of police operations, according to senior defence sources.

The government has been informed that this could happen as early as August unless the Department of Defence is allocated extra funding, the sources said.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is empowered annually by the president to help with crime prevention if this is required of it.

"We may have to withdraw our help because we do not have the money to carry on," one source said.

"The seriousness of the problem has been made very clear to the government and the ball is now in their court."

It is understood that talks are taking place to find a solution, but so far there has been little progress.

In recent operations in Gauteng, the army provided over 2 000 troops to help in anti-crime operations, many of which were successfully completed.

As recently as Sunday, troops were used as the backbone of a major offensive against alleged illegal immigrants and alleged drug dealers living in hostels on the East Rand and in the Western Cape.

The crisis is the result of a R700-million cut in the defence budget.

The Department of Defence was only informed of the cutback on the day the national Budget was printed in March and came after major trimming of military expenditure had already taken place, it has been disclosed.

The matter was to have been corrected before May 22 with extra funding, but this was not forthcoming.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has been consulted by Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise regarding the matter.

The matter is expected to be raised during a parliamentary debate, scheduled for Thursday, at which the Defence Review will be virtually finalised. The review maps out the future role of the SANDF and the country's defence capabilities over the next 10 years.

The cut has also placed in jeopardy the proposed purchase of corvettes and submarines for the navy, the continuation of the Rooivalk attack helicopter production line on behalf of the SA Air Force, and numerous other projects regarded as vital to national defence.

Stop the rot ... or sink

Stewart 9/16/97

ONE CAN hardly open a newspaper or watch the news on TV these days without coming across stories of corruption at public level.

If it is not the licence scam in Mpumalanga, it is a housing scandal in the same province involving hundreds of millions of rands of public funds. If it is not that, it is graft in the Independent Broadcasting Authority or Northern Province or unaccounted for hundreds of millions of rands in North West. It is all very depressing.

Friendships made during the struggle spanned organisational affiliations. Some people had shared detention cells, imprisonment or the hardships of exile. However, regardless of political affiliation, when such patriots meet these days, they decry the scourge of corruption manifesting itself in our country. They ask each other: "Is this what we fought for? Did we endure torture and other forms of hardship for this?"

The struggle against white racism and colonialism was a noble one. Those who participated were fired by a spirit of patriotism, justice and fairness. They were full of idealism that propelled them to serve their country and their people. Some lost their lives in the process of that service.

It is hardly three years after the attainment of a democratic order in our country, but already the theft of state money and other forms of corruption are rife. It seems there are many people in the civil service whose mission is not to serve but to loot state coffers for all they are worth. There is talk that there are many in the public service who are always on the look out for a phone or vehicle to abuse or for new ways to steal money. In fact a culture is said to be developing around theft and criminality.

Deliberate leaks

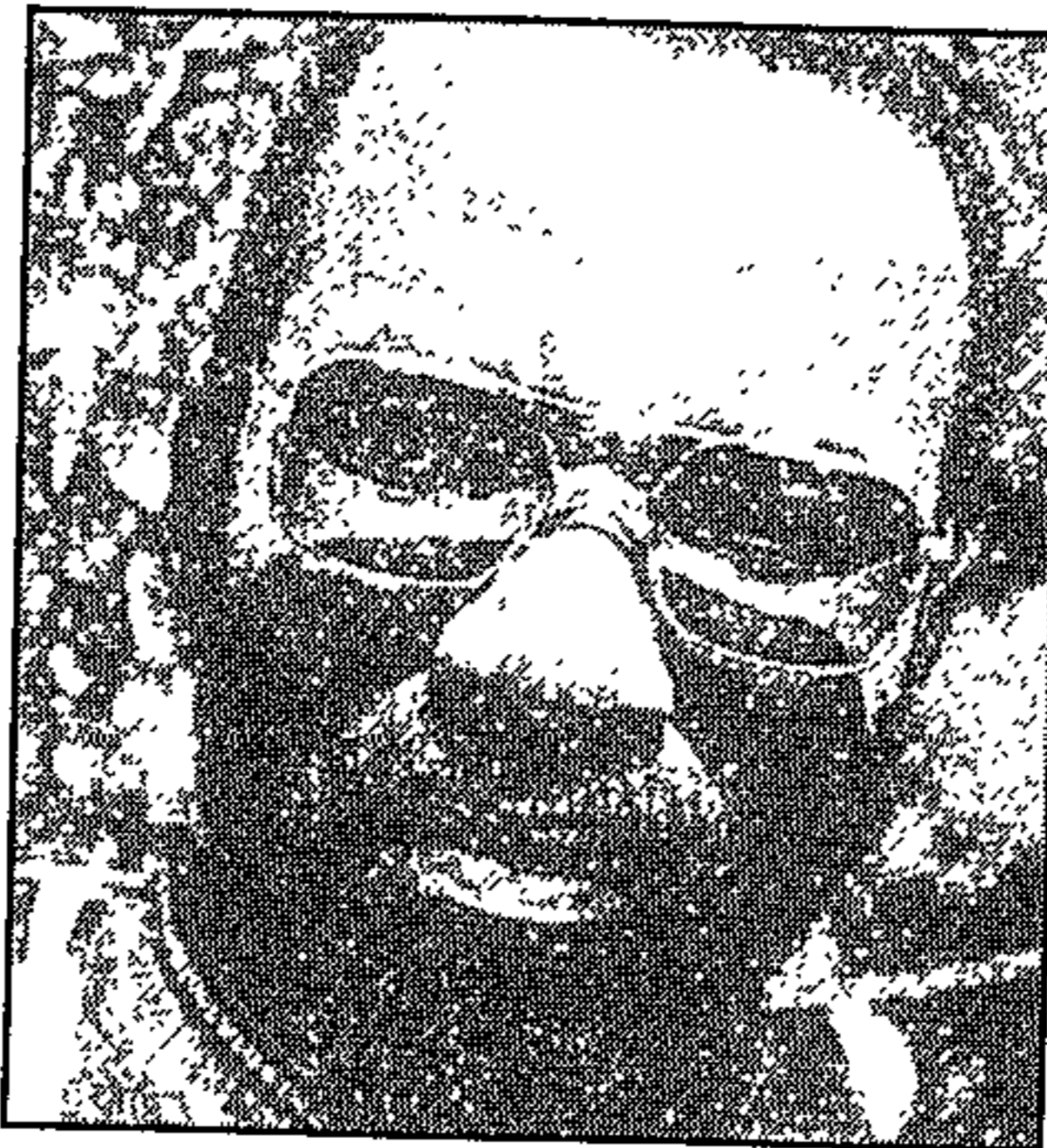
Indeed, corruption does not start now. The racist minority regime was riddled with it. We know that the money pipeline to the bantustans, to the security departments and others were full of deliberate leaks that enriched many scoundrels.

But that was an evil regime founded on the principles of oppression, injustice and moral bankruptcy. These practices do not give us comfort - we can't compare ourselves with them.

Corruption is a cancer that can destroy our society and country if allowed to fester. Good governance, democracy, development, law and order are all impossible in a country consumed by corruption. Policies of any government cannot be successfully implemented in a society where graft is the norm.

There are countries where border officials operate exclusively on the basis of bribery. Immigration officials demand an "extra page" in your passport before they stamp it for you to enter or depart. Customs officers want their palms

Corruption in South Africa, especially involving politicians and public servants, has reached unprecedented levels. **Mosibudi Mangena** urges immediate action...



Mosibudi Mangena believes there are many civil servants who have no other objective but to pillage state coffers

greased with silver to allow travellers to import goods. Even illegal or dangerous substances move smoothly across the borders as long as the customs officials have been given their cut.

In our own country, thousands of illegal immigrants are issued with fake identity documents by crooked government employees. In some instances they have been caught working with syndicates that specialise in illegal immigration. Similarly, shiploads of illegal merchandise is brought into the country and peddled everywhere. This has the effect of undermining the economy of the country, robbing the state of revenue, undercutting and in some cases, bankrupting legitimate companies; this causes rank unemployment.

Crime of any kind is impossible to control in a corrupt society. Criminals bribe police not to investigate their cases. If arrested, they are able to "escape" with the collusion of devious policemen or warders. Dockets disappear from police stations so that cases become impossible to prosecute.

Some criminals are said to be untouchable because they have senior law enforcement personnel and politicians in their pockets. These are already familiar scenarios in our country at this very moment. Well-known criminals walk the streets with impunity, to the disgust of many.

The government tender system is particularly prone to corruption. Doing business with

(34)

government is usually a lucrative venture. Millions of rands might be involved in huge projects such as the building of houses, roads, hospitals, schools, or the provision of goods in large quantities. Business with government is also attractive because its cheques almost never bounce. The Mpumalanga housing scandal and the corruption in the Northern Province involve tendering issues. Politicians, senior government officials and tender board members are bought to favour certain companies or individuals.

Corrupt society

In a corrupt society, it is difficult to maintain standards of any kind. Qualifications can always be bought. The leakage of matric papers in Gauteng and the "cash for degrees" at the University of Zululand are examples. So you can have bogus doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers and others causing havoc in every sphere. The consequences of such a scenario are simply frightening.

Some of the elements mentioned above are present in our country. But we are not rotten quite yet. Our society is more or less still fairly respectable. However, we need to roll up our sleeves and stop the rot if our country is to be prevented from sliding into a cesspit of corruption and immorality.

We need to embark on a crusade to rid our society of the evils creeping up on us. As a people, we have in the past fought against the major evils of oppression, racism and injustice. We won.

Armed with appropriate legislation, we should clean public life in our country of all corrupting elements and practices. We should insist on high standards of integrity and honesty on the part of people in public service or office.

We should remember that still no arrests have been made regarding the disappearances of Eugene Mamabolo and Rocks Dlamini.

We should not shrug our shoulders and walk away when senior public servants plead ignorance of the correct procedures for say, obtaining a driver's licence.

If we cannot trust our people with something as elementary as this, what can we trust them with?

Ours is a beautiful and promising country. We can make it even more prosperous by arresting the escalating levels of corruption.

(The writer is president of the Azanian People's Organisation).

Call to combat violence against women

BD9/6/97

(24) (34)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — A number of parliamentary committees expressed concern on Friday at government's slow progress in putting together a co-ordinated programme to combat violence against women.

MPs said they were not so sure about Deputy Justice Minister Mantombazana Tshabalala-Msimang's assertion that violence against women and children was considered a "priority crime" under the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Justice committee chairman Johnny de Lange said MPs were left with a feeling that "not enough is being done about a national co-ordinated campaign regarding violence against women and children" following a National Crime Prevention Strategy briefing earlier in the week.

The justice committee of the National Council of Provinces and the status of women committee also attended Friday's public hearing, the first, on violence against women.

Status of Women chairman Pregs Govender told

Tshabalala-Msimang that "contrary to what you said" it appeared from the briefing that "there is no integrated violence-against-women programme".

Tshabalala-Msimang expressed "surprise" that the briefing "did not give a co-ordinated response" on the matter. She said her department had "worked consistently" with the relevant departments — welfare, safety and security, health and correctional services, and emphasised: "Violence against women has now been prioritised."

Funding shortage

Tshabala-Msimang conceded there were problems over a lack of funding for the envisaged programme, but assured the committees it was "early days still" and her department was working on the speedy implementation of the programme.

De Lange said the purpose of the public hearing was to begin to seek a co-ordinated approach to violence against women.

To date this process had unfortunately been "very ad hoc — not a very coherent strategy".

The next stage of the process would involve the holding of "detailed hearings" over two or three days around the end of August.

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STANFIELD TAX SHOCK

'Capone option' may be used

Attempts by gang leader Colin Stanfield to avoid tax evasion charges, by taking advantage of the Government's tax amnesty, have failed after he allegedly under-declared his income to the Receiver of Revenue.

Last Year Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn said he would use the "Capone option" to bust drug dealers for tax evasion. At the time he was investigating charges against Mr Stanfield for allegedly owing the revenue services R10-million.

The Government's amnesty policy, which allowed defaulters to register as taxpayers without being prosecuted, raised the possibility that people like Mr Stanfield would escape prosecution.

Now commercial crime unit detectives are investigating charges of fraud and tax evasion against Mr Stanfield, who could end up like notorious American mobster "Scarface" Al Capone, who was jailed on tax evasion charges during Prohibition in the 1930s after the authorities failed to make other charges stick against him.

1000 gangsters netted in blitz on serious crime

More than 1 000 gangsters were arrested in the Western Cape in connection with serious crimes last year in a blitz on gangsterism by the police and defence force.

And several gangsters had recently been given long prison sentences for inter-gang crimes, regional police commissioner Leon Wessels told the provincial committee for safety and security yesterday.

In 1987 it had been established that the province had about 127 gangs with about 80 000 members.

SPECIAL REPORT



JOSEPH ARANES AND LINDSAY BARNES

ARR 11/6/97

Informed police sources say Mr Stanfield, who is facing drug-dealing charges in connection with a Mandrax bust which involved 87 000 tablets, is believed to have only declared R11-million of his R17-million assets to the Receiver of Revenue.

Mr Stanfield, 42, had not been asked to plead on allegations of dealing in Mandrax in connection with the bust in Beaufort West and is on R500 000 bail. He is expected to appear in court in August.

Commissioner Wessels said there had been a full in gang violence since 1995 when the gang investigation unit was formed. This could be attributed to the joint effort between the police and the army.

He said that in 1995, an average of 70 gang-related crimes were committed each month but this had dropped to an average of 32 from January to March this year.

Commissioner Wessels identified the intimidation of witnesses and the establishment of the firm

(34)

If Mr Stanfield has made a full declaration of all his assets it will be almost impossible for the authorities to pursue the "Capone option".

The investigating officer for the commercial crime unit, Clayton Thomopoulos, said this new investigation was initiated after a complaint of fraud, alternatively contravening section 104 of the Income Tax Act, and a contravention of the Value Added Tax Act, were received from the SARS.

"We are in the process of verifying the allegations against Mr Stanfield and because the matter is sub judice, I cannot furnish more information regarding the investigation," Sgt Thomopoulos said.

He said the investigation was nearing completion, after which the docket would be sent to Mr Kahn's office for a decision whether to prosecute.

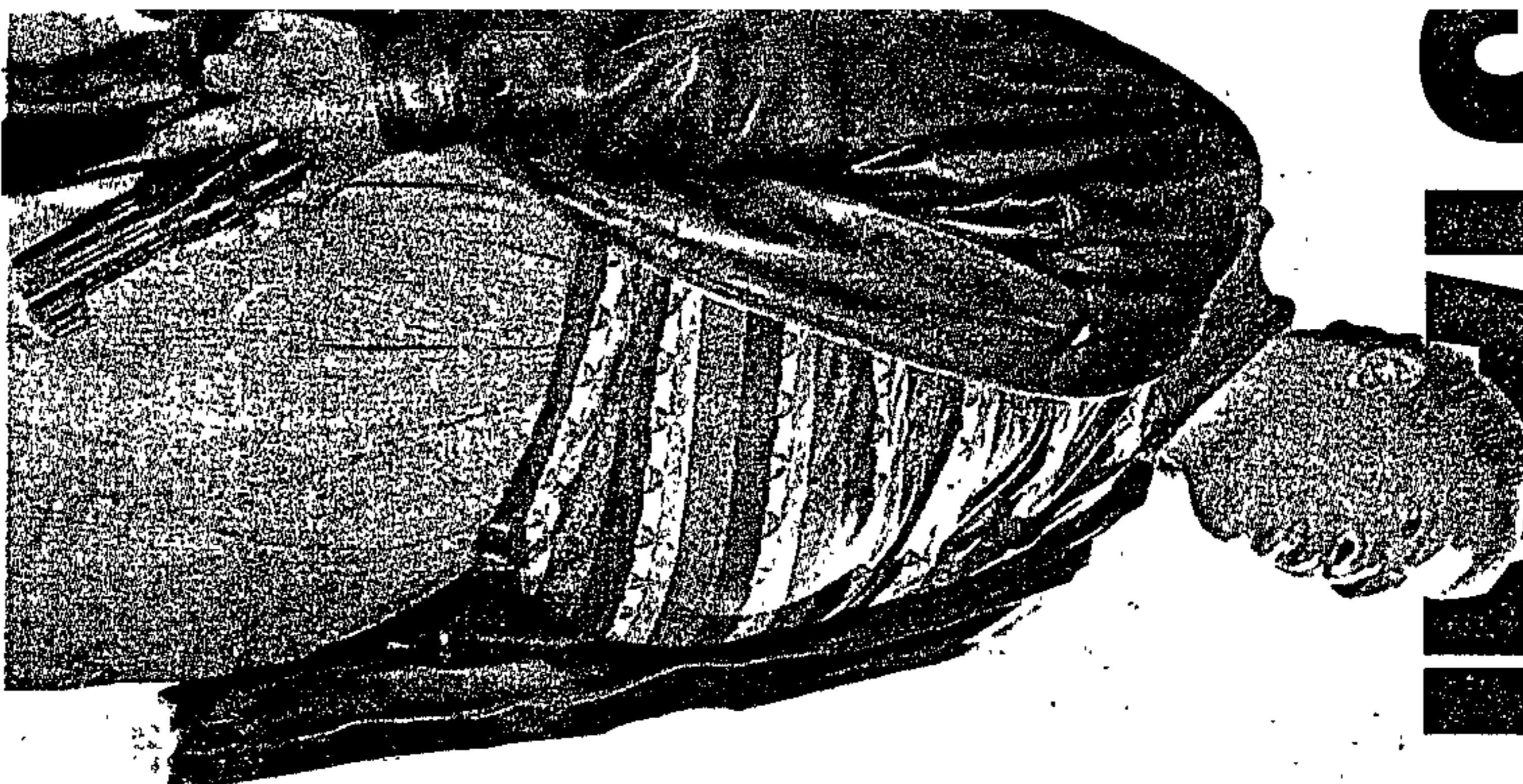
Mr Stanfield's lawyer, Reuben Liddell, said he was aware of the investigations, but as the matter had not yet been contested in court, he could not comment.

and Community Outreach as problems in the combating of gangsterism.

As a result of police action, gang activities had moved to rural areas.

Intensive police operations had been held in "Flashpoint" areas to minimise violence.

"Much pressure is also put on gangs by the community which might have a positive effect. We still have sporadic problems of gang violence but to a far lesser extent," Commissioner Wessels said.



er siege: Colin Stanfield is accused of not declaring assets worth R6-m

Business declares war on crime in W Cape

LINDZ VAN ZILLA

THE business sector — in the form of the high-powered Business Against Crime (BAC) initiative — last night declared war on crime in the Western Cape.

More than 20 high-powered city business executives met in Green Point to launch the Western Cape leg of the national BAC initiative.

The involvement of big business is seen as a key ingredient in the fight against crime, and has already been successfully launched in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

Newly elected BAC chief executive officer, Mr John Penberthy, who is also the coordinator of the Olympic Bid's security theme, described the BAC as one of the "key mechanisms in combating crime and creating an environment conducive to investment".

The BAC initiative would also help Cape Town in its efforts to host the 2004 Olympic Games, he said.

Penberthy said: "One of the priorities of BAC is to see what resources BAC can bring to bear on those people in the frontline of the fight against crime."

These included the police, public prosecutors, prison wardens and welfare workers.

Managing director of the Cape of Good Hope Bank and chairman of the BAC board, Mr Mike Thompson, said the aim of BAC was to provide an input into the government's National Crime Prevention Strategy.

He outlined the four pillars of the BAC's fight against crime: economic upliftment, crime, community rehabilitation and legislation.



ANTI-CRIME: In the fight against crime are (from left) Gerald Morkel, Leon Wessels, John Penberthy and Mike Thompson at last night's launch of Business Against Crime.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

The BAC launch was welcomed by Western Cape police, who lauded the involvement of big business in the fight against crime.

Western Cape Police Commissioner Leon Wessels welcomed the BAC launch,

saying it was "high time the police and business sector formed this partnership to fight crime".

An elated Western Cape MEC for police, Mr Gerald Morkel said he was grateful that top business executives were pre-

pared to sacrifice their time and expertise in the fight against crime.

Morkel said the partnership between the police and big business augured well for the fight against crime, and issued a stern warning: "Criminals beware!"

OECD plans a sunset for the great palm-greasing industry

JOANNA PITMAN

London — The latest international corruption perception index last year ranked Nigeria as the world's most corrupt country and Pakistan as the world's second-most corrupt. Pakistan probably bribed the judges ... or so the old joke goes. But corruption is no longer a joking matter.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has announced new recommendations to combat bribery in international business transactions. This week it brings out the first draft of a treaty that will recommend to member countries that they should introduce extraterritorial laws criminalising the bribery of foreign public officials. Proposed legislation should be submitted by next April for enactment by the end of 1998.

This is highly ambitious in terms of both target and timetable, but the point is clear. The problem of corruption will no longer be shrugged off as an endemic and incurable disease in certain cultures. No longer will grand-scale inducements be accepted as an inevitable part of the practice of Western businesses in developing countries.

Western business executives who have operated on the assumption that a 15 to 20 percent bribe to secure a sale in a developing country is culturally acceptable will have to think again.

"We are not aiming to see large numbers of businessmen in jail," said Mark Pieth, the chairman of the OECD working group on bribery. "Our aim is to create a level playing field and secure good governance by operating an internationally binding convention that will make Unilever and General Electric, for example, bound by the same rules when operating around the world.

"We may not achieve everything so quickly, but we can bring about a certain standard, and the picture should look very different by 2000."

The bulk of the responsibility

(34)
CT(COR) 12/6/97

for corruption has gradually been shifting from the shoulders of the recipients (public officials or heads of state if the pickings are rich enough) on to those of the suppliers (the companies).

"Too many Western companies march into developing countries with their cheque books poised, and bad decisions are being made because the decision makers are being paid," said George Moody Stuart, the chairman of Transparency International UK, an affiliate of Transparency International, the non-profit-making organisation set up in 1993 to counter corruption in international business.

Contracts to sell aircraft, ships and military supplies including telecommunications, have always had the strongest potential for grand (ie, large-scale) corruption. The sums of money are enormous, and the hi-technology content and a requirement, sometimes genuine, for secrecy makes it difficult to question the validity of the purchasing decision.

For example, Pakistan's top naval officer retired in April this year amid allegations of bribery in a £580 million purchase of submarines from DCN, the French submarine maker.

The capital goods element of big industrial projects offers a further area for profitable bribery in which large down payments for purpose-built equipment can be readily justified. And large civil engineering contracts such as dams, bridges, highways and airports are also likely to offer rich pickings for local officials.

One case in Kenya, in which the contract for the Turkwel Gorge Dam was awarded to French contractors in 1986 without international competitive bidding, attracted the attention of an EC delegate in Kenya. According to his report, the price was double what would have been expected from competitive bids. The installed price of the turbines was listed as \$277 000 each, against a British consultant's

estimate of \$140 000 each. The EC delegate calculated that the cost of energy from Turkwell would be 2.4 times higher than that from an equivalent dam on the Tana river.

This is not to say that senior executives of the developed world's multinationals and big trading companies are a bunch of crooks. More likely, they are just highly competitive. The ramifications of the criminalisation of overseas bribery for international business organisations are likely to be heavy. A board member at Siemens, for example, has estimated it would take 10 years to replace the overseas staff, contacts and networks that all expect to operate on the basis of "necessary" bribery.

How will the proposed new laws be policed? "More than half the work has to be done by the companies themselves," says Pieth. "We will depend on information from competitors, on stricter external auditing, accounting requirements and internal company controls. We may set up an index analysis of business practice to see if it is working. The OECD can be tough."

The only country that has specifically criminalised offshore bribes is the US, where the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act was introduced by the Carter administration in 1977. Outside the US, however, there is still a long way to go in cleaning up the corruption culture. In 11 OECD member countries, offshore bribes are still tax-deductible as legitimate business expenses.

It may be some time before extraterritorial legislation is in place in all OECD member states, and even longer before other non-member states such as the Asian Tigers and South American countries can be tied in via the World Trade Organisation or UN. But it seems the days in which a lucrative contract could be secured by paying an extra 15 percent into a minister's numbered Zurich bank account are now drawing to a close. — The Times of London

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PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT

Tracking down those ill-gotten gains

Police say new law against money laundering spurred notification of suspect funds amounting to R20m in one day

Will the police be able to enforce the new Proceeds of Crime Act? Will it impinge on private citizens' financial privacy?

The legislation, passed late last month, places an onus on businesses, particularly banks, to report suspicious transactions to the Commercial Crime Unit's central office in Pretoria. Failure to do so could lead to 30 years' imprisonment.

But SA Police Service commercial crime unit director Hans Meiring concedes that applying the legislation will further strain police resources.

Reports of suspicious transactions worth R20m were received within 24 hours of the first notification under the Act. These, says Meiring, are being handed to the relevant units, such as CID, for investigation

Some countries with similar legislation log up to 10 000 entries a month, he says. Even a fraction of such traffic would overwhelm SAPS investigators.

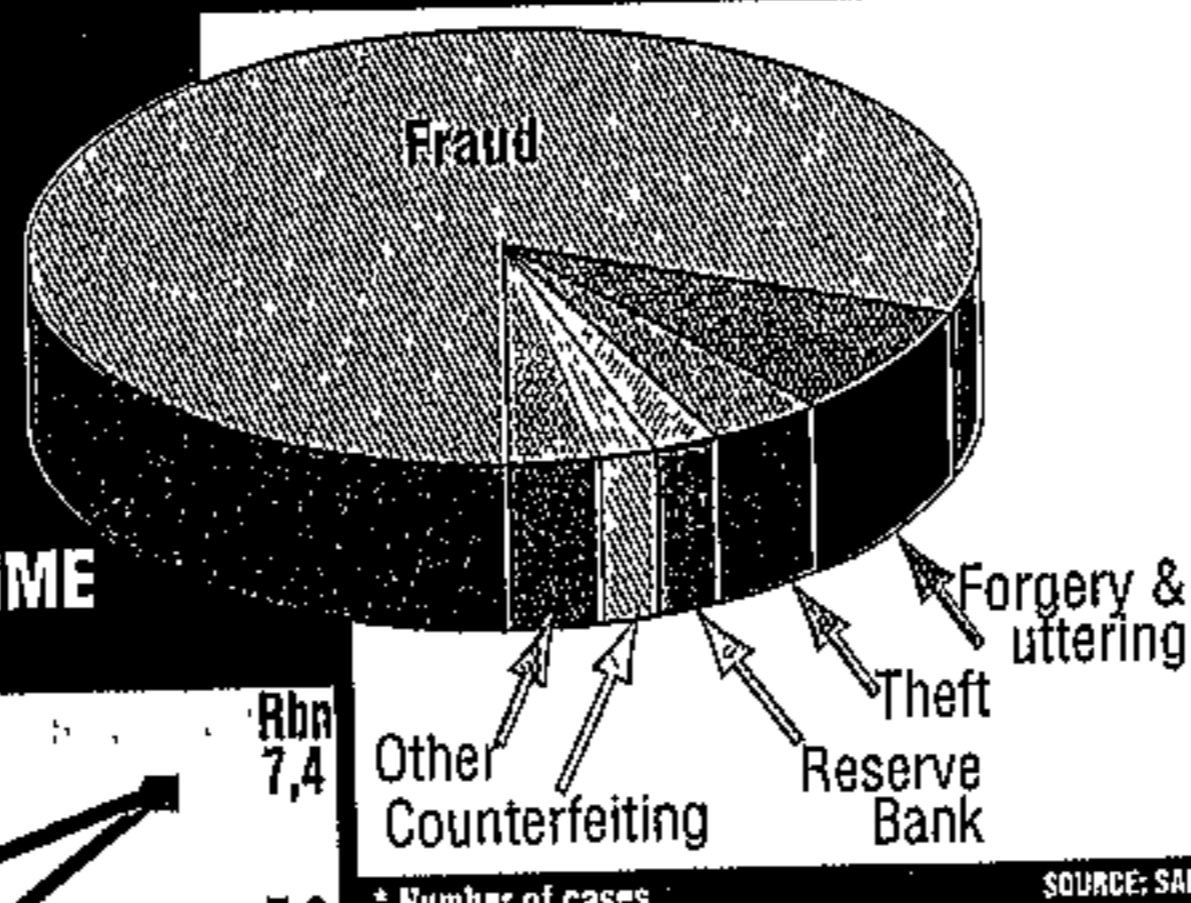
The primary aim of the legislation is to stamp out money laundering (the manipulation of illegally acquired wealth to hide its source). This will become a crime in its own right for the first time in SA when the companion Money Laundering Act comes into being — possibly this year. Some analysts pick money laundering as the world's third-biggest industry after oil and foreign exchange dealings.

While business is encouraged by measures to beef up law enforcement effectiveness, there is a lingering concern that the legislation will not work unless it acquires a dedicated administration budget.

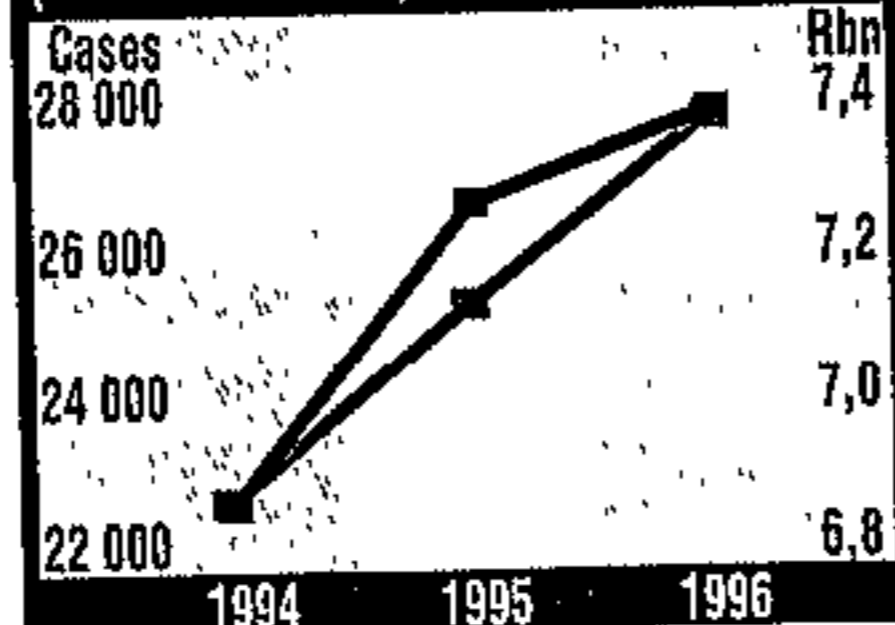
The new regulations also raise moral and, at least temporarily, legal dilemmas over customer confidentiality, particularly for financial institutions. They raise the question: when is a transaction suspicious?

"Banks are invited to participate in all sorts of scams and they are generally picked up straight away," says a banker,

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL CRIME*



COMMERCIAL CRIME (Cases on hand)



speaking on condition of anonymity

"We've had cases where people tried to open accounts and illegitimately transfer

multimillions of dollars across them on day one." But a customer's desire to deposit a suitcase-full of money may be legitimate in the case of cash sale businesses, he says.

"The critical issue is knowing your customer — new or existing. That means asking the sort of searching questions about the business which are typically asked abroad, even though it may seem like an invasion of privacy to most South Africans."

To comply with the Act, banks are likely to subject clients to more rigorous scrutiny than previously. They may introduce a graduated system where the deposit thresholds, depending on size, will be conditional on the provision of increasingly detailed information and references.

What is unambiguous is the new law's intent to remove the incentive for crime by confiscating the proceeds. Courts can, pending prosecution, freeze assets where there is a prima facie case that they are ill-gotten, then confiscate them if the State's case is proved.

It is equally clear that the new legislation has strong support from banks and organised business irrespective of the initial problems that implementation may cause.

Standard Bank internal audit GM Tony Toms's main concern is that the new leg-

islation is being passed piecemeal. "The Money Laundering Act will set out additional regulations which make staff training in the interim impractical.

"The Proceeds of Crime Act also has several grey areas on which we are seeking legal opinion," he says. "We still have a secrecy duty and could violate that unless we operate strictly within the terms of the new legislation. That means we need to know the strict limit of our responsibility."

Herb Payne

DEFENCE POLICY

No way to do business

Defence industry languishes while Cabinet lounges

The postponement of the tabling and debate of the Defence Review could prove costly — in terms of opportunities for the favourable acquisition of materiel and a further erosion of the perception that SA is businesslike about such matters.

The Review was to have been launched on June 5, setting out a year-long assessment of the size, composition, require-

NASIONALE PERS

Bekker comes back to the future

The last time Koos Bekker had anything to do with publishing he was editor of Stellenbosch University campus rag *Die Matie*, quips outgoing Nasionale Pers CE Ton Vosloo

But it isn't surprising to learn that the young Afrikaner (44) who pioneered pay-TV in SA with the launch of M-Net is to return from the Netherlands to steer the giant publisher of *Beeld* and *Die Burger*, among many other titles, into the next millennium

Last year's merger between Canal Plus and Nethold — the Dutch company jointly controlled by Richemont and MIH, formerly MultiChoice — deprived Bekker of a heavyweight job in Europe.

But clearly Bekker — who headed up Nethold and drove the merger, while

Civil servants' 'misuse' of official cars being probed

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

staff employees.

However, Van Wyk said he was disappointed by members of staff who had ignored the normal channels to lodge complaints, and had instead run to the Press.

TAXPAYERS have lost thousands of rands as a result of gross misuse of government vehicles by staff employed by the department of welfare and population development at Newgate House, Johannesburg.

The improper use of vehicles has prompted the Gauteng Provincial Government to appoint a commission of inquiry into the misuse of state vehicles.

This followed reports that government vehicles were being used for private errands after working hours.

Disgruntled staff members working in the department's pension office told City Press that white officials were being allowed to take government vehicles home over weekends and holidays while blacks were not allowed to do so.

They said junior white officers took government cars home but senior black employees did not enjoy similar benefits.

Gauteng's Department of Welfare and Population Development deputy director general Vernon Van Wyk confirmed yesterday that a commission of inquiry had already started its probe.

He said it was not yet clear how much the taxpayer could have lost as a result of the alleged misuse and asked people with any information about the misuse to contact the commission.

He said the commission of inquiry would recommend appropriate steps to end the misuse of vehicles and also to find ways to deal with the alleged unfair allocation of the vehicles to

"Our staff members are aware that there is an inquiry investigating the alleged misuse of cars and the so-called unfair allocation of vehicles so going to the press was not necessary," he said.

The black workers said they decided to blow the whistle on the alleged misuse by their white colleagues after they were told that things would remain the same until a decision had been taken by politicians.

They said Van Wyk had recently circulated a memo informing heads of departments that the criteria used to allocate cars to staff members before the 1994 elections would remain unchanged.

According to the black workers the criteria used discriminated against them.

Van Wyk confirmed that he had issued the circular based on the current regulations governing all public servants.

The regulations state that no civil servant would lose privileges he enjoyed during apartheid until 1999 when the civil service regulations are to be reviewed.

A spokesman for the black workers, who could not be named for fear of victimisation, told City Press that they had complained to the Department of Welfare and were told to exercise patience until the civil services regulations were reviewed.

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibiyi and L Kalane, headlines and sub-editing by F Moyo, all of 2 Herb St, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

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Economic crime probes frozen

ALIDE DASNOIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

(34)

ARG 18/6/97

Bureaucratic delays and staff shortages have frozen new investigations by the Office for Serious Economic Offences, Parliament's public accounts committee was told today.

The director of the office, Jan Swanepoel, said all new investigations had been frozen because of staff shortages. The office would complete its current workload, some of which dated back to 1992, and take on new cases only as and when staff became available, he said.

Mr Swanepoel told the committee his office had only 12 advocates to investigate

all serious economic crime throughout the country and the shortage of police staff was even more serious. Staff numbers had not been increased since 1993.

He said a Department of Justice investigation during 1995 and 1996 had recommended the creation of 29 extra posts, but this had not happened because of a lack of funds. Worse still, vacancies were unfilled for months.

"It is impossible to combat serious economic crime effectively with a unit so understaffed", Mr Swanepoel said.

African National Congress MP and committee member Barbara Hogan said there seemed to be a "lack of political will". "Everybody seems to be blaming everybody else," she said.

'Drastic action needed in white collar crime fight'

Staff shortage highlighted

ALIDE DASNOIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Office for Serious Economic Offences in the Western Cape is understaffed with only three permanent staff members who cannot be expected to tackle all serious economic crime in the province, director Jan Swanepoel says.

According to Mr Swanepoel's written submission yesterday to Parliament's public accounts committee, the Cape Town office is currently involved in 11 investigations involving more than R396 million. Some, such as the Owen Wiggins case, have been under investigation since 1994.

Mr Swanepoel said additional money must be found urgently to create extra posts for his office.

The office had only 12 advocates on its permanent staff and eight temporary members of staff, who were expected to investigate serious economic offences throughout the country, he said.

"I regularly refer to this whole problem in my annual report to the Department of Justice. I also regularly apprise the Department of the problem. However, my letters

AR 19/6/97
elicit little response or action."

Mr Swanepoel told the committee a task team had found the office needed 29 more advocates to lead investigations.

But the Department of Justice had not been able to create even one of these posts because of lack of funds, and vacancies on the small staff were allowed to remain unfilled for months, "thus further frustrating our attempts to cope with the heavy workload."

The shortage of police staff was even more critical, Mr Swanepoel said.

Lack of experience, both among advocates and among police staff attached to the office, was also a problem, he said.

Mr Swanepoel said the office was not allowed to use a surplus on funds set aside for auditing fees to employ more advocates on a contract basis because of expenditure regulations.

He had written to the Justice Department in November to ask for permission but had not yet had an answer.

ANC MP Barbara Hogan said there had been no progress in improving the situation of the office since the committee had first heard evidence on its problems two years ago.

1994 - Increase 8,5%
 1995 - Increase 12,1%
 1996 - Increase 13%
 1997 - Increase 15% (till 1997-06-10)

Attacks on farmers

768. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(1)(a)(i) How many attacks on farmers occurred in 1996, (ii) how many persons died in such attacks and (iii) in how many cases were the guilty persons apprehended and (b) what is the trend in this regard to date in 1997 in comparison with the trend in the previous three years;

(2) whether he or the South African Police Service has taken or intends taking any steps aimed at preventing such attacks; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N1316E

Handwritten: Hansard

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1)(a)(i) 468

(ii) 109

(iii) To obtain the specified information, faxes will have to be sent to all police stations country wide, thereby placing an extra burden on limited manpower and financial resources. Members will in such a case have to be withdrawn from other duties and specially allocated to peruse case dockets and registers, which is not advisable, considering the high crime rates in the country.

(b) A provincial perspective on violent crimes directed against persons on farms and smallholdings for the period January to March 1997 compared to the previous three years is outlined in the following table.

Provinces	January-March 1994	January-March 1995	January-March 1996	January-March 1997	% In/decrease
Eastern Cape	10	4	18	5	Same as 1995
Northern Cape	0	0	3	0	Same as 1994 and 1995
Western Cape	5	9	6	4	Lower than 1994, 1995 and 1996
Free State	9	5	14	18	Higher than 1994, 1995 and 1996
Gauteng	35	25	16	62	Higher than 1994, 1995 and 1996
KwaZulu-Natal	22	21	21	40	Higher than 1994, 1995 and 1996
Mpumalanga	28	33	23	32	Same as 1995
North West Province	1	5	14	6	Same as 1995
Northern Province	0	11	4	16	Higher than 1994, 1995 and 1996
Total	110	113	119	183	Higher than 1994, 1995 and 1996

(2) Yes.

Though various measures have been implemented at regional and even station level to safeguard the residents of these abodes, statistics still remain disturbingly high.

The following measures were taken by the South African Police Service to enhance the security of persons on farms and smallholdings.

A large number of farms are in regular radio contact with SAPS - Marnet Radio Communication.

Manuals/pamphlets focusing on measures to improve on farms and smallholdings are being distributed and farmers as well as residents of smallholdings are kept informed of crime prevention strategies.

Regular meetings are being held with farmers to emphasize the importance of safety measures.

Regular meetings are being held between the SAPS, South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Agricultural Unions.

Regular farm patrols are being carried out.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Dr Brundtland: steps to promote justice/social security/empowerment of SA's citizens

1. Mr R S NDOU asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether, with reference to certain statements made by Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway, in an address to Parliament on 13 February 1996, a copy of which has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, and in view of South Africa's aggressive privatisation strategy, the need for strategic international partners and the globalisation of the world economy, the Government is taking any steps to ensure that South Africa does not compromise the promotion of justice, social security and the empowerment of our people; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N1537E,INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairperson, the approach of the Government is far broader than that suggested in the question. We are looking at restructuring State assets, not simply privatisation, aggressive or otherwise. The reality South Africa faces is that as the State we have inherited a host of institutions and bodies, some of which have always been part of State functions, others which were commercialised in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and still others which arose precisely out of our apartheid past.

Government policy has been clearly spelt out. We are looking at the entirety of such institutions in determining whether they should remain wholly within the State machinery, whether they are suitable for an equity partner, or whether the entity should be fully privatised. We are considering each entity on a case-by-case basis. This is done within an agreed national framework agreement adopted with our social partners.

The proceeds of such privatisation or restructuring of State assets are to be disposed of in the following manner: firstly, to retire State debt; secondly, to expand the services of the entity; thirdly, to ensure that technological and skills transfer takes place; or, finally, a combination of any of the above.

This policy is clearly impacted upon as South Africa re-enters the world community, particularly given the rapid globalisation and technological advancements taking place. The Government is under no illusion as to what the private sector can or cannot do. Restructuring State assets, including privatisation, is not a panacea that automatically resolves problems.

The CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Order! Excuse me, Deputy Minister. Hon members, these are interpellations in which members of Parliament seek explanations from Ministers, and Ministers are trying to reply, but there is too much noise in the House. Those members who are restless, please take your seats. If you are moving, move very quietly and accord the Ministers the silence and the respect they deserve. Carry on, Deputy Minister.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

In essence, as I said, this policy is impacted upon as South Africa re-enters the world community, particularly given the rapid globalisation and technological advancements taking place. The Government is under no illusion as to what the private sector can and cannot do.

Restructuring State assets, including privatisation, is not a panacea that automatically resolves all problems. The objective is to enhance the efficiency of the economy by promoting investment in key sectors, while creating opportunities for empowerment and, at the same time, endeavouring to release Government resources for reprioritisation towards social services.

Let us use the concrete example of the sale of a percentage of Telkom to a strategic equity partner. This has strengthened South Africa's foreign reserves, and has reduced State debt, thereby creating room for spending on the Budget. Furthermore, the choice of equity partner specifically depended on the meeting of the commitment to expand Telkom's facilities to include communities which, to date, have been neglected. A large part of the funds received from the part-sale of Telkom will be spent on rolling out the network with a further 2 million lines within an agreed timeframe.

Mr R S NDOU: Mr Chairperson, I have been listening to the Deputy Minister endeavouring to answer my question. I think it was not well

Planned road blockade slated, but organisers say they have support

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS

Tomorrow morning's planned national three-hour road blockade has been condemned by President Nelson Mandela, while police have warned they will open cases against protesters if they break the law.

A joint police, army and traffic department force will monitor the anti-crime protest. Hundreds of residents, businesses and transport organisations have thrown their weight behind the 6am to 9am "People's Blockade Against Crime" called by the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists to protest against the crime wave.

The guild has urged motorists to park along all major highways and routes into the city, and to join hands in the fight against crime.

Mandela said while he supported the constitutional rights of South Africans to express their disapproval of crime, people taking the law into their own hands would be severely dealt with.

"We understand the frustrations people are feeling, but we are doing our utmost to deal with this problem and we will continue to do everything to clean up the streets and make people feel safe in their

homes," he said.

SAPS spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said a top level meeting would be held today to discuss the situation in Johannesburg where a strong, co-ordinated defence force, police and traffic presence would be on standby.

"No application for the protest has been made to the local authorities, so we have no idea what is planned. In essence it is an illegal protest, but we will look at the legal implications on the day," he said.

Guild president Patrick O'Leary said yesterday the protest was for all the people, especially children, who had lost loved ones to the violent crime wave.

"This is for little Ashleigh (8) who does not have a daddy anymore. This is for all the little girls who don't have daddies anymore because of crime. This is also for the many women who have been raped in this country."

He was referring to the daughter of Anthony Hall (30), a police reservist, who was killed by a shotgun blast in Walmer Street in Sydenham, Johannesburg, on Wednesday night while on a routine patrol. A colleague was injured.

The planned protest was called to get all South Africans

to join hands and persuade Mandela and the Government to assume the lead in fighting crime.

O'Leary said the guild had received pledges of support from organisations such as the SA Agricultural Union, the Metered Taxi Association, Trans-Sizwe Security Services (made up of former Umkhonto we-Sizwe members), and the SA Powerboating Association.

"There is a camaraderie that is spreading like wildfire."

He said indications were that all the highways in and around Johannesburg, and major routes to and from the city, would be lined with trucks and cars during the campaign tomorrow.

He asked those taking part in the protest to leave the right lane open for emergency vehicles and traffic not taking part in the effort.

Four toilet hire companies would place portable toilets at intervals on the M2 East and West, the highway between Johannesburg and the airport, and the Ben Schoeman highway, he added.

A Computicket line which the public can call for information on what they should do has been donated to the guild.

The telephone number is 0839-020202.

(34)
Star 23/6/97

Anti-crime blockade a massive flop

(34)

Threatened protest leads to traffic congestion on very few routes in Johannesburg: no disruptions reported in Cape or Kwazulu Natal

THYS DULLAART



Keep 'em rolling ... police were out in force this morning to patrol the largely ineffectual blockade, but organisers are content with the result saying their point about rampant crime had been made. Even delayed drivers were seldom angry and some shouted their support for the initiative.

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE
AND CECILIA RUSSELL

The anti-crime road blockade called by the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists largely failed to materialise in and around Johannesburg this morning while a strong force of traffic officers backed by police took to the roads to ensure traffic ran smoothly.

Traffic was blocked and slowed down on several major routes in Johannesburg's northern suburbs but traffic entering the city was not disrupted, said Johannesburg traffic spokesman Fraser Ramkoga. Many motorists fearful of not being able to get to work left home early today, causing heavy pre-dawn traffic.

Western Cape police spokesman Wicus Holzhausen said nothing had happened and he did not expect any blockades in the province.

Police in Kwazulu Natal said no reports of any road blockages had been received and all access routes to Durban were clear.

Problems were experienced on the concrete highway between Rivonia at Buccleuch, where traffic was banked up in an easterly direction for 15km towards Sandton, and in-to-ho-wards Sandton, and in-to-ho-wards Sandton at Judith Road where it intersects Df Malan Drive.

Speaking from the blockade north of Sandton, power boat- ing champion Peter Lindenberg said: "We have blocked three lanes, leaving the emergency lane open. People are hooting and shouting support

24/6/97
and about one in 500 shouts insults. Even the police are friendly," he said.

At the intersection of Judith and Df Malan, off-road racing driver Buts Carolin said 14 vehicles watched by three police cars had cut traffic down to one lane, slowing down city-bound vehicles as far back as North-cliff corner.

"Motorists are hooting in support and we are waving banners saying 'Death to hijackers', 'We love cops', 'Keep criminals in jail' and 'It's our right to protest against crime'.

"We are winning big time here," he said.

Jenny Needham, whose father was murdered, held a placard on Df Malan Drive and sympathisers of victim of violence, Robert Kaplan, who was brutally attacked, held placards on Linksfield Drive, said a spokesman for the guild.

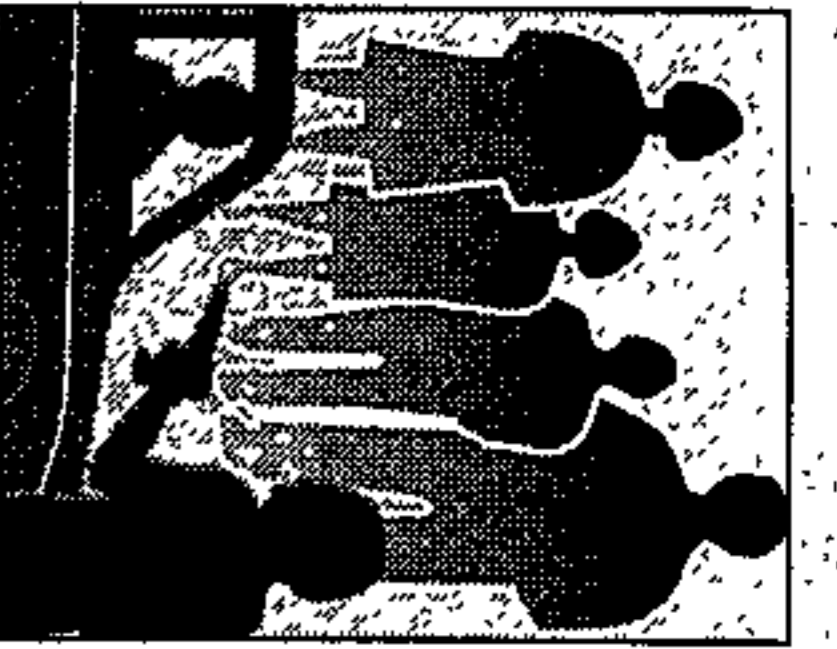
All SAA flights left on time. The campaign appeared to be more effective in Pretoria where tow trucks started preparing at 7am to remove about 100 vehicles which voluntarily abandoned their blockade of the R55 past the Erasmusia police station, as well as at other 20 vehicles on Church Street east near Colbyn, said police spokesman Captain Florie van Wyk.

President of the SA Guild of Motoring Journalists Patrick O'Leary said early this morning: "Up until now it is very cold. I think people have either got up late or got cold feet."

He said "little pocketfuls are building up at the moment" near the airport and on the Ben Schoeman highway.

Crime has its roots in decades of dispossession

Until we recognise and address the reasons, there will be no solutions, writes Pascal Ngakane



A lot has recently been said about crime and strategies to combat it in this country. However, there has been very little consensus as to the fundamental conditions responsible for the current crime wave. Unless this is done, solutions will perpetually elude us.

In my view the genesis of crime in this country is a result of historical, cultural and socio-economic factors which, in aggregate, have resulted in the present unacceptable high rate.

The history of the country is awash with examples of wanton official theft of property. From 1652 until fairly re-

cently, officially sanctioned theft of property was rife – dispossession of livestock and, more importantly, of land, as in the Native Trust and Land Act and the more recent blight of the Group Areas Act.

Quite often official theft was accompanied by overt violence such as the removals under the Group Areas Act. Dispossession by violence was official policy and widely practised and accepted by the beneficiaries – hijacking!!

Poverty of the dispossessed encouraged pilfering on a wide scale. Pilfering became a viable source of income generation. In the townships it

became normal practice either to pilfer from places of work or to buy “back door” commodities from pilferers. These commodities could range from groceries to house furnishings, and frequently sold way below current prices. Pilferers were and are highly regarded as they provide commodities otherwise out of reach of the poor because of cost (TV sets, refrigerators, clothes). Pilfering is not looked down upon. It is part of the struggle of survival. The thief is seen as a respectable member of society. He is a provider.

Most culture-disseminating structures in this country have been severely undermined or destroyed. The past government seriously undermined the influence of religious education which was a potent vehicle for the transmission of cultural values.

The family, and specifically the black family in this country, has been severely compromised, resulting in a rudderless, aggressive youth whose aspirations are to own a BMW or a Mercedes and wear designer clothing.

There are no short-cut solutions to the problem of crime. All plans and solutions will inevitably come to naught if the above are not seriously addressed. The following remedial programmes are suggested:

- Government must set acceptable minimum standards of living for the whole population based on a realistic assessment of our national wealth and give support to indigent families.
- Our constitution must re-establish and protect the family as the repository of our moral values. Parental control of children must be re-established and supported.
- Religious education with strong emphasis on moral and ethical values must be restored.

Obviously, the above suggested programmes are long-term solutions, but will ensure that within a generation we will have a normal crime-free society.

■ *Dr Pascal Ngakane is the superintendent at Johannesburg Hospital.*

City drivers may not back blockade

CT 24/6/97 (34)

LINDIZ VAN ZILLA

THE nationwide Blockade Against Crime protest between 6 and 9am today on major roads and highways looks set for widespread support in Johannesburg and Durban — but will probably be a damp squib in Cape Town.

The blockade — called by the SA Guild of Motoring Journalists (SAGMJ) — will see trucks and cars partially block off roads during peak hour to protest against rising crime.

And despite threats of police action and traffic fines, organisers expect a large turnout in many upcountry city centres and highways.

Organisers of the Johannesburg leg of the blockade said hundreds of residents, businesses and organisations had already pledged their support.

SAGMJ president Mr Patrick O'Leary said yesterday that they had received pledges of support from a wide cross-section of organisations such as the SA Agricultural Union, the SA Metered Taxi Association, Trans-Sizwe Security Services, made up of former uMkhonto weSizwe members, and the SA Power Boating Association.

"There is a camaraderie that is spreading like wildfire," said O'Leary. "People are coming out of their shells of fear to link hands with others to make their voices heard against crime."

Cape Town, however, appears to be lagging in the anti-crime drive. Late yesterday afternoon, unofficial organisers were still scampering around to rally last-minute support.

Ottery resident Mrs Dee Kerwin, expressing the hope that Cape Town wouldn't let the rest of the country down, was trying to organise a blockade by home-business owners in Ottery Road, near the Hypermarket.

She said: "Cape Town cannot stand in the back of the queue and act as if we have no crime — that's nonsense."

The SAGMJ has urged motorists

to park along all major highways and routes into the city today. However, it has asked protesters to leave one lane, as well as the emergency lane, clear for those who need to get to work or for emergency vehicles.

But protesters could face stern action from the authorities, who say the planned blockade is illegal.

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday the government would not tolerate unlawful protest that would violate other people's rights to travel on public roads and earn their living without disruption.

"To my knowledge, no permit has been requested for the planned protest ... and such a protest would violate several statutes, including the Road Traffic Act," he said.

Police spokesman Senior Superintendent John Sterrenberg appealed to people taking part in the protest to act in a responsible manner and allow "freedom of movement" for other road-users, especially emergency services.

He said that if roads were blocked, the police, in conjunction with the traffic authorities, would take the "necessary action".

The SAGMJ has vowed, however, to go ahead with the blockade. A spokesman said: "We're asking people to be responsible. We don't want to break the law to make a point, although technically we are."

Cape Town Traffic Department chief Mr Mark Sangster also warned motorists not to take part in the "illegal" protest.

People stopping illegally on the freeway would be treated like anybody else who broke the law and would be fined R100, he said.

Sangster also said he had doubled his staff complement to provide additional coverage during the planned peak-hour protest.

"There will be 70-plus traffic officers deployed this morning and three heavy-duty tow wagons will also be on standby," he said.

The traffic department's helicopter will also extend its normal flying time to help monitor the situation.

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PEAK-HOUR TRAFFIC CLEARED EARLY

Cape Town ignores anti-crime blockade

CT 25/6/97 (34)

A CAPE TIMES team drove along the city's major highways for three hours yesterday without spotting a single sign of the blockade against crime. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** reports.

CAPE TOWN yesterday ignored calls for a national anti-crime road blockade to protest against rising crime — and the response in the rest of the country wasn't much more enthusiastic.

Instead of mass congestion on major highways, the city's peak-hour traffic in fact cleared 10 minutes earlier than normal.

The SA Guild of Motoring Journalists had called for a nationwide road blockade between 6 and 9am yesterday to urge the government to greater efforts in combating crime.

But Capetonians generally ignored the call. Even in Gauteng, which is more seriously affected by crime, the threatened blockade failed to live up to expectations.

A few roads were blocked in Johannesburg and Pretoria, but there were no widespread disruptions of commuter traffic.

The organisers, however, claimed success. Guild president Mr Patrick O'Leary said indications were the protest had been a success.

"Contrary to our inhibiting people's movement, they gave us their full support. Every single

person hooted and waved."

Traffic was disrupted near Johannesburg International Airport, he said, adding he had expected blockades mostly in Johannesburg because it had the highest crime levels.

"We called for a peaceful protest, which we had," he said.

A Johannesburg traffic department official said there was good co-operation from protesters, who remained in the left lane.

In Pretoria North five trucks blocked the left lane of D F Malan Drive near the Mabopane highway, police spokesman Captain Morn van Wyk said.

Police in KwaZulu-Natal said no reports of road blockages were received, although Mr O'Leary said pedestrian protests were staged.

A Cape Times team went on a three-hour drive along all the major highways into the city centre without spotting a single protest.

A similar check of suburbs, including Fish Hoek, Grassy Park, Kenilworth, Ottery and Wetton, also revealed nothing.

Instead, traffic authorities and the police were the only vehicles parked along highways.

Traffic officers were stationed on various points on the N1, N2 and the road leading from Cape Town International Airport.

Elsie's River traffic officer Mr Kurt Ziervogel was one of those who monitored the airport area.

He said: "We have been here since 4am and there has been nothing at all. We are wasting our time."

Cape Town Traffic Department chief Mr Mark Sangster said yesterday afternoon: "It (the protest) most certainly didn't happen."

The traffic police recorded only two minor incidents.

Four cars formed a "rolling block" (travelling extremely slowly to hold up traffic) on the Eastern Boulevard coming into the city, he said.

This had little effect, however, as peak-hour traffic is usually very slow.

A few motorists also pulled off the N1 coming into Cape Town as a sign of protest, but were quickly chased away by traffic officers.

Sangster said that "in spite of the adverse weather conditions peak-hour traffic cleared 10 minutes earlier than normally".

The traffic usually cleared by 8:30am, but yesterday most major roads were clear by 8:20, he said.

Asking members of the public to wilfully cause traffic congestion was never a good idea, he said.

Fraud-hunters say they don't have enough people to do job

Star 26/6/99 (34)

'Everyone's doing it' syndrome drives corruption and deception in business

By NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

The Office for Serious Economic Offences says it cannot do its job properly unless it and other law enforcement agencies are given the resources to do so.

It also says that to beat white-collar crime, the business community must join in because this is not the sole responsibility of the Government.

The OSEO adds that even if there were new legislation or amendments to existing laws, little could be achieved "in the absence of co-operation and total commitment by government

departments, financial institutions and the business sector".

In a paper written for the University of Pretoria's Institute for Strategic Studies, advocate P. Atkinson, of the OSEO's Cape Town office, says its 18 professional staff and 19 police officers seconded to it have met with limited success.

"It cannot be ignored that the inability of the Justice Department to fill vacant posts timeously has detracted from the OSEO's ability to complete investigations," Atkinson says.

He adds that the perception of white-collar crime should not be limited to a few high-profile cases such as the one in-

volving Greg Blank, or seek to glamorise grave and ugly offences such as fraud and theft.

Commercial crime threatens to corrupt the moral fibre of business, and among justifications put forward for criminal behaviour by alleged perpetrators have been claims that the tax system is inequitable or that "everyone is doing it", Atkinson says.

The OSEO would like to see a code of ethics for all parties which included a commitment to recognise fraudulent activity.

OSEO case studies show several trends in economic offences. Among these are foreign-exchange frauds including

financial-rand "round-tripping" and over- and under-invoicing, deceiving investors, corruption in respect of government contracts, misappropriation of trust funds, illegal diversion of funds from an aid agency, and abusing export incentives.

Latest figures show that the organisation investigated fraud involving R209-million in 1995-96 but that investigations finalised during that period and referred to the attorneys-general for action involved a total of R1,9-billion.

By the end of last year the OSEO was investigating cases involving R12-billion.

'Lawlessness reduces growth' — report

Lukanyo Mnyanda

HIGH levels of crime and corruption had produced a "lawlessness syndrome" in some developing countries, depriving them of basic institutional foundations needed for markets to grow, the World Bank said in its latest development report.

The report said many countries lacked basic institutional foundations. Effective states "let markets flourish, and people lead health-

ier, happier lives".

A survey of entrepreneurs in 69 developing and developed countries had shown a strong correlation between a country's credibility and its record of growth, and private investment, with crime and violence featuring high on their list of concerns.

More than half of senior managers surveyed reported they spent more than 15% of their time negotiating with officials over laws and regulations. High levels

of crime and personal violence and an unpredictable judiciary combined to produce what the World Bank termed the "lawlessness syndrome".

The report said the state could enhance effectiveness by redefining its role to focus on "core public tasks" not provided by markets and voluntary groups. These included the maintenance of law and order, effective economic policies, investment in social services and infrastructure, and protection

of the environment.

Public institutions had to be revived to increase capability. This could be achieved by providing incentives for public officials to perform better while keeping a check on arbitrary action.

Three basic incentives should be to establish effective rules and restraints, foster competition and increase citizens' voices and partnerships with the private sector, the report said. Governments had to pursue

policies that lowered controls on foreign trade, removed entry barriers for private industry and privatised state firms in ways that ensured increased competition which would help fight corruption.

The World Bank said many countries had recognised that states could not act as monopoly providers of infrastructure and social services and should rather take advantage of technology and organisational innovations in the private sector.

BA 26/6/99

(34)

ANALYSIS

Initiatives against crime need to be inclusive and law-abiding to succeed

The kinds of protest action against crime which themselves take the form of breaking the law are unlikely to achieve their objectives, say Mark Shaw and Antoinette Louw

bd 26/6/97

TUESDAY's admittedly half-hearted attempt by anticrime activists to block-ade roads around SA, with a particular focus on Gauteng province, probably did more to undermine than strengthen the fight against crime. That is largely because the instrument and aim of the protest — the committing of crime — were the same.

This is of course not to deny the right of citizens to protest, nor that levels of criminality in SA are a question of national priority. Instead, what needs to be questioned is the method of protest and why it was chosen.

To protest against lawlessness by breaking the law is senseless. Ending crime requires efforts by citizens who do not irresponsibly undermine the law because they believe they have the right to do so.

To expect the state to turn a blind eye to lawbreaking which has a stated moral principle — the ending of crime — while accusing the state of failing to vigorously enforce the law in all other instances, is double standards.

Support for this kind of selective policing and justice is growing. Blaming the constitution for crime is a case in point. It is comfortable to conceive of the rights of violent criminals being curbed. Yet the same laws achieving this must apply equally to the accused not yet found guilty — several of whom may be innocent, ordinary citizens.

Unfortunately also, disruptive protests such as Tuesday's do little to build relations between citizens and the police who are inevitably called upon to intervene. As it was, the protest did more to inconvenience ordinary people (who are victims of crime) than challenge the machinery of the state.

The poor turnout also suggests that people recognised the limitations of this kind of protest. Rallying mass support around crime though, is notoriously difficult. Personal experiences of crime and the knowledge that the problem cannot be negotiated away or removed by force are likely reasons.

Given that crime does not easily unite people in public action, another critical failing is that the protest was (it seems) largely confined to wealthier citizens. This is a pity given that more affluent people suffer a disproportionately small portion of violent crime.

Crime statistics since 1980 suggest that township residents have always borne the brunt of violent crime. In turn, poorer citizens are far less able to protect themselves, or through insurance and medical aid, to cushion themselves from the effects of crime.

Indeed, one danger of current high levels of crime is that for affluent citizens crime is the prime threat to confidence in the new order. It is the factor most likely to prompt continued emigration among a sector of the popula-

tion whose mobility is high and commitment to majority rule conditional.

There is also evidence that those in the suburbs are insulating themselves from the poor who are seen as the perpetrators of crime. That — aided by realities of apartheid geography — has entrenched a form of social distance which could over time impede an attempt to create a common SA loyalty.

Combined with the emotional, physical and economic costs of crime, that makes confronting the problem the most important nation building challenge in the country today.

The building of a common loyalty in response to crime was little in evidence on Tuesday by choosing a form of protest in which only the affluent could take part. Crime then divides not only in cause and effect but also in politics.

This is reinforced by government's seeming unwillingness to confront those within their own ranks who broke the law. So a member of the ruling party in the Gauteng legislature (and serving member of the portfolio committee of safety and security) found guilty of attempting to bribe a police officer, retains his seat.

That sends mixed messages to the public and shapes both their responses to the issue of crime and the (often lawless) way in which citizens confront it. The underlying cause of the protest — government's inability to deal with

crime — remains a concern. Constructive lobbying and (where appropriate) support of government initiatives to stem crime should be encouraged.

Government for its part, though, needs to be seen to take action. What will be needed soon is a gesture (like the appointment of Meyer Kahn) with immediate effect on feelings of safety.

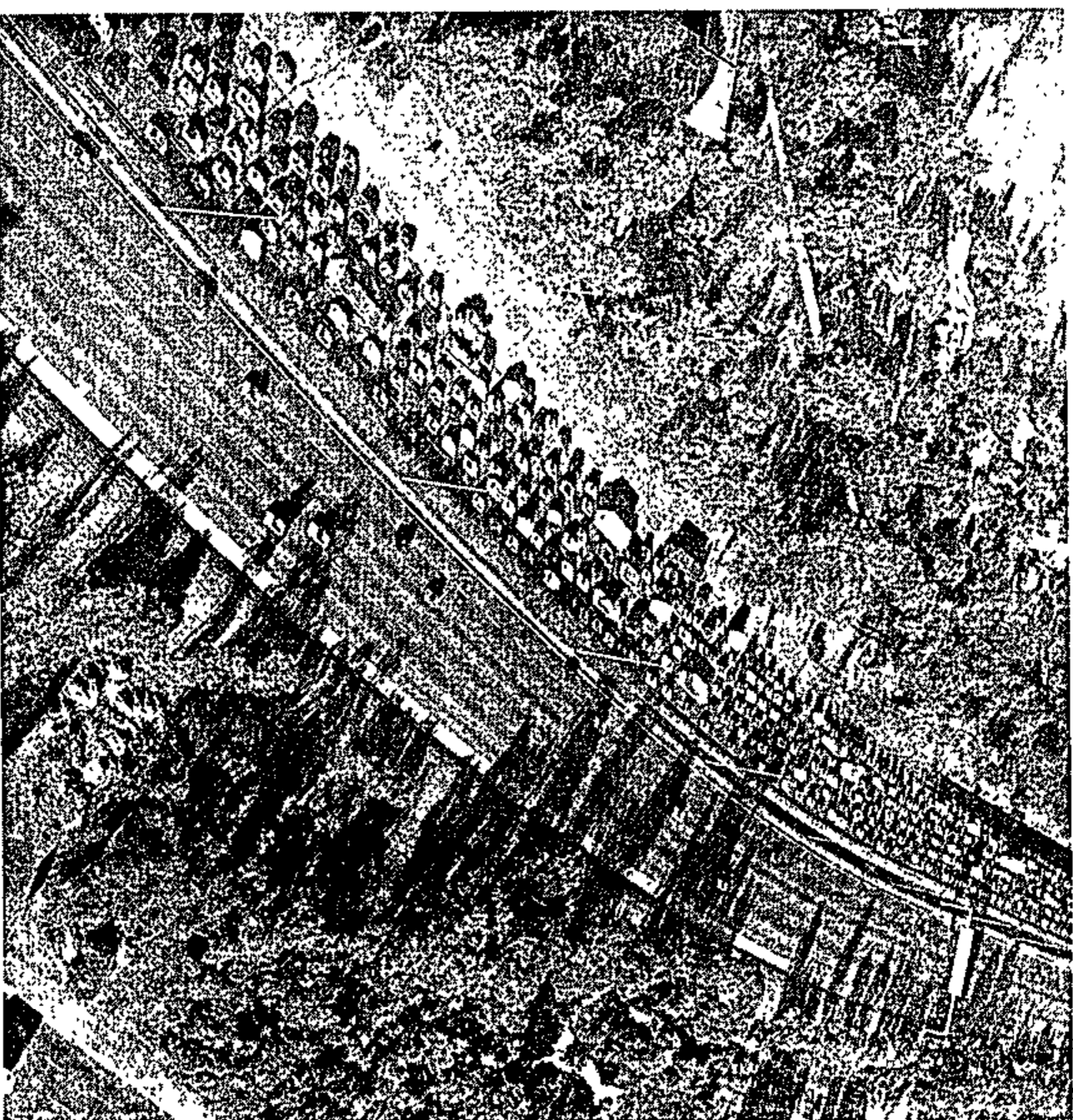
That could range from commitment to a permanent and highly visible police presence in and around Johannesburg to establishment of a Federal Bureau of Investigation equivalent.

Any new announcement must carry tangible and sustainable products. The lack of objectives laid down by the National Crime Prevention Strategy means that after a year it is difficult to discern concrete achievements.

In the final analysis though, part of the danger of disruptive protest action is that the response it elicits (if any at all) is usually short-term "fire force" policing interventions. These aim as much to satisfy immediate public demands as they do to catch criminals.

Tuesday then was nothing special, just another day in a crime-generic society ... with one exception: a few more people than usual broke the law.

□ Shaw is a crime and policing analyst at the Institute for Security Studies. Louw is editor of Indicator Crime and Conflict at the University of Natal.



Southbound traffic on Johannesburg's Western Bypass at a standstill during the blockade on Tuesday.

Picture A

Public's double standards set a poor example

Members of the public need to look to themselves and their actions in the fight against police corruption, writes Talha Syed

STORIES of police corruption or criminal behaviour in today's newspapers quite often focus on police collusion with organised crime, as in car hijacking rings, or assisting serious criminals in the evasion of justice — such as in the case of docket thefts.

Such forms of police corruption are also the main focus of the Anti Corruption Unit's (ACU's) attention.

Rightfully so, since the ACU's resources are limited and there can be little doubt about the necessity to combat practices which have such a devastating effect on the criminal justice system.

However, in the fight against corruption, what perhaps has not been adequately considered is the way in which both common social practices and the attitudes and actions of ordinary members of the general public

can have an effect on the extent of police corruption. We need to realise that it is not enough for us to say don't do crime or corruption. We need to stimulate a more substantial intolerance of crimes and corrupt acts committed by others.

At the most basic level, members of the public often foster the existence of corrupt practices through their direct interactions with the police. Such corruption occurs when, in return for some type of benefit, legitimate police services are delivered faster or in greater proportion to a specific individual, group or business.

One example of this is when, by payment of, say, R50 or a bottle of scotch, a person is able to get a firearm licence application

processed in days rather than weeks. Another example is when a bar owner, in return for providing regular discounts or free meals to officers in the area, knows that he or she can count on receiving better police service, perhaps by way of increased police visibility in the area or more effective handling of troublesome customers.

Also, many may think it not so serious when police co-operation in avoiding legal penalties for minor offences is sought, such as offering R20 to avoid arrest for the possession of dagga.

Often, such forms of corruption are rationalised by claiming that they are for the sake of improving service or efficiency, or that there really is no victim, and thus no harm is done. How-

ever, what is not acknowledged is how by actively soliciting or just going along with such infractions, members of the public are letting officers know that despite the law such behaviour is socially acceptable.

These minor incidents may be an officer's introduction to the rule-bending, and often have the effect of gradually making further, more serious corruption, easier to contemplate.

Also, it is with such practices that some officers may start to increasingly expect some sort of extra incentive just to do their jobs, depending on corrupt funds to supplement their incomes.

This can reach the point where officers do not do their assigned tasks, or at least do not do them properly, without some sort of bribery or extortion.

In countries such as Indonesia and Pakistan, where this form of corruption is rife — not only in the police service but

in the public sector as a whole — the accepted view is that one cannot expect to get anything done without greasing the wheel.

Eventually, even those who deplore them end up going along with such practices, further increasing their perceived legitimacy.

In such cases of reluctant participation, for example when one is forced to pay a bribe to get a licence, the least that citizens can do is take seriously their responsibility to report such occurrences. These incidents are the few instances of corruption where there is a disgruntled party or identifiable victim who can provide testimony of the act.

Thus, every time someone who is party to such a corrupt act fails to take action, a valuable opportunity is lost.

In addition, citizen reporting of these not so serious incidents can lead not only to penalising the officer(s) involved in the specific case, but can also be the

first step in identifying larger problems, putting the investigative spotlight on corrupt individuals, departments or procedures.

An officer speeding up firearm licence applications may also be more likely to sell a docket than one who is not. However, as ACU national director Stefan Grobler said in a recent interview, without active public involvement the chances of successfully detecting and correcting these problem areas are much slimmer.

On a broader level, there must be recognition that corruption in the police service does not flourish in isolation, detached from the rest of our society.

Ghost workers on government payrolls, apartheid-era sanctions housing, public transport ticket fraud and high profile cases such as the bribery of former homeland officials by business people, all contribute to an environment of corruption

rules, where the feeling is everybody else is doing it, why can't I.

Any attempt to fully engage with the problem of police corruption cannot abstract it from the larger problem of widespread corruption in SA society. Officers immersed in a culture of corruption cannot reasonably be expected to act like saints.

Furthermore, we need to acknowledge that a society which values material gain so highly, often above all else, encourages the attitude of getting whatever one can, even through illegitimate avenues — as long as one does not get caught. The solution often proposed for this is simply increased monitoring and better detection of corrupt practices.

However, in addition to such measures, to effectively combat and prevent corruption, people must recognise the consequences of their seemingly harmless acts and take responsibility for their role in fostering corrupt practices.

Finally, as a society, South Africans need to explore values other than just material gain. In this regard, with morale in the SA Police Services being so low and frustration so high, the importance of public co-operation and mutual respect cannot be underestimated.

Emphasising police responsibilities to and links with the community can prevent corruption without the threat of punishment, by helping to internalise values opposed to such behaviour.

The satisfaction received from doing one's job well can provide a form of fulfilment besides material rewards. However, as long as the police feel isolated from what they perceive to be a hostile and unsympathetic public that neither cares to understand nor assist in their work, there may be little in the way of job fulfilment and the temptation to abuse power for gain may prove too great.

□ Talha Syed is a researcher in the criminal justice policy unit at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation.

For police service

08 27/6/97 (34)

SA tops list in gun theft, police killings

Bonnie Ngqiyaza

THERE are 84 firearms per 1 000 people in SA, says a United Nations (UN) report on civilian-owned firearms.

The report, released by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, said the figures indicated 20% of SA households possessed weapons.

The country with the lowest figure was Japan at 3,28 firearms per 1 000 people and the highest was Finland at 411 weapons per 1 000 people.

Forty-nine countries, representing a total population of almost 3,9-billion people, took part in compiling the international report.

SA reported the highest estimated firearm homicide rate after Brazil and the US, with handguns being used in about 68% of homicides committed with a firearm.

SA also recorded the highest number of law enforcement officers killed while on duty — 212. Internationally, the mean number of law enforcement officers killed while on duty was 17.

Institute for Security Studies researcher Sarah Meek said SA's reported data showed the country was following global trends regarding the licensing of, restrictions on, and possession of firearms.

The majority of the countries surveyed, including SA, had restrictions

on the ownership of all firearms — both handguns and rifles — and prohibitions on the ownership of certain types of weapons, such as assault rifles or fully automatic weapons.

SA reported as "unavailable" statistics on the use of firearms in sexual assaults, suicides, or firearm accidents resulting in death. Only half of the 49 reporting countries were able to supply data in these categories.

On import and export regulations the country was among 12 which did not impose restrictions on all types of handgun imports.

But SA reported among the most stringent penalties for people in unlawful possession of a firearm, ranging

from a fine of up to R12 000 to 25 years imprisonment for unlawful possession of an automatic rifle or machine gun.

The country noted that it sentenced smuggling or trafficking offenders as unlawful possessors as there were no separate penalties for these crimes.

It also mentioned it was reviewing the introduction of stricter penalties for firearm-related offences.

SA reported the highest number of lost or stolen firearms, followed by Argentina and Brazil. SA was among 11 countries which did not report having regulations on the circumstances under which firearms should be kept when not in use or on the storage of ammunition.

Kahn in 'Marshall Plan' call

Edward West

SA BREWERIES (SAB) executive chairman Meyer Kahn, recently appointed head of the SA Police Service, believes a massive mobilisation of public and private-sector resources — a type of "Marshall Plan" — is required to combat crime and violence successfully.

He said in SAB's latest annual report, released at the weekend, that balance needed to be restructured in a society where the human rights of perpetrators of crime were seemingly better protected than those of the victims.

"Unless crime is confronted vigorously and uncompromisingly, all other efforts ... towards seeking sustained economic growth, job creation, foreign investment, national reconciliation and political stability will come to naught."

BD 30/6/97
On the economic front, he said government's recent fiscal budget supported its growth, employment and redistribution strategy and would start the process of smoothing inequities, but some "radical, structural action" was needed to reduce the "excessive" 57% of total government revenue obtained from direct taxes. "Of the amounts to be collected from income taxes, individuals are targeted to contribute a glaringly excessive 70%," said Kahn.

In the medium term, households would benefit from initiatives already started in the recent fiscal budget to reduce the effect of direct taxes on low- and middle-income earners and to bolster social welfare spending.

SAB was budgeting for further real growth in attributable earnings to March next year, with growth in earnings tempered by the increased number

(34)
of shares in issue, Kahn said.

The group was well positioned for the future, he said. The balance sheet was stronger than at any time in the group's history and the board had approved a R3,4bn capital expenditure programme, 80% of which would be applied to the SA businesses.

He said a meaningful upturn in consumer spending could not be expected until real interest rates declined — an easing of interest rates was expected later in the year — private household debt was reduced and consumer confidence improved.

Over the past year attributable earnings increased 17% to over R1,9bn. Net interest-bearing debt to shareholders funds was at an all-time low of 12%. The group spent R1,8bn last year expanding operations.

See Page 15

Economic crime puts burden on taxpayers

White collar crime cannot be beaten without the aid of business, according to Deloitte & Touche Forensic Services managing director, Mark Pinington.

"The escalating level of crime is the topic of conversation that is most likely to arise at any dinner party. We all commiserate when we hear of somebody in our community that has been hijacked, assaulted, robbed or raped. Sadly, we forget one of the most prolific crime sets that is destroying our economy - fraud, bribery and corruption," Pinington said.

It is estimated that the value of transactions associated with economic crime exceeds South Africa's gross domestic product.

But the true victims are taxpayers: "Not only does the current state of affairs alarm potential investors, it dissuades them from investing in the country and the losses rapidly filter through to consumers in the price of goods and services," Pinington added.

Pinington, who serves on the Commercial Crime Working Group of Business Against Crime (BAC) in his personal capacity, believes that the problem of crime in general cannot be adequately dealt with by the authorities alone.

"The most obvious solution is for the government and the judiciary to introduce stricter laws, to enforce those laws and to impose harsher penalties. The problem

with this is that the State does not have the resources to fully address the problem."

"The problem of economic crime needs to be addressed by the business community as a whole. A culture of compliance with the law and good business practice needs to be engendered and encouraged," Pinington said.

Deloitte & Touche's forensics division have put together the following guidelines to prevent commercial crime:

- Employees, managers and customers of businesses are in the best position to act as watchdogs and individuals need to be proactive in communicating their observations to senior management who will then be in a position to investigate any irregularities.

- Employee awareness of potential fraud in the workplace can be improved by setting up small workgroups in each division to pinpoint how and where the business may be susceptible to fraud.

- Staff and clients must be encouraged to report suspicions of fraud. The organisation's attitude to fraud should be clearly defined in a policy which should also identify a risk manager to whom individuals may report suspicions confidentially.

"It is only by acting as one and committing itself to a culture that does not tolerate corruption that the business community will be able to lower the incidence of economic crime," Pinington said.

Crime costs SA R31,3-bn

It will pay businesses to get involved in the fight against crime, according to a Nedcor project on crime, violence and investment.

According to Nedcor research the cost of crime to the country totals about R31,3-billion:

- Crime against households - R1,7-billion
- Crime against business - R15,8-billion
- Commercial crime - R13-billion
- Serious economic crime - R,8-billion.

While the R1,7-billion crime against households may appear to be insignificant in the context of the total, the other costs ultimately appear on the doorstep of the household consumer also.

The numbers of robberies have increased from a low of below 40 000 per annum in the early 1980s to more than 100 000 per annum in 1995 - an increase of more than 150 percent.

The extreme violence and use of auto-

matic weapons is a source of major concern and it is estimated that a bank robbery took place in Gauteng every 60 hours during 1997.

The number of housebreakings has shown an even more dramatic increase, from a low of just more than 100 000 per annum in the early 1980s to nearly 300 000 in 1995.

Recent police reports indicate backlogs of cases in excess of 18 months.

And rates of conviction are extremely low - only 7,7 percent of crimes result in successful prosecutions with 0,8 percent of crimes resulting in the criminal spending more than two years in jail.

Criminals have perceived that their chances of being convicted and serving time in jail are so low that crime is an attractive option.

It will take the community, business expertise and effective policing to turn this situation around, according to Nedcor.

Giving police the tools to do their job

(34)

AAg 30/6/99

In an attempt to weed out crime from our society, MTN, The Internet Solution and The Sunday Times have joined forces to harness the multiple resources of the cellular industry, the Internet and the media.

The Anti-Crime Trust (ACT) initiative, launched by MTN in 1996 with the donation of 100 cellphones to the Gauteng Highway Patrol, has received Government and business support.

"We need motorcycle policemen on our streets, in the suburbs and business districts. This initiative will buy motorcycles, train police and deploy a visible, mobile crime prevention unit that will allow South Africans to live without fear," says MTN CEO Bob Chaphe.

Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale said crime-fighting is the responsibility of each individual. "From hawkers and residents

in informal settlements to the chief executive of a corporation, we must contribute where we can to fight this scourge. It is time that we started taking back our driveways, streets, suburbs and cities and restoring them to their rightful owners," he said.

Safety and Security MEC Jesse Duarte has urged the community to form active street committees to monitor criminal activity and report any breaches of the law to the police. "If you see a car that does not belong here, or a TV set, or a video, report the matter to the police and let us restore law and order to our communities."

South Africa has the core of an excellent police force that is hamstrung by limited resources, insufficient communication tools, lack of vehicles and manpower, while up against highly-organised and well-financed syndicates and gangs.

High risk areas will be pinpointed. Starting on a suburban basis in Johannesburg, ACT will purchase essential equipment to fight crime.

The Sunday Times will keep the public informed of successes, equipment or vehicles purchased, the state of the fund, statistics on the reduction of crime and comments and letters from readers.

Gerald Heine, the chairman of the Johannesburg Community Policing Area Board, was upbeat: "The lack of human and material resources has never been fully appreciated, but now we will be able to provide the precise tools required."

Visible policing has proved a deterrent around the world. Police get to know the neighbourhood, form relationships with residents and are trained to recognise warning signs of criminal activities. If you would like to contribute, please

send details listed below to any one of the following addresses and you will be contacted as soon as possible:

Internet: <http://www.act.org.za> or fax 083-900-3839 to: The ACT Fund, Corporate Relations, Private Bag 9955, Sandton, 2146.

Please include your name, nature of work, home, cellphone and business/fax number, and whether or not you have Internet access.

People may deposit donations at any branch of the United Bank, Allied Bank, Volkskas or Trustbank; using the clearance code, United Bank 631005 and a/c No MTN-ACT 4047315474.

Donations can also be made at Computicket outlets around the country, either on a once-off basis or by adding R1 to the price of tickets purchased through Computicket and requesting that the money be paid into the ACT account.

Mandela gets a graphic bulletin

LINDSAY BARNES
CRIME DESK

(34)

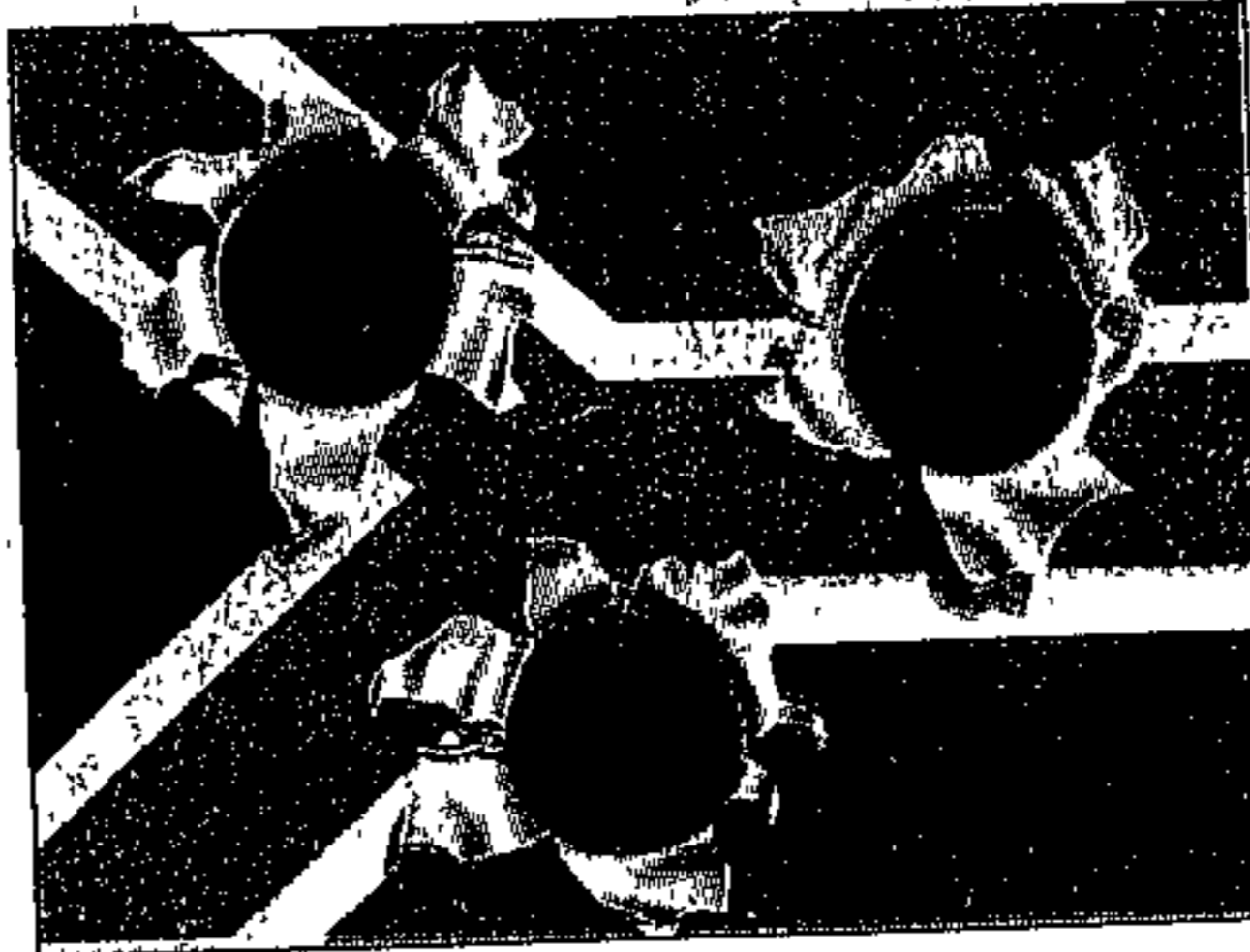
ART 3/7/97

It's eye-catching, has a powerful message to the President, and it's free.

The latest campaign to urge the government to take stronger steps against crime is printed on a postcard, the front of which shows the new South African flag with three bullet holes in it.

Available at 600 restaurants, coffee shops and pubs countrywide, the postcard says: "Dear President Mandela. All is not well in the state of South Africa. Crime has reached epidemic proportions. It's raping our optimism. It's murdering our hope. It's tearing at the fabric of our society.

"You have sacrificed all to achieve 'One nation, one soul' and now it's being gunned down in cold blood. Out of desperation, fear and anxiety I am writing to you on behalf of my family, my friends and all the innocent people of South Africa, please make crime your priority today!"



From the edge: thousands of these distinctive postcards are being sent to President Mandela

Launched by Gauteng company Grapevine, the campaign is a runaway success. Managing director Ashna Noriskin said Grapevine had collected 150 000 signed cards and was to hand them to Mr Mandela in the hope they would generate "a meaningful response from the Government".

Wall of remembrance: victims of violent crime in Gauteng are commemorated on a wall in Parktown, Johannesburg, in a project sponsored by The Star, sister newspaper of the Cape Argus

GIVE BACK OUR STREETS

Crime-ravaged suburbs seize police role

LINDSAY BARNES AND JOHAN SCHROENI
CRIME DESK

Ordinary citizens are seizing control of their streets as they get increasingly fed up with crime and the Government's failure to tackle it.

With what amounts virtually to civil disobedience in some cases, people are banding together to investigate controlling access to their neighbourhoods with booms across roads, and cordoning off suburbs, with or without the go-ahead of authorities.

In Llandudno, a private police service employed by a local authority - probably unique in South Africa - has been operating for three years.

Residents of two Johannesburg suburbs and farmers in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands have formed companies to hire armed security guards, and residents of an elite Durban suburb have fenced the entire neighbourhood.

A national campaign is under way to collect 150 000 specially-designed postcards expressing "desperation, fear and anxiety" about the crime epidemic and asking President Mandela to "make crime your priority today!"

These and a memorandum calling on the Government to declare a temporary

state of emergency will be handed over to Mr. Mandela within the next two weeks.

The message is clear: people are no longer content to leave matters in the hands of the police.

The usual home security devices - guns, electric fences, high walls, guard dogs, hi-tech alarm systems, burglar bars and security gates - often prove futile against intruders intent on pillaging and harming the occupants.

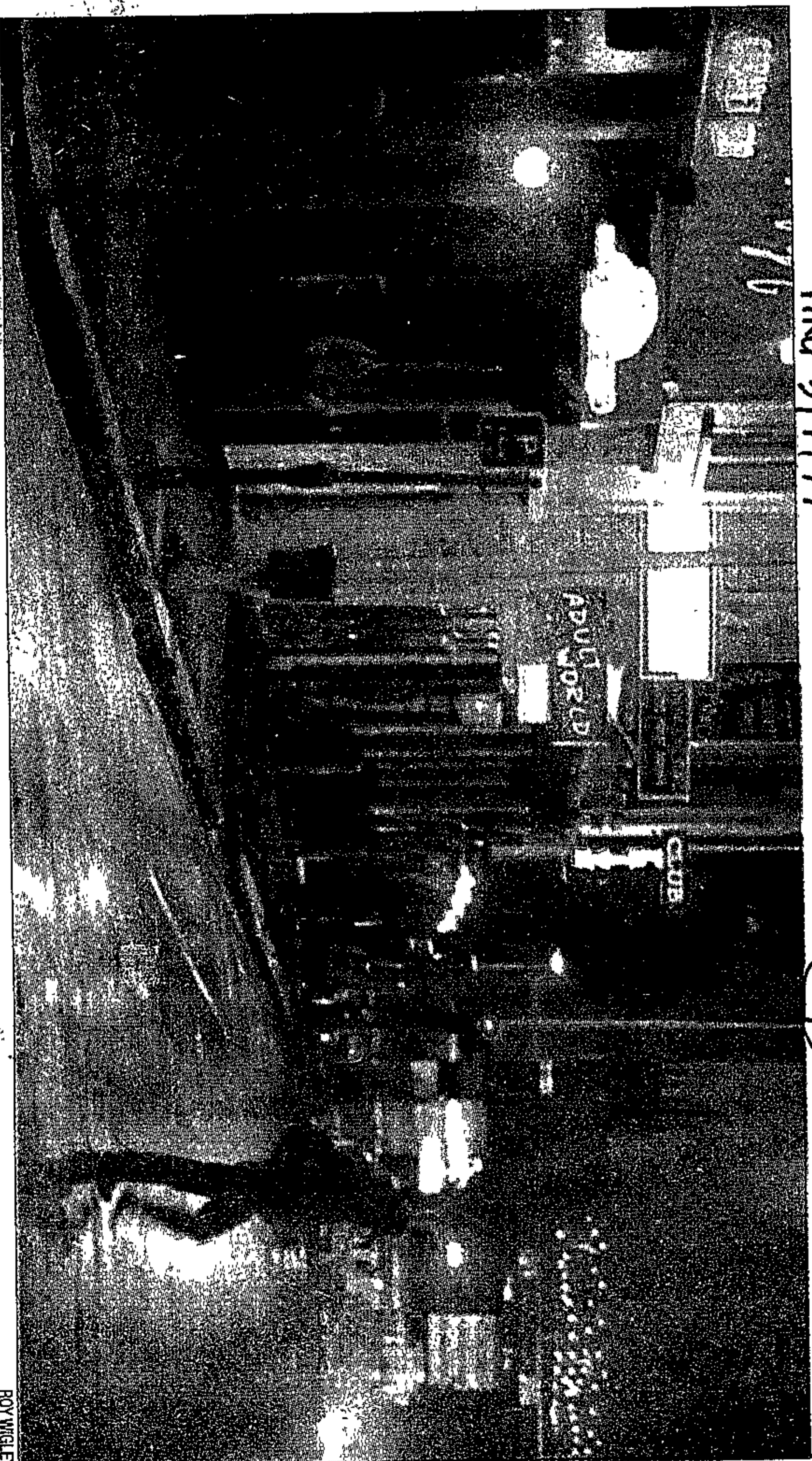
Residents of Saxonwold and Norwood, two of Johannesburg's northern suburbs, have set up companies to hire armed 24-hour street patrols.

About 200 homeowners in upmarket Winston Park near Durban have gone a step further by fencing off the suburb and are investigating customs-style controlled access points. Other groups of property owners are considering similar action.

The Business Against Crime spokesman for KwaZulu Natal, Brian Adams, said the organisation did not encourage vigilantes and took a strong stand against residents using booms, fences and security guards in this manner.

"The booms work - no doubt about it. But we might as well put up fortified villages.

"It's almost a sign that we have given up



ROY WINGLEY

To page 3

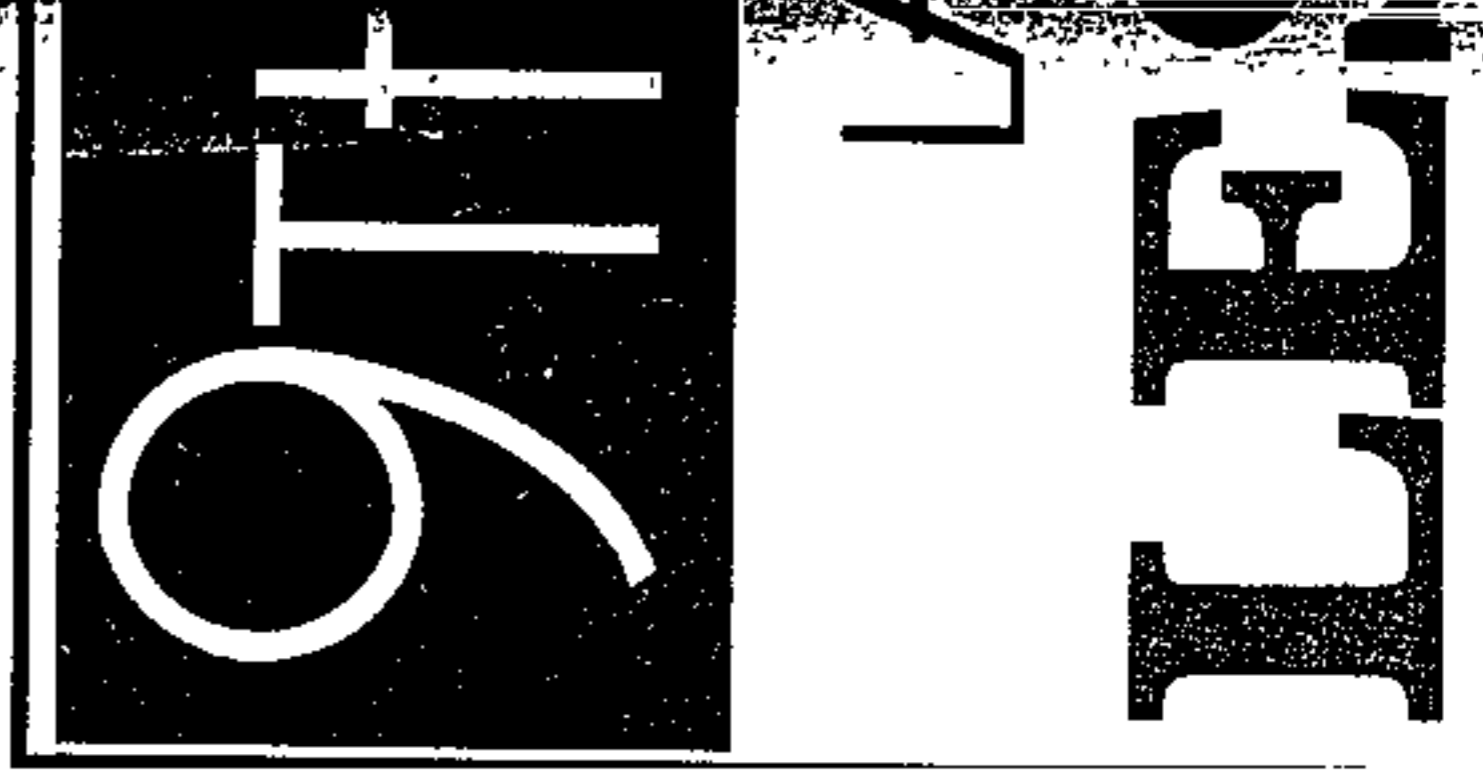
Towns of fear: ordinary South Africans are increasingly demanding the right to take back their streets from criminals who attack and rob with impunity

McKibben, who is a teacher in Taiwan, spoke under Chinese rule in cu

Enter the - in storm

Hong Kong - The heavy years here sowed havoc territory's first workin communist Chinese rul and landslides blocking badly disrupting public people returned to wor More weather chaos w Rescue service had to landslides since early v flooding incidents since day, when the territory a spokesman said.

A woman trapped in a landslide yesterday was s Landslides severed part of the vital Tuen Mu ing residential new town ritories region with urban much of the Hong Kong and do business. - Reuter



Suburbs impose street law (34)

From page 1

hope," he said. Western Cape police spokesman Jacques Wiese said it was not acceptable for people to take the law into their own hands and called on residents to work with the police instead.

Three years ago Robin Hunt-Davis's Securi-Med won a five-year contract from the then Regional Services Council, mandated by the Llandudno Ratepayers' Association, to seek tenders for an armed response company, and became the posh suburb's private police force.

ARG 3/7/97
"Before we descended on Llandudno, break-ins were increasing by 100 percent a year and averaged about 70 cases annually.

"We've got it down to 11 burglaries, all at homes where alarms are not installed or not working," said Mr Hunt-Davis.

"We are paid by the local authority, which levies the ratepayers.

"The key to our success was to have a permanent patrol in an area where every resident was involved in neighbourhood safety."

Editorial comment, page 9

10 000 write to minister on crime

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARU 4/7/97

(34)
A mailing campaign to protest against crime is gaining momentum, with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi confirming that he has received more than 10 000 letters and postcards.

He told Parliament that representations made to him fell into three categories: those protesting against the high levels of crime, campaigns for prosecutions regarding specific murders and constructive proposals to fight crime.

His announcement comes on the heels of a Cape Argus story yesterday about public outrage against crime.

Mr Mufamadi said crime levels were "stabilising" and in some cases decreasing.

He said that by June 18 there had been 121 bank robberies this year, and that there had been 145 arrests in connection with these robberies.

Last year there were 642 bank robberies, followed by 316 arrests.

'agga plans 'one marca' for one nation'

The organisation claims it is attracting members from all sectors of society as it gains respectability with its aim of flushing out drug dealing and crime

BY RODNEY VICTOR

Gruesome images of druglord Rashaad Staggie being shot to death and burnt outside his Cape Town home last year during a People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) demonstration highlighted the frustration of ordinary South Africans at rampant lawlessness and the apparent inability of the police to deal with it.

The attack left most people with very mixed feelings - revulsion at the brutality of the deed and admiration for a group prepared to act to rid their community of the drug scourge, without regard for their personal consequences.

The Staggie episode was an unfortunate way for Pagad to burst onto the headlines, leaving its members open to charges of being outlaws.

However, Pagad is now finding new respectability.

Three weeks ago the Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security, Jesse Duarte, summoned the Gauteng leadership to her office to enlist Pagad's help in the fight against crime and drugs.

Her sole proviso was that Pagad should remain within the ambit of the law.

Ayob Mungalee, Pagad's leader in Gauteng, said, the group had received official acceptance in Gauteng because of the political leadership in the province.

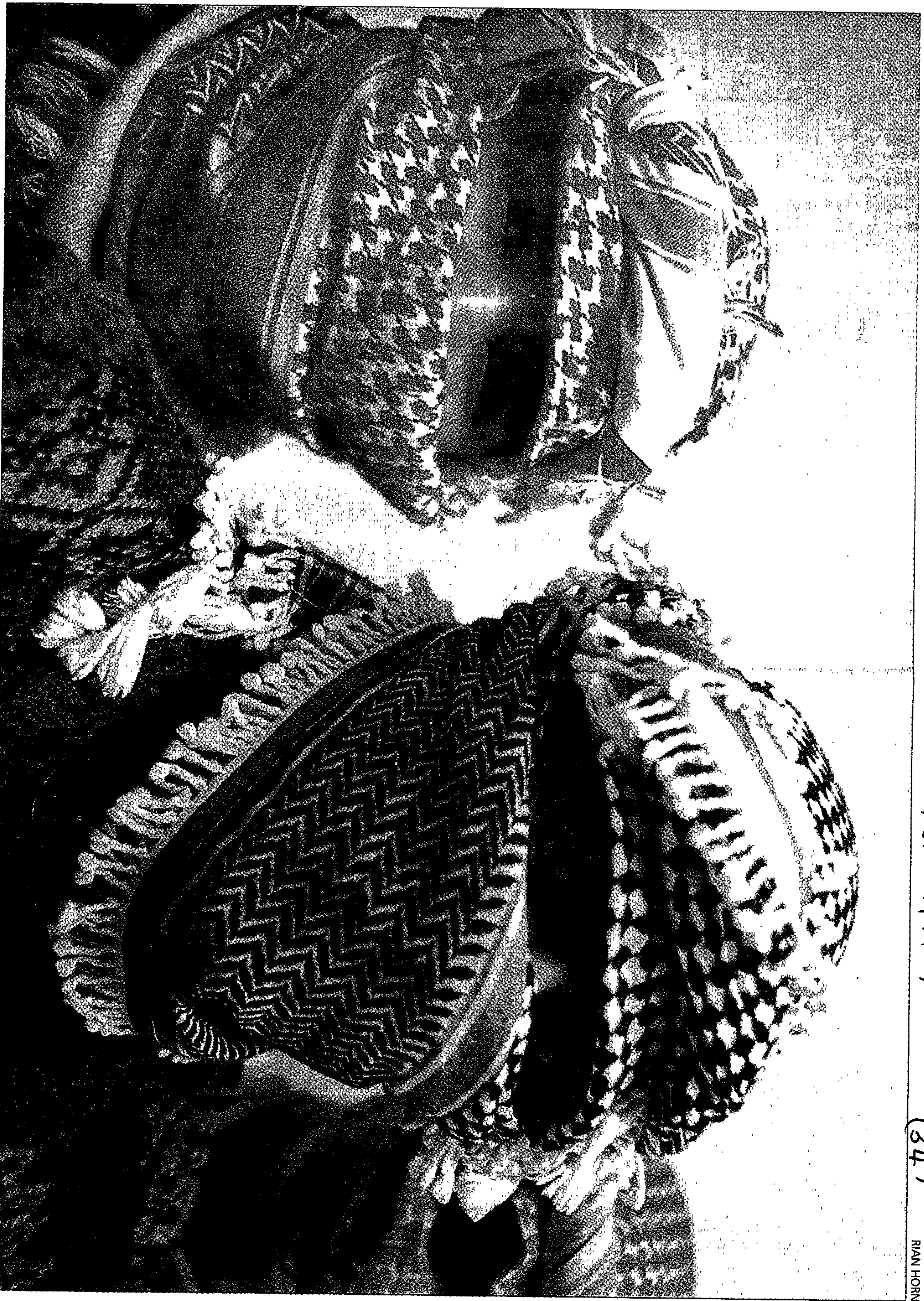
"Most of us in Pagad were freedom fighters.

"We fought side by side with the ANC, and now we are fighting a new war of liberation with them," he said.

Pagad's Gauteng branch was established in March after a national convention in Cape Town drew together groups from all over South Africa that shared the common aim of countering criminality and the drug scourge.

Initially most of the Gauteng members came from the Indian suburb of Lenasia, but Pagad had now been embraced by people from many communities, Mungalee said.

"They can see that we are the only people with a solution to the drug problem. Everyone is talking about it, but no one else is doing anything about it."



Face of Pagad... Gauteng leader Ayob Mungalee, flanked by members of Pagad's local security wing, who have to mask themselves, they say, to protect their families and children, who could attend the same schools as the children of drug dealers.

RIAN HORN

Star 7/7/97

(34)

Branches had been established in Soweto, Ficksburg, Park, Edmore, Kaituma, Laudium, Emond, Mayfair, Fordsburg, Lenasia and Lenasia South. Another was being formed in Turfontein, and soon there would be yet another.

There were 5 000 members in Gauteng, Mungalee said. A thousand of them were "core" members who were willing to take part in Pagad's anti-crime operations. These were organised into 200 cells of five members each.

There were doctors, lawyers, teachers, tradesmen, former soldiers in the ANC's liberation army, members of the former police forces, English-speakers, Afrikaners, Muslims, Hindus, Tamils, Christians, rich, poor,

Only 60% of the Gauteng membership was Muslim, he said. With the current growth, non-Muslims would soon outnumber Muslims.

A youth wing had been established and was active at three Johannesburg schools -

schools as soon as the holidays were over. The play was guaranteed to bring tears to the eyes, he said.

The group was now engaged in a drive for new members as a lead-up to a massive demonstration.

Pagad had no political ambitions for itself, and it did not intend putting up candidates for the 1999 general election, Mungalee said.

Although it was being courted by certain political groupings to hold joint rallies, it would resist any deals that

drug dealers out on our own. We need the support of the community, and we're appealing to everyone to join hands. If everyone gave just an hour of their time once a week to clean up our communities, we could easily win the battle," he said.

The drug dealers were motivated solely by money, Mungalee said. Pagad was motivated by conscience, which made it a far more powerful force.

Pagad intended becoming increasingly confrontational with drug dealers, he said.

This did not necessarily mean getting involved in fights with them - for instance, some Pagad operations had involved members camping out in front of drug dealers' houses, braving there and making it difficult for them to continue with their business.

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Call for govt to be stricter in fight against crime

GRAHAMSTOWN — Attempts to create special amnesty for the perpetrators of violence in KwaZulu-Natal and for those involved in taxi wars would contribute to the creation of a culture of impunity, Graeme Simpson, from the Institute for the Study of Violence, said in Grahamstown yesterday.

He said "rumblings" about amnesty for the taxi wars and special amnesty for the

BD 1077(97) (34)
violence in KwaZulu-Natal ran contrary to the national crime prevention strategy which was based on the belief that it was time to create an environment in which it was "politically correct" to be hard on crime. "... We may be reaching too far in generating a culture of impunity in our country." Increased vigilantism would result if government did not deliver, he said. — Sapa.

Kidnap insurance takes off in SA

(34)

Significant rise in Western Cape abduction cases

SHELLE-KIM GOULD

The number of kidnap cases reported to police in the Western Cape have increased significantly on last year's figures.

Last year, six kidnappings were reported in the province while nine cases have already been reported since the beginning of this year.

High-profile cases this year include those of schoolgirl Liesl-Mari Goosen, 13, who disappeared while on her way to school on January 22, newborn Zephane Nurse and nine-year-old Matthew Olsen.

Extensive publicity campaigns appealing to the public have been undertaken by the families - to no avail. Police said leads had been thoroughly investigated.

Zephane Nurse was taken from the Groote Schuur Hospital at the end of April. A stranger who had offered to hold her disappeared with her when her mother fell asleep.

At the time the police feared for Zephane as it was thought the abductor could have had a psychological disorder. Groote Schuur was looking at tighter security measures as a result.

Matthew Olsen disappeared from outside his Mitchell's Plain home on March 24. His mother, Michelle, and sister, Melanie, 10, had seen him shortly before the incident.

Police said the public should be on the lookout for anyone who had "suddenly" had a baby.

They said the public also should take precautions to protect their children, particularly outside their home and at school.

Big business taking steps to protect their top execs

JACQUE CAMERON

In a strange spin-off from the country's crime epidemic, wealthy and high-profile South Africans are buying kidnap and ransom insurance for thousands of rands a year.

Blue-chip companies also have taken out kidnap policies on key executives they fear could be used as bartering tools by criminals - and some have included the names of jet-setting employees who venture into politically volatile terrain.

This type of policy - affectionately known as "k&r" in international insurance circles - has been sold for decades in other parts of the world and is gaining popularity in South Africa.

Nevertheless, insurance companies were reluctant to lift the veil of secrecy which shrouded this dubious commodity.

The business is highly lucrative and insurance giants fear that publicity could lead to an increase in the number of clients being kidnaped.

Insurance agents and clients sign stringent undertakings not to disclose whether an individual or company has kidnap insurance. If the agreement is broken, the policy is declared null and void.

always pursue investigations with vigour and docketers are sometimes lost in the slogging overland of serious crime dossiers.

Local police do not specialise in kidnap investigations and "the victims are initially afraid to come to the police for help," said investigating officer at the Britxton Murder and Robbery Unit Inspector Francois Heyns.

Rod Pearson of MIB, one of the largest short-term insurance brokers in the country, said: "We do sell kidnap and ransom insurance. High-profile people look for the cover. It has to be kept secret. I've been selling this for years, but I have not seen an increase in the incidence of kidnappings."

He said there had been some "big extortion" cases in Gauteng which had been kept out of the public eye.

He said companies generally insured several top staffers against kidnaping.

"Your staff are more at risk if they travel overseas, particularly to South American countries. According to statistics compiled by an international company which specialises in negotiating in kidnaping situations, ransom money is paid in more than 60 percent of all kidnappings. About nine percent of victims are killed, and they're more likely to be killed at the time

'There is also a back-up service to help keep the situation controllable'

they are kidnaped," said Mr Pearson.

Other insurance companies refused to discuss their involvement with selling kidnaping and ransom policies. Some denied selling it, in spite of their connections to overseas companies which did.

AIG Europe (UK) Limited is one of the major backers of kidnaping policies.

Company spokesman Jennie Seabrook said: "Kidnaping insurance is for financial protection. There is also a back-up service to help keep the situation controllable so that you, and not the kidnapers, are in control."

AIG's kidnap insurance will provide ransom money ranging from R4,5 million to R225 million for one incident.

"They are paying huge ransoms in central and South America. R135-million was paid in a kidnaping in Mexico after the demand was R450-million," she said.

"The costs of handling these incidents are enormous. A crisis team of professionals who know the rules of negotiating with kidnapers must get together to make decisions which the victim is in no position to make.

"All this will cause havoc in management and have an adverse effect on the morale of spouses and family members. You have to raise large sums of cash,

'We believe crime syndicates in South Africa will move into kidnaping'

quickly. In some countries you can be kept for months, even years.

"Under our policy, you'd be able to pay for the victim's salary while that person is detained and pay the salary of the person's replacement. There are also travel costs and rewards which must be paid for information.

"Ransom money also can be stolen in transit. After someone has been released, they may need hospitalisation, cosmetic surgery or psychological counselling. The policy will cover this."

Last year, there were some 12 500 kidnappings worldwide, most of them in Latin America. There were less than 300 reported for the Middle East and Africa, said Ms Seabrook.

"South Africans are only starting to become aware of the grey side to international business. Criminal syndicates are flourishing in the developing countries. We believe crime syndicates in South Africa will move into the area of kidnaping. It's a very good business.

Hiscox Syndicate 33, which handles kidnap and ransom insurance for Lloyds of London, is targeting South Africa because they regarded this country as "very high risk as far as world-wide risk ratings go".

They declined to give a specific rating, but said that, according to their statistics,

AR 4/12/97

160 000 cards to Mandela call for action on crime

ARC 12/7/97

(34)

Pretoria - "Do something about crime or else we will take the law into our own hands," warned the sender of one of 160 000 postcards delivered to the presidential offices in the Union Building as part of a dramatic protest against crime.

And another more ominous suggestion: "I would like people who do crime to get the necklace sentence," was accompanied by a crude sketch of a match, a tyre and a bottle of paraffin.

"Dear Mr Mandela. Stop making speeches and do something!" read another.

Four helicopters flew over the Union Buildings, disgorging 16 skydivers who dumped 70 000 postcards with personal messages from members of the public to President Mandela.

At the same time a 15-ton truck dumped another 90 000 cards on the Union Buildings lawns. The protest was organised by a Sandton company, Grapevine Postcards, which was established in February this year by Norwegian marketing guru, Ulf Skaug.

The company distributes free postcards, with personal and advertising messages, through racks in restaurants, shebeens, bars and high-traffic public areas.

Among the first batch of cards launched in February this year was a card depicting the new South African flag - pock-marked with bullet holes. On the reverse, members of the public were invited to sign a message to Mr Mandela protesting about the escalation in crime and asking him to make crime a priority.

A special compartment in the card racks was used for signed cards. According to Grapevine Postcards' managing director Asha Noriskin, the response was overwhelming. Ms Noriskin said a similar project had

been launched in Norway a few years ago to protest about French nuclear tests in the Pacific.

"The response in Norway was 16 000 - which was thought to be really good. But that is completely overshadowed by the 160 000 postcards we have received from South Africans on crime. It shows just how highly emotive the issue is."

Ms Noriskin said about 65 percent of the postcards were from blacks affected by crime.

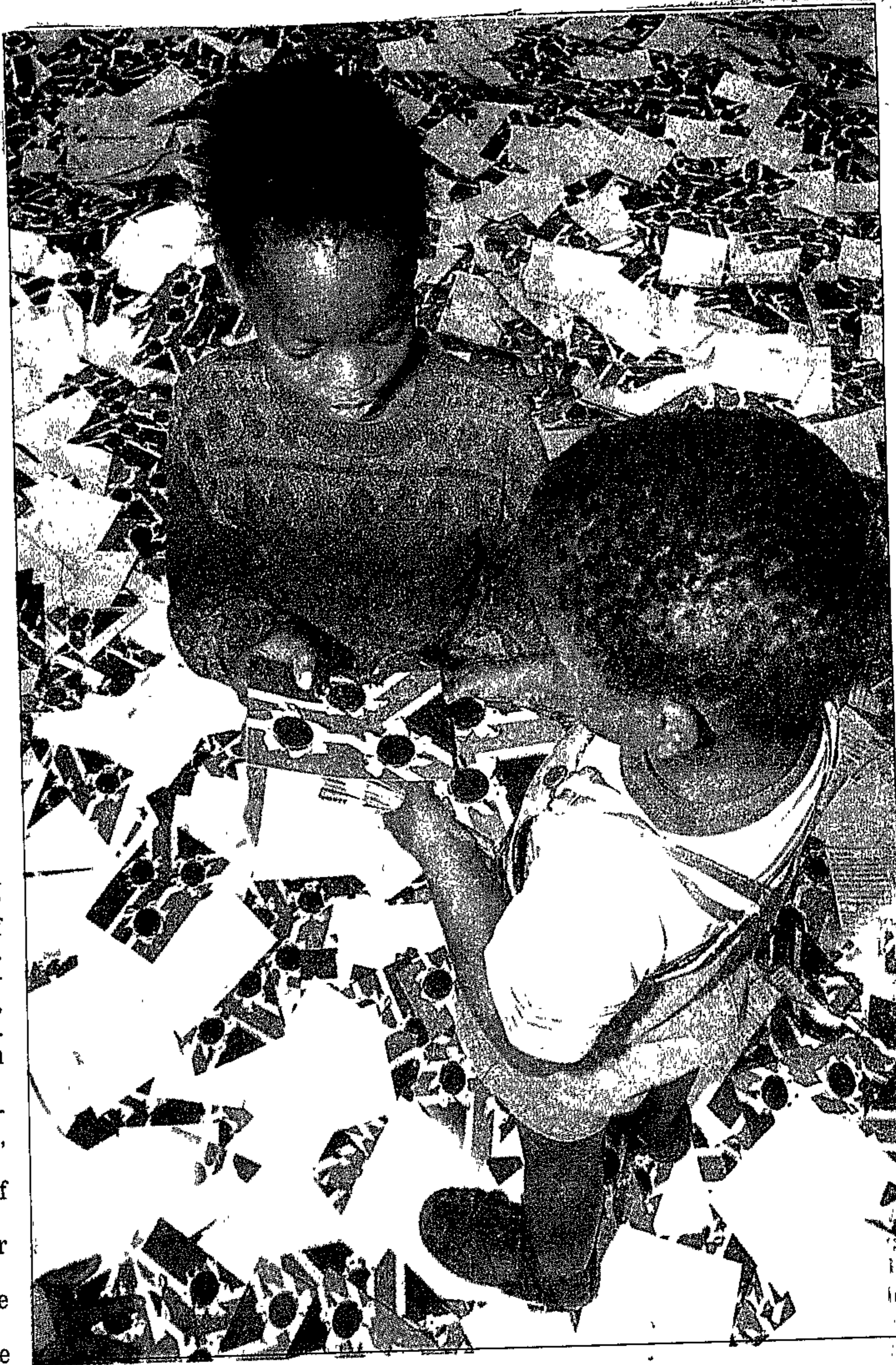
Many of the correspondents recounted harrowing tales of how they were hijacked or raped. Many had lost friends and members of their families in criminal violence. "Although the cards just required a signature, a huge number had messages - sad, traumatic messages - to President Mandela. Others had letters attached and some even had money stuck to them."

In delivering the postcards to the president's office at the Union Building, Grapevine Postcards asked the Government:

- To commit itself to a temporary state of emergency;
- To bring the (crime) situation under control;
- To deploy the army to perform police duties;
- To increase budgets for police, justice and correctional services; and,
- To initiate reforms in police practices, prosecution methods and legal procedures to "bring about a system which correctly and quickly punishes the guilty."

Ms Noriskin added that the postcard "Crime Stop" campaign was not over.

"We are soon to release a second postcard which shows the same South African flag, but this time with the bullet holes patched over with plasters.



The public will be asked to sign the card and commit to:

- Respect for the law;
- Not to take part in criminal activity;
- To report crime to the police and give evidence against crime in court; and,
- To pay taxes.

Ms Noriskin said her company had embarked on the project because "internationally the postcard medium has proven to

be a highly effective vehicle for gathering and monitoring public sentiment on topical issues.

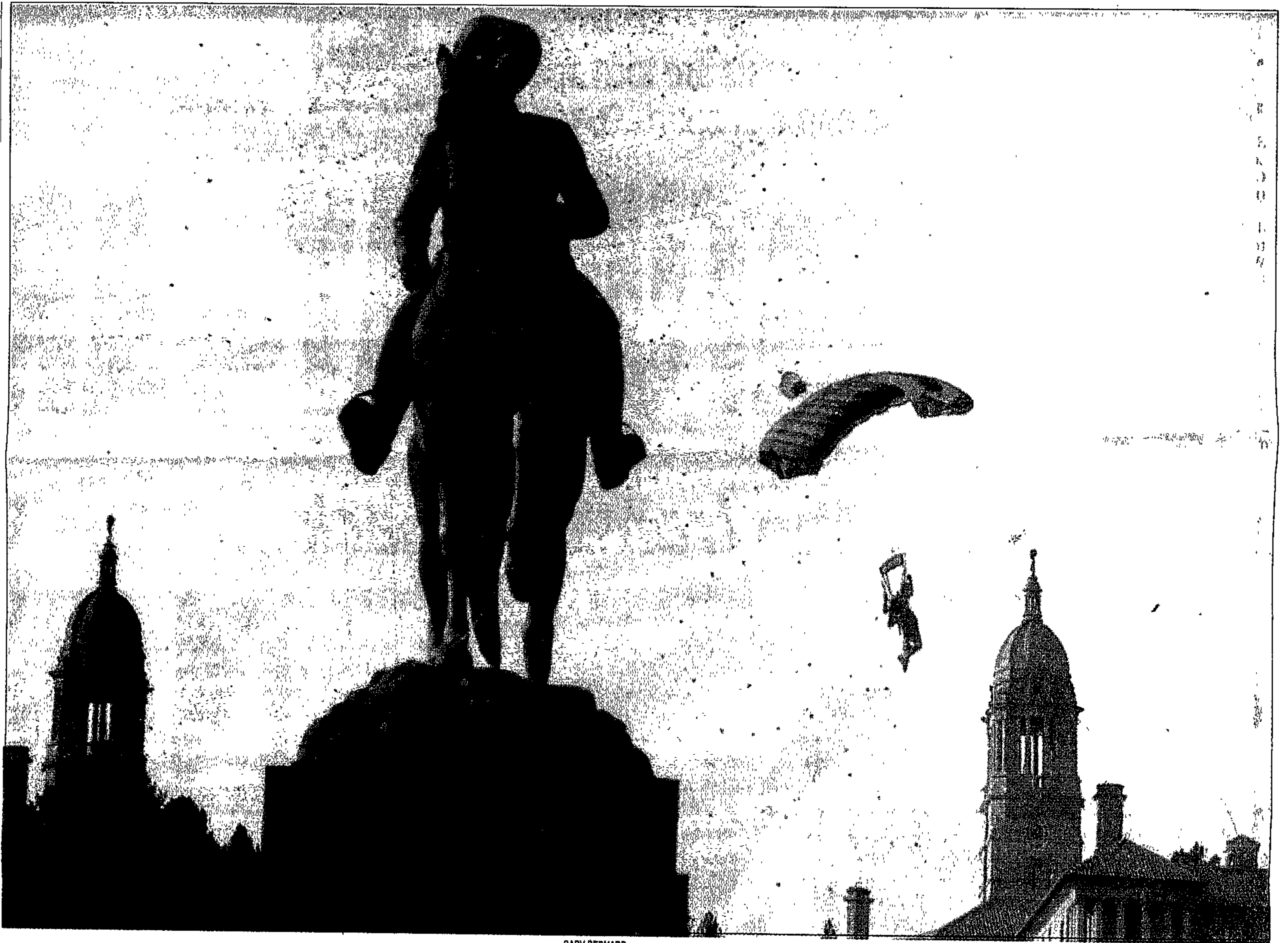
"As a media owner we have the responsibility to the South African public to supply them with a medium through which they can express their collective opinion."

Details of the Grapevine "Crime Stop" campaign are available on the Internet at <http://www.smartnet.co.za/grapevine>

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SATURDAY JULY 12/13 1997



GARY BERNARD

Postcards from on high: two Pretoria children, right, sort through some of the more than 160 000 postcards addressed to President Nelson Mandela depicting a bullet ridden South African flag. The cards were dumped on the Union Buildings' lawns yesterday by parachutists and trucks, above. The stunt was organised by a Johannesburg marketing company as part of an anti-crime campaign.

R12bn in white collar crimes probed

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The Office for Serious Economic Offences was investigating cases involving about R12bn, but these were "a drop in the ocean" compared with commercial crime cases reported to the police, OSEO director Jan Swanepoel said last week.

OSEO advocate Phyllis Atkinson said last week that 36 cases involving a total of R12bn were under investigation at the end of last year. Swanepoel said the current figure was similar.

During 1995/96, investigations involving R209m had been initiated, while those finalised and referred to the attorney-general involved R2bn.

Swanepoel said the OSEO's capacity to investigate economic crimes had been seriously undermined by staff shortages. It had had to place a moratorium on fresh investigations while clearing a backlog of cases.

National Detective Service director Reg Crewe said 54 846 cases involving R3,83bn had been reported to the commercial crime unit last year alone, compared with 51 117 cases involving R2,8bn in 1995 and 53 441 cases totalling R4,7bn in 1994.

The most common commercial crime was fraud — about 80% of the total — followed by forgery and uttering and theft. Cases investigated by the OSEO included contraventions of

BB 14/7/97 (34)
foreign exchange control regulations, fraud by deceiving investors, corruption or fraud relating to the acquisition of government contracts, the misappropriation of trust funds and general export incentive scheme frauds.

Atkinson, in a research paper for the University of Pretoria's Institute for Strategic Studies, wrote that experience had shown the need for a code of ethics which included "a commitment to recognising fraudulent activity for what it is... By setting an ethical tone for a company and demonstrating a commitment to communicate this to all levels within the corporate structure, the myth that white collar crimes are glamorous is dispelled."

Ex-security men behind crime wave - Mbeki

Threat seen to democracy

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARG 15/7/97 (34)

Johannesburg - Security elements of the former government were involved in organised crime syndicates which could collapse the criminal justice system and undermine South Africa's new democracy, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said here.

He warned that democracy could disintegrate if corruption of the police and the judicial system by organised crime syndicates was not stopped. "It has that political effect," he said.

Intelligence sources have told The Star - sister newspaper of the Cape Argus - that a police brigadier who retired last year is head of South Africa's biggest organised crime syndicate. His arrest is believed to be imminent.

The African National Congress claimed elements of the "old state machinery" were involved in such crimes as drug dealing, money laundering, car hijacking, taxi violence and other organised crime activities.

Some of the crime appeared to be deliberately engineered and politically motivated. Military precision and the coincidence of mass police resignations were some of the features which were common in the criminal actions. There were also clear links between South Africa and international syndicates.

Mr Mbeki said the motivation for crime had changed. Some criminals were not driven by mere greed but by a lack of commitment to a democratic South Africa.

"A person who sits and is not committed to the defence of democracy will be quite prepared to accept bribes, and that impacts on democracy. We're convinced that there's an element of that," Mr Mbeki said.

The ANC was concerned about the role of private security companies in crime and the number of police officers who left the service to join them.

Former Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) operatives moved to private security

companies where they could continue with "third force activities".

He said that according to intelligence information, a group of criminals belonging to a foreign car hijacking syndicate had entered the country as tourists and within a week obtained South African identity documents and passports.

"Before hijacking their first car they had the false registration plates," Mr Mbeki said.

Commercial crime such as evading border controls and theft of containers had an impact on local manufacturers because goods smuggled into the country without payment of customs duties were being sold at low prices.

A bill proposing tighter government and civilian control of private security companies has been tabled before Parliament's safety and security committee.

Mr Mbeki said the Government's measures to counter crime syndicates included establishment of an integrated database with interacting information systems.

Millions of rands had been budgeted within the National Crime Prevention Strategy to install the new system.

He said a sub-committee of the ANC's national executive committee was looking at ways of getting branches to be involved in campaigns to combat crime.

He was also keen to improve the capacity of anti-corruption units in the police services, correctional services and the justice system.

There was a need for greater co-ordination among ministries.

Joseph Ngobeni, a spokesman for Commissioner George Fivaz, said the successes of the police anti-corruption unit indicated that the service was intent on getting rid of corrupt police officials.

He would not comment on claims that former policemen were involved in organised crime.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's spokesman, Maxwell Mulaudzi, also declined comment.

Former policemen said to have (34) links with international syndicates

By JOVIAL RANTAO
AND ANSO THOM

Security elements from the former government were involved in organised crime syndicates which had the capacity to collapse the criminal-justice system and undermine South Africa's new democracy, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

He warned that SA's democracy could disintegrate if the corruption of the police and the judicial system by crime syndicates was not stopped.

Intelligence sources have told The Star a high-ranking police officer who retired last year was head of SA's biggest crime syndicate. His arrest is believed to be imminent.

The ANC said elements from the "old state machinery" were involved in drug dealing, money laundering, car hijacking, taxi violence and other crime syndicates.

The organisation said some crime appeared to be politically motivated. Military precision and the coincidence of mass police resignations were some of the features common in the criminal actions. There were also clear links between SA and international syndicates.

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He said the ANC was concerned about the role of private security companies in crime

and the number of police officers who left the force to join them. Mbeki said former Civil Co-operation Bureau operatives moved to private security companies where they could continue third-force activities.

A bill proposing tighter Government and civilian control of private security companies has been tabled before Parliament's safety and security committee. It is expected to be tabled before the end of the year.

Mbeki said the Government's measures to counter the activities of crime syndicates included the establishment of a database. Millions of rands have been budgeted within the National Crime Prevention Strategy to install the system.

He said a sub-committee of the ANC's national executive committee was looking at ways of getting ANC branches to be involved in campaigns to combat crime.

He said according to intelligence information, a group of criminals belonging to a foreign car-hijacking syndicate entered the country as tourists and within a week managed to obtain identity documents and passports.

"Before hijacking their first car they had the false registration plates," Mbeki said.

Joseph Ngobeni, who is the spokesman for Police Commissioner George Fivaz, said the successes of the police anti-corruption unit indicated that the service was intent on getting rid of corrupt police officials.

Old guard accused of

organised crime

Organised crime a threat to SA — Mbeki

BD 15/7/97

(24)

Stephen Laufer

THE corruption of the criminal justice system by domestic and international organised crime could lead to a collapse of SA's democratic system and negatively affect economic growth if not stopped soon, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

Mbeki said the African National Congress' (ANC's) national executive committee meeting at the weekend had discussed crime and failings of the police, judiciary and prisons service at length. There was concern that former security force members had moved into private security firms and might be continuing third-force activity aimed at destabilising SA.

There were connections between ordinary criminals, people previously and currently inside the state system, and criminals from outside SA. A gang of foreigners on tourist visas had received SA identity documents within a week before stealing cars.

ANC acting secretary-general Cheryl Carolus said "elements from the old state machinery" were involved in drug dealing, car hijacking and taxi violence. Some actions appeared to be politically motivated.

Mbeki said the executive had stressed the need for greater co-ordination between ministries, including an advanced information system to link police, courts and prisons.

Safety and Security Minister Syd-

ney Mufamadi had stressed the need to expand anticorruption measures to focus on prosecutors, magistrates and prison warders. The executive's subcommittee on safety and security had been instructed to mobilise ANC branches to work with police.

On the peace moves in KwaZulu-Natal, Mbeki said there had been agreement that amnesty proposals had to be discussed "within the truth commission process". There had never been specific proposals to offer Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi a deputy presidency, but there was a belief that he had to be engaged at national level on peace moves.

Picture: Page 2

Security firms may be off limits to ex-forces men

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARLT 16/7/97

Durban - Policemen, soldiers and intelligence officers who resign could soon be prevented by law from joining private security companies - as part of the Government's crackdown on lawlessness.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has alleged that security elements from the former government are involved in organised crime syndicates.

The Government was concerned about the role of private security companies in crime, and the number of policemen, soldiers and intelligence officers who had resigned and were now working for private security firms, he said.

A bill proposing tighter government and civilian control of private security companies is to go before the National Assembly's safety and security committee later this year.

ANC MP Luwellyn Landers said there was a need for a cooling-off period of about five years for resigning policemen, soldiers and intelligence officers.

"We have been concerned for some time about the role played by former security force members in crime.

"There has been a proliferation of private companies established by these men. There is clear evidence that some are

involved in crime and criminal activity."

Mr Landers said there had been consultation on how to deal with this problem and there was broad consensus among lawmakers and cabinet ministers that a "cooling off" period of about five years should be imposed upon people leaving the intelligence and security forces.

During this period they would not be able to work in the private security network.

Mr Landers said this was necessary "because of the sensitivity of information they had and their knowledge of methods used by the security forces".

Industry sources saw problems with the pending legislation. For most policemen and soldiers, the only move they could make was into a private security company, a security source said.

Many serving officers did not see themselves progressing in the forces in the current circumstances.

The security officers' board has still to respond formally.

Dave Marshall, chief executive of Business Against Crime, said unless the Government had a no-nonsense, zero tolerance approach to crime, it would struggle politically. The organisation was busy with a bottom-up approach to mobilise communities into a partnership with the authorities to deal with crime.

Telkom scraps controversial tender

Lesley Stones

TELKOM has scrapped the controversial R100m tender for the creation of a national value-added network which caused a furore in the information technology industry last month when it was claimed it was written to favour a specific vendor.

Several major companies refused to bid because they felt only the "favoured" one could win the deal.

Although Telkom vigorously denied the allegations, the Competition Board investigated the alleged bias in favour of Newbridge Networks. But board chairman Pierre Brooks said little progress could be made as no vendors would risk publicly criticising Telkom, a major buyer of technology.

Telkom halted the Enterprise Net-

work Service tender in June, which proposed heavy capital expenditure on a network to supply advanced communications services to business customers and to improve basic service delivery. It said its equity partners, SBC and Telekom Malaysia, were reassessing the project.

Now the tender had been dropped completely. Telkom's executive for market strategy and business development, Blackie Lahoud, confirmed this yesterday. "The reason is, our partners are going to redesign the whole network," he said.

When the tender was halted in June, Lahoud said Telkom realised no single company could meet all its demands. Parts of the tender were likely to be issued separately, he said. But yesterday he said the tender had been

scrapped entirely, and no sections would be hived off.

Initially Telkom said its equity partners had co-operated fully in the tender. That was seemingly contradicted later by confirmation that the partners were taking a closer look.

Lahoud said development of the Enterprise Network Service network was unlikely for some time as the equity partners reassessed the network and related investments.

Letters announcing that the contract had been dropped had been sent to the short-listed companies.

Three consortiums were short-listed. Newbridge Networks bided in partnership with Siemens and Q Data, black empowerment organisation Cein bided with Cisco Systems, and Alcatel led a consortium as the third bidder.

'Adopt a court' plan to aid anticrime bid

Pearl Sebolao

BUSINESS Against Crime has launched a campaign to get businesses to "adopt" and sponsor law courts and the attorney-general's office, and has pledged money and resources to help upgrade courts to bolster the fight against crime.

Business Against Crime director David Gordon said after meeting Justice Minister Dullah Omar yesterday the initiative would include revamping the courts to make them more user-friendly. His organisation would provide assistance in the form of computers and training, security for staff and visitors, and making extra space available for prosecutors to use for interview purposes.

"We will assist in any way we can,"

Gordon said.

A task team, consisting of Business Against Crime representatives, the justice department and the attorney-general's office had been appointed to conduct a needs assessment in order to match available resources and requirements, he said.

"The aim is to get business organisations to adopt and sponsor the courts and the attorney-general's offices, and we hope that in due course we will find sponsors for each and every one of them," Gordon said.

Several sponsors, including Rotary clubs and the SA Chamber of Business, had shown an interest, he said.

Business Against Crime legal adviser Lorinda Nel said the Johannesburg and Pretoria magistrate's offices and attorney-general's offices had been

chosen to pilot the project before implementing it countrywide. A sponsor for the Johannesburg magistrate's offices had been identified, but the deal still had to be confirmed.

The task team would meet on Thursday next week to look at the adoption of the Johannesburg magistrate's court, and the kind of help that would be provided.

Business Against Crime was also working on a computer system which would incorporate all four pillars of the criminal justice system — the police, justice departments, correctional services and the welfare services.

This would enable the justice department to access dockets on the computer, and to trace the records of suspects from the time of arrest until parole, she said.

Tackling street crime top priority, says UK team of policing experts

Stephans Bothma

Bd 19/12/97

PRETORIA — The major priority of the SA Police Service (SAPS) should be to address street crime to make people in SA feel safe on the streets and in their homes, a three-man UK police team has recommended.

The standards and methods of police training should also be looked at, starting with uplifting the skills of trainers with international aid, UK deputy chief constable David Thursfield said yesterday. It was not the number of police officers deployed that mattered, but their level of training.

Thursfield and two colleagues have been on a three-week visit to SA as part of an agreement between former UK Prime Minister John Major and President Nelson Mandela to co-operate on policing matters.

Recommendations made by the team will be studied and investigated by police commissioner George Fivaz and police secretary Azhar Cachalia.

Looking at the issue professionally, the SAPS has made great, positive strides in recent years, but we do not underestimate the task ahead," Thursfield said during a news briefing.

Although a police agency within a democracy should guard against killing crime at the expense of human rights, there was no alternative in the short-term but to meet fire with fire, he said.

Asked what he thought was the police service's most important task, Thursfield said his priority would be street crime. "The most pressing thing is that South Africans feel less safe on the streets and in their homes than they deserve to," he said.

He said the most important aspect of policing was to get the community involved. Policing with public consent had been the secret of the UK's success and why UK police could patrol the streets unarmed.

Thursfield said the SAPS should look at devolving responsibilities. Different problems occurred in different parts of SA; thus money should be spent and decisions taken close to the problem, not at national level.

Sapa reports that about 650 members of the British Royal Marines 40 Commando and elements of the Dutch Marine Corps will join SA National Defence Force members in the Northern Cape today for a month-long military training exercise in SA, the defence minister said yesterday.



Police commissioner George Fivaz, right, and Security and Safety secretary Azhar Cachalia, second left, introduce British policemen who have made recommendations on improving SAs force.—Det-Inspl Ian Clerk, left, and Deputy Chief Const David Thursfield. Picture: CATRY PNNOCK

Crime 'not as bad as public thinks'

(34)
The crime problem in South Africa is probably not as bad as the public believes, British police adviser David Thursfield said here on Wednesday.

Thursfield, deputy chief constable of the West Mercia force in the Midlands, told a press conference in Pretoria yesterday that the belief the nation is under siege from crime is "possibly more a perception than a reality".

Thursfield, who has led a police team from Britain over the past three weeks to advise the local force, said police had made tremendous progress in the past few years.

"There is a perception, perhaps, that things are going the wrong way," he said.

"Looking professionally at the way the SAPS is developing, that is not my view. Rather the contrary."

Thursfield said he and his team had been in the country

for three weeks. "We have barely been shouted at in that time, let alone been the victims of crime. So all is not lost.

"It is not much different anywhere else."

Thursfield's visit comes at a time when police morale has hit a low ebb, with some 33 000 officers having left the force between 1991 and 1996.

Many others have been involved in various crimes, including armed robbery, corruption, murder and hijackings. Since 1996, 233 have been convicted of murder.

Thursfield said police had urgently to concentrate on street crime. "People in South Africa feel less safe on the streets and in their homes than they really deserve to."

He said about 80% of all crime was committed by only 5% of the population.

"So we must concentrate on those 5% and there'll be re-

sults."

South Africa should seek international assistance to modernise its training methods, he added. While training facilities were fine, methods were sometimes outdated.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz told the conference that one of the most difficult problems facing the SAPS was the influx of illegal firearms into the country.

Unlike Britain, a total ban on firearms was not the solution, he said, adding: "We must first get proper control over the incoming illegal firearms into our country, and have proper control over the loss of legal firearms."

Accepting a report from Thursfield, Fivaz thanked the team for their visit to South Africa, saying they had been critical of the SAPS while also giving praise where it was deserved. - AFP.

Star 17/9/97

'Adopt a court' plan to aid anticrime bid

Pearl Sebolao

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Safety minister's crime review

By Pamela Dube
Political Reporter

INTERNATIONALLY ORGANISED crime has taken root in South Africa – and at the core of its operations are present and former members of the state intelligence and security structures.

These startling revelations were made this week by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and supported by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

At an African National Congress briefing on Monday, Mbeki said some crime syndicates were under the leadership of former security force members.

He said these syndicates mainly carried out serious and dangerous crimes like drug trafficking, car hijacking and bank robberies. He also said some private security companies were not necessarily in the business of protection but were behind some of the international crime syndicates.

Destroy democracy

Mbeki warned that these syndicates have the capacity to ensure the collapse of the criminal justice system and could destroy the country's new-found democracy.

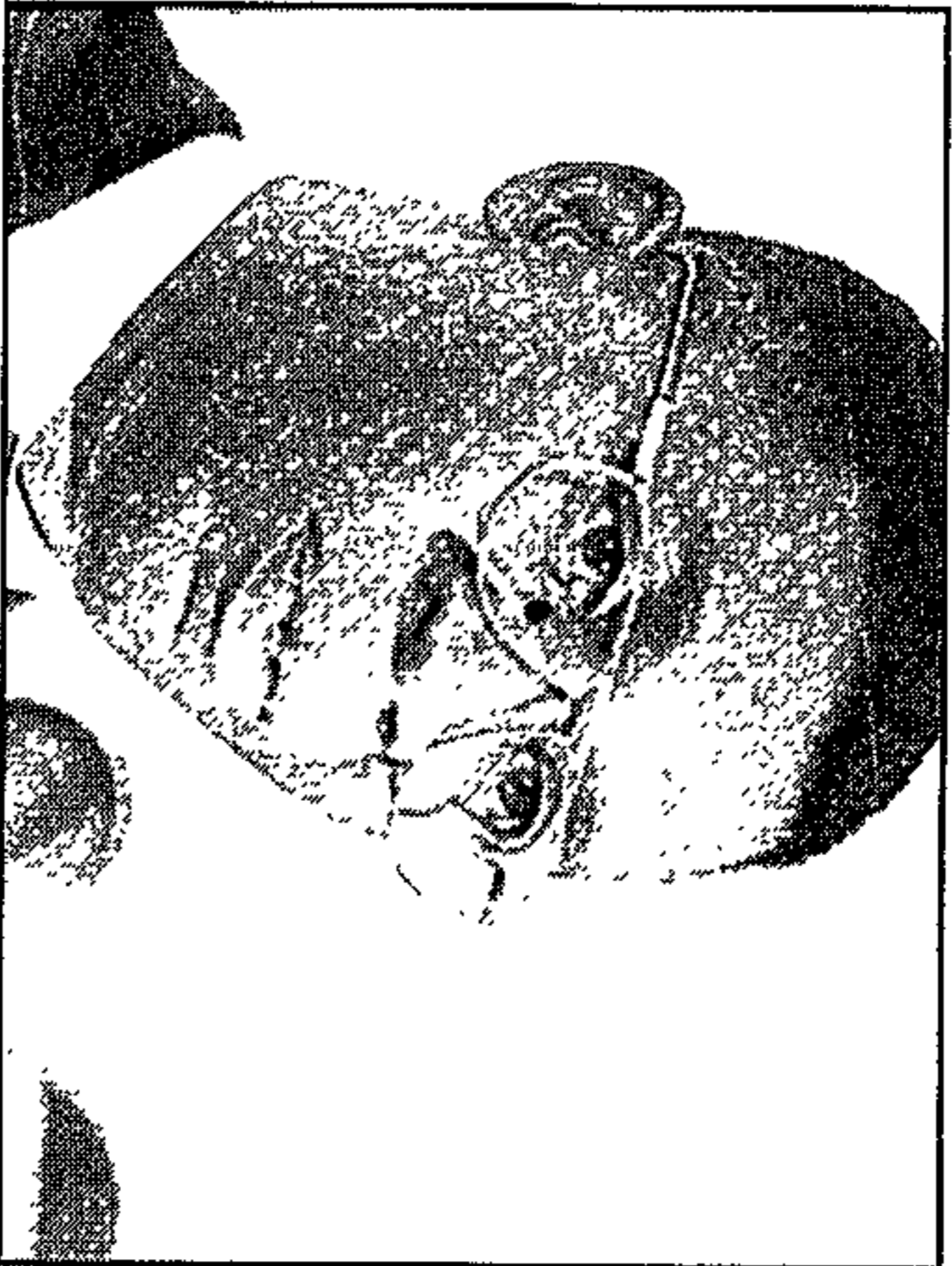
In support of Mbeki's claims, Mufamadi painted an even more gloomy and scary picture on Wednesday at another ANC Press briefing.

From the moment they arrive in South Africa, he said, transnational crime syndicates received assistance from government officials to establish themselves.

When they arrive at South Africa's borders – which Mufamadi conceded have serious flaws – foreign criminals pass through without much difficulty.

Within a few days inside the country, foreign criminal syndicates then acquire the necessary documentation – South African passports and identity documents.

Mufamadi says some Govt officials help international crime syndicates



Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi ... the Government has not lost the war on crime.

"Who provides them? Government officials," Mufamadi said. In order to make contact with government officials to get access to these documents, he argued, foreign syndicates need assistance.

In his view, people with access to that kind of information were officials in state intelligence structures. And the intelligence officers with such information were those who used such structures in the past – intelligence networks of the previous National Party government.

He cited the case of former Vlakplaas head Eugene de Kock, who stated in his court submission that the security police used to organise false passports for cross-border raids.

Mufamadi argued that the state networks used by the security police were still operational, and were now being used to facilitate the production of false documents for foreign crime syndicates.

After foreign syndicates arrive in the country, Mufamadi said, the logical move was to establish contact with their local counterparts. To avoid com-

petition, they either co-opt local syndicates or neutralise them.

Foreign syndicates also need intelligence to gain access to information on areas of operation and location. Once more, Mufamadi said, the intelligence operators were at their service.

Safe haven

"They (foreigners) are working in cahoots with local elements. How do they come to know each other? It's only people with proper knowledge of such operations who can provide such information," he said.

International syndicates based in South Africa have a broader network in the southern African states and the continent as a whole, Mufamadi said, and therefore find South Africa a safe haven to operate from.

It was logical for those involved in vehicle theft rackets to establish their business here because South Africa has more vehicle-manufacturing and assembly plants than any other country on the continent. And their market was not necessar-

(34)

Source: 18/7/97

ily local. In most cases, vehicles stolen in South Africa find their way into neighbouring states, Mufamadi said.

In January, with the cooperation of police in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, the South African Police Service managed to retrieve 1 500 stolen cars originating from South Africa.

Some of the vehicles were still in their original state, with the same registration plates. "The obvious question is: how did these cars find their way into these countries?"

His assessment was that the syndicates have state officials on their pay-rolls on the borders of South Africa and other neighbouring states.

Serious flaws in South Africa's border controls facilitate the easy passage of illegal goods like drugs into and out of the country.

This problem has its roots in the previous apartheid system, Mufamadi said. As was the case with the security forces, immigration officers at border controls "thought their job was to fight so-called terrorists".

During the multiparty negotiations before the 1994 elections, however, immigration officials "relaxed and forgot that it was time to do proper border controls".

Mufamadi added that some border control officials "do not pay allegiance to the new dispensation. Surely these officers must be corruptible?"

He also pointed out that networks used by criminal elements functioned even before the ANC came to power. "These networks may have been dormant for some time but the whole chain is being activated now."

He also claimed that syndicates used local military-trained personnel in violent crimes.

"It's not surprising that bank robberies and murders in the taxi industry are carried out with military precision. These are not the acts of ordinary criminals." The integration of all military for-

mations into the new defence force also left many trained soldiers – from both the former South African Defence Force and the liberation forces – unemployed.

After integration, some SADF officers took retrenchment packages as well. Mufamadi believes some of them have joined the ranks of criminal syndicates.

In the past, some serving soldiers and police officers have been arrested in connection with bank robberies. "This suggests that elements in the security establishments are aiding and abetting criminals."

The country's new government's suspect that there is a political programme, using crime syndicates, which is aimed at destabilising the newly-established democracy.

Dangerous impression

Mufamadi claimed some opposition parties were also intent on ensuring that the ANC government failed to combat crime. He warned that it was dangerous to create the impression that South Africa was a crime haven: "It can easily erode people's confidence in the democratic process."

And, he feels, the impression given by parties that violent crime was only a South African phenomenon was off the mark as it was also a serious threat to the international community.

But Mufamadi stressed that the ANC government had not lost the war against crime. "It should not be assumed that we are powerless in the face of these syndicates."

In fact, Mufamadi said, a great number of police and intelligence officers were dedicated to their work. "We are beginning to get to grips with the problem and our police officers are becoming sophisticated enough to tackle the problem."

He warned the crime syndicates: "Perhaps we are not completely an ideal playground for transnational crime syndicates."

Medicine thefts of R1-bn rebound on taxpayers

By DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

More than R1-billion of taxpayers' money is lost annually to crime syndicates which specialise in the theft of medicines from state health institutions.

The South African Health Review has estimated that up to R1,6-billion of the country's R4,7-billion pharmaceutical industry's products did not reach their intended users last year.

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The review blamed poor control and management of resources for the large-scale pilfering of prescription drugs.

The real cost of medicines lost through theft cannot be determined as health officials categorise medicines in unit values and not by price. Those figures that are released are calculated at their tender prices, a fraction of their market price.

The thefts have resulted in an upsurge in "grey" (renamed

and packaged) medicines, which indirectly resulted in the closure of two major wholesale pharmaceutical companies and at least 50 pharmacies this year.

In a rare success against syndicates, one kingpin appeared in the Pretoria Regional Court yesterday and was fined R45 000 and received a suspended six-year jail term for possessing and dealing in stolen pharmaceuticals.

Private industry investiga-

tors are looking into the activities of several associated syndicates.

Sipho Kanyile (34), a former salesman for pharmaceutical company Smith & Nephew, was arrested in April last year in possession of medicines with a tender value of R160 000 stolen from state institutions around Gauteng.

Industry sources said gauging the exact cost of thefts was virtually impossible.

Tucked away behind the fading facade of a colonial-style fort in King William's Town, a high-powered team of investigators is stripping away official cover-ups to lay bare uncomfortable truths about corruption — past and present — in SA

Appointed four months ago by President Nelson Mandela, Judge Willem Heath's Special Investigation Unit — a national version of the successful Heath Commission in the Eastern Cape — is quietly, but ruthlessly, targeting corruption, maladministration and theft of State assets across the country.

Armed with formidable legal powers under the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act (1996), Heath and his 50-strong team have already scored some notable successes in uncovering malpractices where public money has been laundered, squandered or misappropriated.

Heath's unit resembles that of Eliot Ness's US Prohibition Bureau, the elite "Untouchables," which helped convict legendary Chicago gangster Al Capone on income tax evasion charges in 1931.

Like Ness, Heath knows his team is up against formidable odds.

"We are faced with a crisis — a national crisis. Our experience is that when we start an investigation, we often open a can of worms," says Heath, sitting in his King William's Town office, which is temporarily housed in the former SA embassy to the Ciskei building.

"Our investigations often show that, with the people involved and the nature of the cases and though millions of rand are recovered, this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have to accept the fact that SA has lost substantial assets over the years through corruption — and it is a continuing process."

In terms of his powers Heath can summon anyone to appear before the unit and compel them to answer questions. However, he can bring only civil, not criminal, charges.

Furthermore, with the authority of a magistrate or judge, unit members can enter and search premises and remove documentation on a reasonable suspicion that it would assist an investigation. The unit's cases are heard by a tribunal consisting of three judges.

Empowered to investigate allegations of corruption dating back to 1976, Heath is adamant that nobody in a position of authority should be spared. He points out that

no political party opposed the appointment of the unit. But, he adds, there may be instances when the spotlight will fall on those who granted the unit its extensive powers

"We have already trodden on a few toes. And it is unavoidable that it will happen again."

The unit has already homed in on some senior political figures. They include Bantu Holomisa, who is being investigated in connection with allegations that his homeland administration benefited from unauthorised salary increases before the 1994 election; former KaNgwane Chief Minister Enos Mabuza for alleged irregular property deals; Mpumalanga Safety & Security MEC Jabulani Mabona for a drivers licensing scam; and all the staff of the former Ciskei government's Auditor-General's office for self-awarded salary increases.

And more is to come

"The present lack of administrative and financial control by political heads of department is high on the priority list," Heath says. Areas under investigation include income tax avoidance, pension fund irregularities and the theft of cheques.

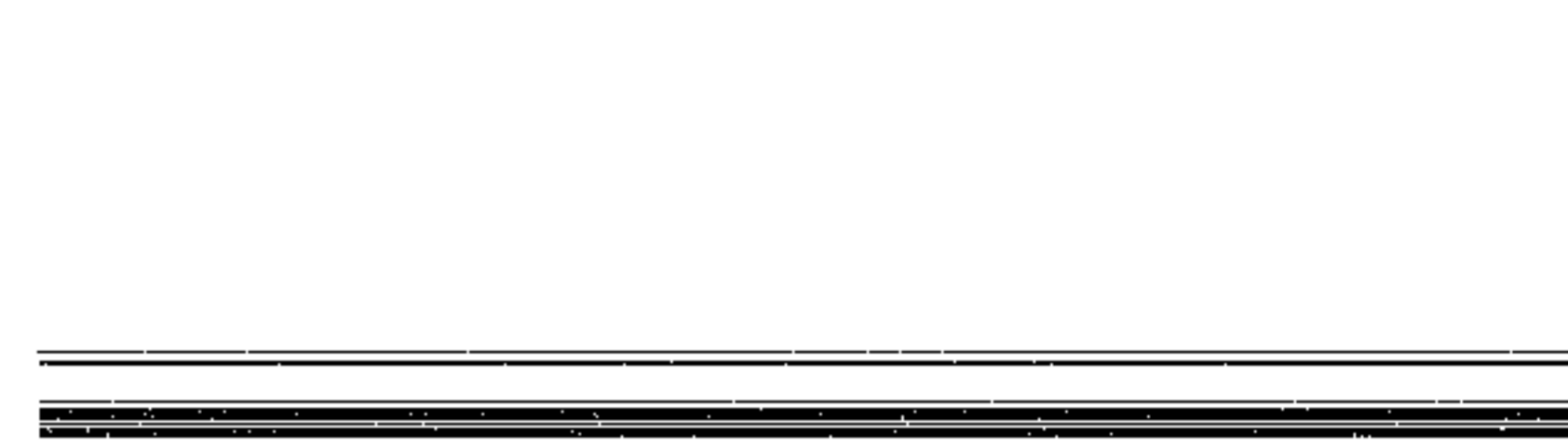
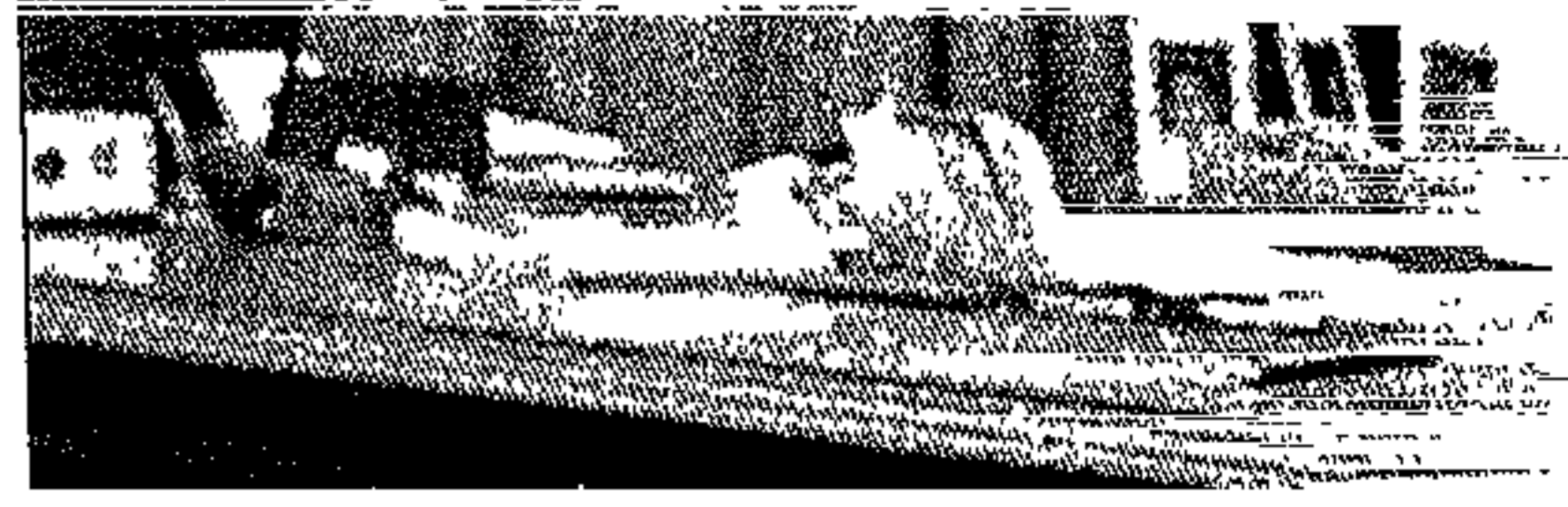
Heath is also attempting to unravel one of SA's best-kept secrets — allegations that former government officials transferred State money and assets out of the country. The probe to find stolen State assets could extend to Swiss bank accounts and Mediterranean villas bought with taxpayers' money.

The Heath team plans to use information systems linking it with about 20 institutions in SA — law enforcement agencies, the Deeds Office, the Registrar of Companies and financial institutions. In addition, cooperation agreements are to be negotiated with organisations involved in similar activities in the UK, US and Europe.

"In Germany and London there are similar bodies and we will also explore relationships with various House committees in the US Congress," says Heath.

"We hope to negotiate access to Swiss bank accounts if the need arises to investigate State money which may have been hidden in such accounts."

He stresses, however, that the unit has not yet uncovered hard evidence on State



Judge Willem Heath . . . hand-picked by Mandela to expose

CORRUPTION

No place long arm

SA's "Untouchables" close in on

assets moved illegally offshore. "We are dealing with the principle of State assets which have found their way out of the country. And we must be prepared to recover such assets."

Heath emphasises that ordinary citizens are not immune from investigation. However, his unit is focusing on corruption and maladministration among elected officials. He is determined that no government employees or elected office bearers at national, provincial or local level should be

We have to accept the fact that SA has lost substantial assets over the years through corruption — and it is a continuing process



corruption, maladministration and theft across the country

auditors complained that they could not get hold of the books, we assisted them through our special powers."

Unlike commissions of inquiry, the tribunal can recover State assets or monies found to have been misappropriated or unlawfully obtained.

"This is a civil action and the unit's legal team will present the case. However, detailed information obtained at the tribunal hearing or before such a hearing can be made available to prosecuting authorities for criminal proceedings. There are such cases pending."

Heath appears to be earning his keep. Even in Ness's terms the judge and his staff, assisted by lawyers and auditors, have done well. In just 18 months the team has recovered or saved R10bn from corruption, fraud and maladministration involving State assets.

But the unit is under siege. The judge points out that even the smaller Heath Commission — set up to investigate the loss of State funds and assets since 1976 in the Eastern Cape — found it impossible to fulfil its mission on the allocated budget of R1m.

The unit now has a much broader mandate and is expected to track down rogues nationwide.

Despite this, Heath has been given only R500 000/month from government since the unit's inception in April. His costs, however, have been much higher, including R850 000 in monthly salaries and the creation of a computerised database.

Heath has proposed a solution to the financial constraints but admits that his overtures to various government departments have had a lukewarm reception. "We will not sit back and allow negativity to bring the unit's work to a standstill," he says. "We are looking at sources and resources outside government circles to enable us to run the unit effectively."

He says the approach should be to run the unit on sound business principles. "If you have earned or generated a certain income, you should be able to use part of that income to become more efficient. We have generated an income for government — by saving or recovering funds involved in corruption — in excess of our budgetary requirements, and we approach government from that point of view. There are various examples of how government indirectly or directly benefited."

Heath is adamant that a scheme could be designed by financial experts in consul-

FM 25/7/97 (34)

to hide from the of Judge Heath

State asset swindlers — past and present

able to hide behind a cloak of officialdom if they fail to deliver on their responsibilities at the expense of the electorate.

In speeches he has warned elected councillors of local authorities that they could personally be held liable for financial losses incurred if they fail to collect rates and levies. The Act makes that clear, says Heath. Even Sandton's councillors could be held responsible if a High Court decision that rates must be paid is upheld.

"But we do not want to be seen as a

threatening body. We want to act constructively. In the case of local authorities in the old Transkei area we have had successful discussions on their failure to deliver for reasons of safety. We do not want people to risk their lives collecting levies or rates, so we offered to collect the amounts on their behalf."

A similar situation arose when Deputy President Thabo Mbeki launched his campaign to ensure local authorities' financial books were brought up to date. "When

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Public service corruption threatens SA's democracy'

Linda Ensor

BD 25/7/97

(34) (50)

CAPE TOWN — Widespread corruption in the public sector threatened to undermine SA's democracy, National Assembly speaker Frene Ginwala warned yesterday.

At the first meeting of the Association of Public Accounts Committees, Ginwala noted that an extensive network of corrupt officials in virtually all sectors of the public service were being exposed almost on a daily basis.

"Public servants have corrupted the system of welfare payments, the collection of revenue, and the disbursement of salaries and wages for their personal profit. There is widespread criminal behaviour in the law enforcement agencies and in the functioning of the criminal justice system. Public property, including drugs, medicines and equipment, is stolen regularly in the public health sector," Ginwala said.

Furthermore, the police service had to spend an inordinate amount of energy trying to stem corruption within its ranks, and so was unable to deal with the corruption in society, she said.

"It should not be a surprise that international drug syndicates and crime cartels moved in with relish to take advantage of our vulnerability."

It was not only in the public sector that corruption was rife. Ginwala noted that last year 55 000 cases of white collar crime had been reported, yet auditors had reported only five frauds or thefts. Moreover, shareholders and investors had lost over R1bn in collapsed companies over the past few years.

"Clearly those who are supposed to be the watchdogs against financial mismanagement are not willing or able

to adequately carry out their responsibilities to shareholders and the public, and there are calls for a reassessment of the profession," Ginwala said.

Deputy auditor-general Bertie Loots also warned that continued unauthorised expenditure by government departments was a time bomb which if "allowed to tick away, is going to explode". He called for the introduction of a regime which would include tighter sanctions, ranging from reprimands, adjustments to remuneration, to fines. Loots also highlighted the role of public accounts committees in demanding accountability from the executive.

State expenditure official Karel Hohls suggested that to tighten punitive sanctions against unauthorised expenditure, the report of the auditor-general should distinguish between unauthorised expenditure resulting from technical negligence and originating from undisciplined overspending.

Auditor-general Henri Kluever proposed that the power to impose fines, currently vested in the state, should revert to his office, as in the past.

Several members of the provincial public accounts committees noted that they were treated with a lack of seriousness, with official arrogance and a lack of understanding.

Ginwala emphasised the important role of the provincial and national public accounts committees in holding state departments and institutions financially accountable.

"If the institutions we have set up do not expose the actions of those indulging in unethical and corrupt behaviour, faith in those institutions and in democratic ideals will be undermined," she said.

NUM condemns killing of mine manager

Corruption puts us in peril, Parliament told

Police top list of offenders

ARG 26/7/97

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CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

As calls mount for strong action against public corruption and misspending, it has been disclosed in Parliament that more than 500 public servants have been fired in the past year for misconduct.

Forty have been transferred and 16 have had their salaries cut for the same reason, Public Service Minister, Zola Skweyiya said.

The disclosures coincided with a landmark conference of national and provincial parliamentary public accounts committees, where calls were made for steps against misspending of public money.

Auditor-General Henri Kluever told the conference his office, which depended on informers for a great deal of its information, had vowed to protect the confidentiality of these informers.

And the new Transparency International South Africa, which has high-powered political backing, called for a broad anti-corruption drive at all levels of government and private sector life.

One of the main aims of the anti-corruption strategy would be to provide back-up to "whistle-blowers", including psychological and legal counselling.

The organisation, which wants to extend its endeavours to other Southern African Development Community member states and the Organisation for African Unity, also proposes including corruption as an issue in the school curriculum.

Frene Ginwala, the Speaker of the National Assembly, warned that democracy in South Africa would be imperilled unless corruption was eradicated.

Dr Skweyiya, in a written reply to questions by Kobus Jordaan of the Democratic Party, furnished details of the misconduct in the past year which led to disciplining and firing of public servants.

The cases included 11 Home Affairs officials fired for fraud, corruption and unauthorised leave, three officials in Dr Skweyiya's own department, who were axed for misuse of state property, and an

employee of the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, who was transferred after being found to have committed fraud regarding the use of a car.

Four employees of the Central Statistical Service were discharged for offences ranging from absconding to misuse of government vehicles.

In two cases in the office of the president disciplinary hearings were to be conducted against staffers alleged to have concealed previous criminal convictions when filling in application forms to join the public service.

Dr Skweyiya's list also included Lilian Arrison, transferred after an offence listed as "gave interview to Hustler magazine without director-general's approval".

Five Department of Agriculture officials were fired for offences in terms of the Public Service Act and absconding.

Seventy-three employees of the Mpumalanga provincial administration were dismissed and three transferred.

Forty employees of the Kwazulu Natal provincial administration were fired for offences including theft of government funds, insubordination and drunkenness, as well as misappropriation of government vehicles and school funds.

Eleven Public Works employees had been fired after offences including indecent assault, making false statements in claiming home owners' allowances, theft and unauthorised use of government garage vehicles.

Eighteen Western Cape provincial employees were discharged for being absent from duty, misappropriation of state property and being guilty of criminal offences.

In the Department of Correctional Services, nine people were fired, 30 transferred and five had their salaries cut.

Ironically, by far the largest number of dismissals took place from the SA Police Service.

Three hundred and twenty-six police were dismissed and five had their salaries reduced.

A list of their offences was not given.

Southern Africa's top policemen seek ways to cut crime in region

LINDIZ VAN ZILLA

THE second annual conference of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) got under way in Sea Point yesterday.

The three-day conference is aimed at reducing crime on the sub-continent and is being attended by police chiefs from 11 Southern African countries.

The countries are South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A 12th country — Mauritius — has not yet been officially included.

Zambian police chief Inspector General Francis Ndhlovu, said: "SARPCCO has been ... given a mandate to reduce trans-border crime activities in our

region."

Specialist police training, intelligence-gathering and storage and joint operations between their police forces are among the issues to be discussed by the member countries.

As the host police chief, national police Commissioner George Fivaz was appointed SARPCCO chairman at the opening of the conference yesterday.

ST 29/7/97

Emphasising that "one cannot fight crime in isolation", Fivaz said it was imperative that crime be fought on a "practical and operational" basis between the countries of the region.

"Drugs, unlicensed firearms and car theft are all cross-border crimes and it is for this reason that we established SARPCCO," he said, adding that the organisation's primary focus would be

on "crime syndicates and organised crime."

Fivaz pointed to the four-nation operation — Voyager 4 — that had been launched at the beginning of this year to combat the spiralling incidence of cross-border car theft.

The operation had already recovered 1 576 vehicles with an estimated net value of R95 million, he said.

(34)

White-collar fraud soars to R15-bn

By SASHA JENSEN

Police fraud units and the Office for Serious Economic Offences are investigating white-collar fraud totalling more than R15-billion, it emerged yesterday.

Government departments have been particularly hard hit by the rash of fraud cases, the Fraud Forum, a private sector initiative to tackle white-collar crime, was told.

White-collar criminals have devised ways of siphoning off public money by falsifying government cheques and depositing them in hundreds of different accounts.

One syndicate was caught defrauding the Government by cashing false official cheques totalling R657 000 last month alone. And a provincial government has suffered losses of more than R900 000 this year.

In one private sector case,

an accountant allegedly defrauded a business of more than R1,5-million and is facing 109 charges.

The Star can disclose that a R3,8-billion loss due to fraud was reported to the South African Police Service's commercial crime unit (CCU) last year. And the Office for Serious Economic Offences is investigating fraud worth R12-billion, the agency confirmed last night.

Last year, 54 846 cases of commercial crime were reported to the police.

While commercial crime trends have not altered radically in the past three years, the amounts under investigation have quadrupled.

Due to mass resignations in the police service, taxpayers have been forced to hand over more than R4,5-million to forensic accountants who the police have had to hire.

The commissioner of the

CCU, Louis Esterhuizen, told the forum: "Fraud syndicates are becoming very clever and the public are suffering. We have a big task ahead of us."

Referring to the staff drain, Esterhuizen said: "What is difficult for us is the loss of expertise as people are taking packages and working with private firms."

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has issued a special memorandum to all CCU units stating that commercial crime is a priority.

At present there is only a 4,5% success rate in the CCU. The figure is connected to the number of completed investigations which are sitting on the attorney-general's desk.

Some cases are based on hundreds of files, and last week a truck was used to transport the files of just one case to the attorney-general's office.

South Africa fails the world corruption test

(34) (34)

Scandinavians have the cleanest hands

Star 1/8/97

South Africa was the 33rd most corrupt country out of 52 countries surveyed by Transparency International in 1997, according to a statement received in Johannesburg from its Berlin-based headquarters yesterday.

The TI said its corruption perception index (CPI) applied a ranking system designed so that countries perceived to be least corrupt were given the highest scores out of 10.

No country scored 10, but Denmark, Finland and Sweden (first, second and third respectively) had emerged in top place, while New Zealand (fourth) had slipped down from its 1996 position. And, for the second year running, Nigeria had emerged in the lowest position (52nd) and was perceived to be the most corrupt country of all those analysed.

Points awarded to some countries were: Denmark 9,94; Finland 9,48; Sweden 9,35; New

Zealand 9,23; Australia 8,86; United Kingdom 8,22; France 6,66; Italy 5,03; South Africa 4,95; China 2,88; Russia 2,27; and Nigeria 1,76.

The TI said the CPI, "issued at a time of growing public concern about corruption throughout the world", was based on seven international surveys of business people, political analysts and the general public. It reflected their perception of corruption in 52 countries.

German university economist Dr Johann Graf Lambsdorff, who developed the CPI, said only 52 countries qualified for inclusion in the index. This was because a minimum of four surveys were required.

"Given that there are almost 200 sovereign states in the world today, it is certain that there are many countries that may be perceived as even more corrupt than those listed on the CPI, but we do not have sufficient information to rank them all." - Sapa.

Corruption leaps in SA

MTG (BM) 17/8/97 (34)

South Africa's deteriorating position on an international corruption index reflects worsening perceptions of the country, reports

Ferial Haffajee

SOUTH AFRICA has dropped 10 places from last year in an international survey of corruption. The country was placed 33rd in a poll of 52 countries by Transparency International (TI), a corruption-tracking non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Germany.

Two years ago, South Africa was at 21st place and slipped two points to 23rd last year. But this year, the country scored 4.95 out of a total of 10 on the Corruption Perception Index. TI's survey is based on interviews with leaders of multinational corporations and measures their perceptions. Each country is assessed by at least four surveys carried out by international research organisations.

"The index is a measure of lost development opportunities," says Peter Eigen, the Berlin-based chair of TI. It is also a measure of the level of kickbacks, greased palms and other forms of graft in many countries. Because it measures the perceptions of the captains of international industry, it is their view on how corruptible a particular government is.

"It's a wake-up call," says Stiaan van der Merwe, the executive manager of the local chapter of TI, which was formed just two

'Is it because corruption is increasing [in South Africa] or because there is now more transparency?'

months ago. Next year, South Africa will hear a much louder wake-up call because Van der Merwe intends to track corruption across the private and NGO sectors too. "It takes two to

tango," he says, pointing out that kickbacks and bribes to government

officials are paid for by business. Van der Merwe adds: "Bribery becomes government subsidised."

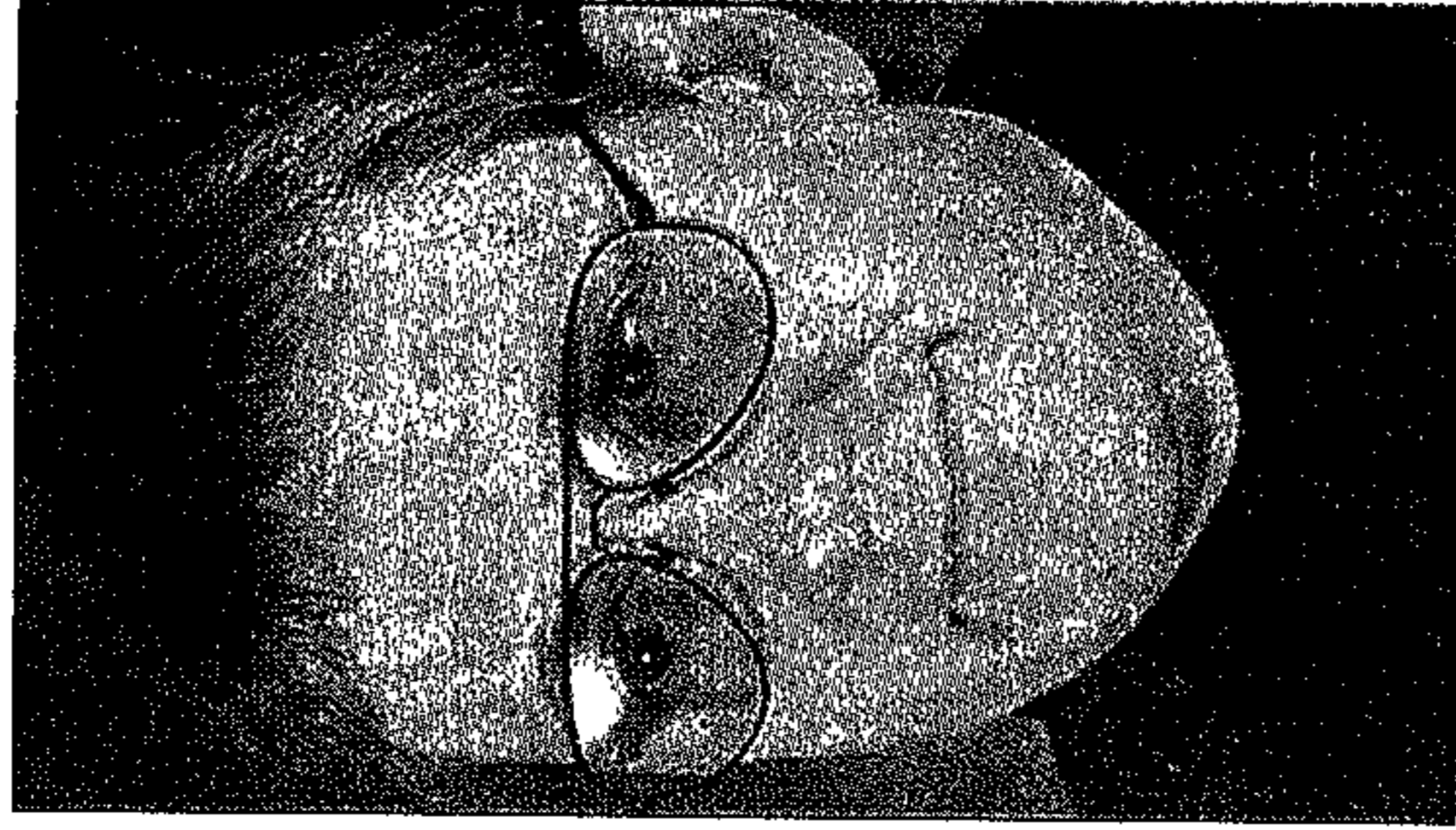
In the past few years, South Africa has had a number of multi-million-rand corruption scandals, ranging from Mbongeni Ngema's misuse of millions in Aids education money, to the gross

second highest on the index. "This

not," says Bertie Loots, the deputy auditor general, adding: "We need to work very hard to change these perceptions of corruption."

Loots says it's important to look at the degree of variance or disagreement between the different surveys. South Africa's rate, at 3.08%, is the

second highest on the index. "This



Stiaan van der Merwe: 'It's a wake-up call'

abuse of funds by the Independent Broadcasting Authority and consultant Eugene Nyati's life high on the hog in Mpumalanga. These and other scandals have been splashed across the media, both here and abroad. But dinner tables across the country also reverberate with smaller bits of gossip about kickbacks and open bribes like the one about the Mercedes Benz parked outside a senior government official's house with a tender document left inside. The car was for keeps; the tender was his to scrutinise and award if he saw fit.

Every day, the auditor general's office is bombarded with allegations of misspending and corruption. "We have to sift through what's real and what's not," says Bertie Loots, the deputy auditor general, adding: "We need to work very hard to change these perceptions of corruption."

Loots says it's important to look at the degree of variance or disagreement between the different surveys. South Africa's rate, at 3.08%, is the second highest on the index. "This

TI-corruption perception index 1997

Rank	Country	Score '97 (max 10)	Score '96 (max 10)
1	Denmark	9.94	9.33
2	Finland	9.48	9.05
3	Sweden	9.35	9.08
4	New Zealand	9.23	9.43
5	Canada	9.10	8.96
6	Netherlands	9.03	8.71
7	Norway	8.92	8.87
8	Australia	8.86	8.60
9	Singapore	8.66	8.80
10	Luxembourg	8.61	—
11	Switzerland	8.61	8.76
12	Ireland	8.28	8.45
13	Germany	8.23	8.27
14	United Kingdom	8.22	8.44
15	Israel	7.97	7.71
16	USA	7.61	7.66
17	Austria	7.61	7.59
18	Hong Kong	7.28	7.01
19	Portugal	6.97	6.53
20	France	6.66	6.96
and			
30	South Africa	4.95	5.68

seems to indicate that the country is on a knife-edge as far as corruption goes. It could go either way."

The Public Protector Selby Baqwa says that "corruption levels are unacceptable in the country" but he also questions whether South Africa really is more corrupt than before. "Is it because corruption is increasing or because there is more transparency now?"

South Africa also has more corruption watchdogs than ever before, among them the public protector, a new anti-corruption unit for the police service and the promise of agencies to deal with corporate crime.

But often they are underfunded and do not work together, duplicating each others' investigations and not really making an impact, says Baqwa, who will soon meet treasury officials to discuss additional funding.

His office is drowning under a deluge of cases and he now wants to set up provincial offices to improve their investigative capacity. "We need to establish a national integrity system and to network more effectively," says Van der Merwe. That could see South Africa clam-ber higher up next year's index. This year, Denmark was ranked number

one with a score of 9.94, with 10 the best result. It was followed by two other Scandinavian countries, Finland and Sweden.

South Africa is one of only two African countries listed. Nigeria was placed last, while South Africa is in the company of Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan and Uruguay, which all achieved similar scores. The index measures "grand corruption" — endemic and systemic graft — worth many millions of dollars to a country's economy. TI wants its index to become a reference tool for investors and wants them to consult it in the same way they would look at a country's inflation figures.

Eigen says: "Some governments rejected the implicit criticism [of the index] out of hand, others have acted on it ... A clear link has now been established between the level of corruption and foreign direct investment."

Ken Warren of the South African Chamber of Business says its perception is that the incidence of corruption is growing. But he also notes that while investors see crime as the biggest problem in South Africa, it is not yet a significant factor in their decision to invest here.

SA 'becoming more corrupt'

5/18/97

(34)

JOHANNESBURG: International business has a worse perception of official corruption in South Africa than a year ago, a new poll shows.

The country fell to 33rd place out of 52 in a clean-government poll, from 23rd place out of 54 countries covered in 1996, Transparency International, a non-governmental organisation with headquarters in Germany, said yesterday.

It gave South Africa a score of 4,95 out of 10 this year, compared with 5,68 last year.

"These figures represent a significant turn for the worse within this index, compared with the 1996 figures," the organisation's South African branch, TI-SA, said. — Reuter

Crime wave sparks big rush for guns

POLITICAL STAFF

ARG 1/8/97
South Africans are arming themselves to the teeth as crime reaches epidemic proportions.

Nearly 200 000 firearm licences were approved by the Central Firearms Registry last year, according to figures released yesterday by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

A further 14 000 applications for firearms were turned down, says a report handed to the minister by a committee

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that investigated the registry.

The ministry made the startling announcement that no assessment could be made of how many licences had been granted to people with criminal convictions, but it is believed to be about 20 000.

The report, drawn up by a committee of three senior police officers under the chairmanship of former Black Sash president Sheena Duncan, also shows that 12 470 individuals are in possession of 10 or more licensed firearms and 62 of them have between 50 and 648.

A statement from the ministry released by Mr Mufamadi's spokesman, Maxwell Malaudzi, said 13 879 applications to carry firearms were declined but 4 523 appeals out of 6 524 were successful last year. Altogether 195 639 licences were approved.

The committee indicated that the registry's computer system was inadequate and needed to be upgraded. Four police officials working for the registry had been investigated and dockets would be submitted to the attorney-general.

SA seen growing more corrupt, survey shows

Belinda Beresford

BD 1/8/97

INTERNATIONAL business perceived SA as more corrupt than it was a year ago, Transparency International's corruption index showed yesterday.

SA was ranked as the 33rd least corrupt out of 52 countries. Last year it was 23rd out of 54. Transparency International based the index on international surveys of businesses, the public and political analysts. The index gives a score between zero and 10, with 10 indicating an absence of corruption.

SA scored 4,95, slipping from 5,68 last year. Countries with similar rankings include Malaysia, Taiwan, Italy and Poland.

Denmark received the highest ranking with 9,94, followed by Finland and Sweden, with New Zealand in fourth place after leading last year.

Nigeria was again perceived as the most corrupt country with a score of 1,76. It was followed by Bolivia, Colombia and Russia.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said perceptions of corruption in government "could be higher because there is a lot more reportage than ever before. Stronger safeguards are in place and are working."

Business affected perceptions about SA, but this was an area where government had less control. Accountability regarding the ethics of parliamentarians was higher than before.

Transparency International chairman Peter Eigen said the index was a measure of lost opportunities since corruption deterred foreign investors.

However, it should be recognised that while developing countries tended to be ranked lower, much corruption was "the explicit product of multinational corporations".

Business Against Crime GM David Clephane said impressions of corruption were extremely important. "It is perceptions that affect foreign investment, and therefore I believe we should be taking them very seriously."

Sapa-AFP reports that a study by a Harvard professor showed a rise in corruption levels had the same effect on foreign investment as raising the marginal tax rate more than 20%.

Opposition parties back Omar's plan ⁽³⁴⁾

Warning from NP and DP

that results in the fight against

crime must be visible

Star 4/8/97

STAFF REPORTERS

Opposition parties are enthusiastic about Justice Minister Dullah Omar's plan to strengthen the justice system, but they warned that public sentiment could turn against him if concrete results were not forthcoming.

Omar's plan includes hiring 300 to 400 more prosecutors, 100 to 200 more magistrates, 400 to 500 administrative personnel, and building 72 extra regional courts.

He met with cabinet committees over the plan last week, where it was suggested that the new legislation be considered by the Cabinet.

Sheila Camerer, NP justice spokesman, said she was fully supportive of boosting Justice Department funds

"I've said repeatedly that the National Party will support Minister Omar in any attempt to strengthen the justice system - he needs to create the extra posts and he needs to fill them."

Camerer said the justice system needed to be improved "now or never" and if it did not achieve its goals, the NP would not support the next budget.

Justice spokesman for the Democratic Party, Douglas Gibson, said the party had been at the forefront of calls for the removal of bottlenecks in the criminal justice system.

He said the party "wholeheartedly supported" Omar's move.

"I wish to warn him, however, that there have been so many plans, strategies, campaigns and initiatives that have come to nothing and the Democratic Party and the people of

South Africa will be disgusted if the improvement that he has promised does not materialise."

Omar's spokesman Paul Setsetse said the minister's new plan came in the wake of the community's "crying for tougher laws regarding bail for perpetrators of violent crimes".

He said the current system was "not working very well" because perpetrators of violent crimes were being released on bail.

The minister had met with members of opposition political parties and had received their overwhelming support, Setsetse said.

But a Johannesburg prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said although the minister's plan would help to an extent, it would not solve the major problems in the ailing judicial system.

"We need a system which pays experienced prosecutors professional salaries so that there is a future for them," he said.

Last year 75% of prosecutors in the Johannesburg Regional Court resigned and they were replaced by people with less than six months' experience, "and we are not going to win any cases like that", he said.

Other major problems in courts, which needed to be addressed, were police dockets that went missing and interpreters continually striking, he said.

Omar's proposed R300-million a year programme would look at trying to improve prosecutors' salaries, Setsetse said.

Gun association scorns firearms commission claim

Thonille Ngqiyaza

CLAIMS by the central firearms commission that 20 000 convicted criminals owned licensed guns has been greeted with scepticism by a gun association, which says this figure included political figures who only had "criminal records" because of their fight against apartheid.

The Khuseleka Gun Owners' Association said some of the people included in the count were political figures who as a result of their activities against apartheid, had obtained "criminal records" which were still regarded as such by current statutes.

While admitting that the figures were un-audited, national secretary Calvin Stead said Khuseleka represented "several thousand" gun owners, 61 dealers and the four major wholesalers countrywide.

The central firearms commission report followed reports at the weekend that a government-appointed committee had proposed strict new gun control measures that could lead to private firearms throughout SA being confiscated and destroyed within a matter of years.

In an interview at the weekend, he said there was a need to define who was a criminal in the political sense and urged the

ministry to release the report in the interests of transparency so the industry and the public, who he said were not involved in its formulation, could verify the figures.

He cautioned against policies which would seek to ban outright the possession of firearms, saying the most desirable thing for SA would be to work for "a responsible gun ownership culture".

Stead vowed that responsible gun owners, gun owners' associations and dealers would fight "tooth and nail" every smoke-screen designed to ban gun ownership. The perception is developing that guns cause crime, and not people, he said.

Commenting on the type of gun popular with the buying public, Stead said most people bought what suited their pockets with 7,65mm handguns, the lowest priced firearm, being the most preferred and 9mm parabellums also being "fairly popular".

In another development, legal advisers for the Gauteng housing department denied that last Wednesday's judgment in the Dan Motokeng case meant less emphasis was placed on the owners of guns to safeguard their weapons.

A spokesman for the department's legal section said the law still required that a weapon be kept in a safe place or that "rea-

(34) BS 4/8/97

asonable steps be taken" to safeguard it. In the Motokeng case, the magistrate had ruled that reasonable steps had been taken to secure the weapon in that the doors had been locked and that a security system which would pick up an intruder had been installed.

The spokesman also said the magistrate had accepted Motokeng's contention that the gun had been in a handbag and that anyone in the house at the time of the search by the police and the security guards for the intruder, could have taken it out.

Kahn plans to take a simple approach to crime

BD 4/8/97

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — SAPS CE Meyer Kahn last week officially took up his position at police headquarters, where he will spend the next two years working on converting

the service into an effective crime prevention agency.

Kahn, seconded to government by SAB after a special request from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, earlier said he planned to keep

to a simple approach to direct and accelerate a turnaround in the SAPS.

He would start with reorganising the service's major assets, personnel, resources and motivational levels in the organisation, he said earlier.

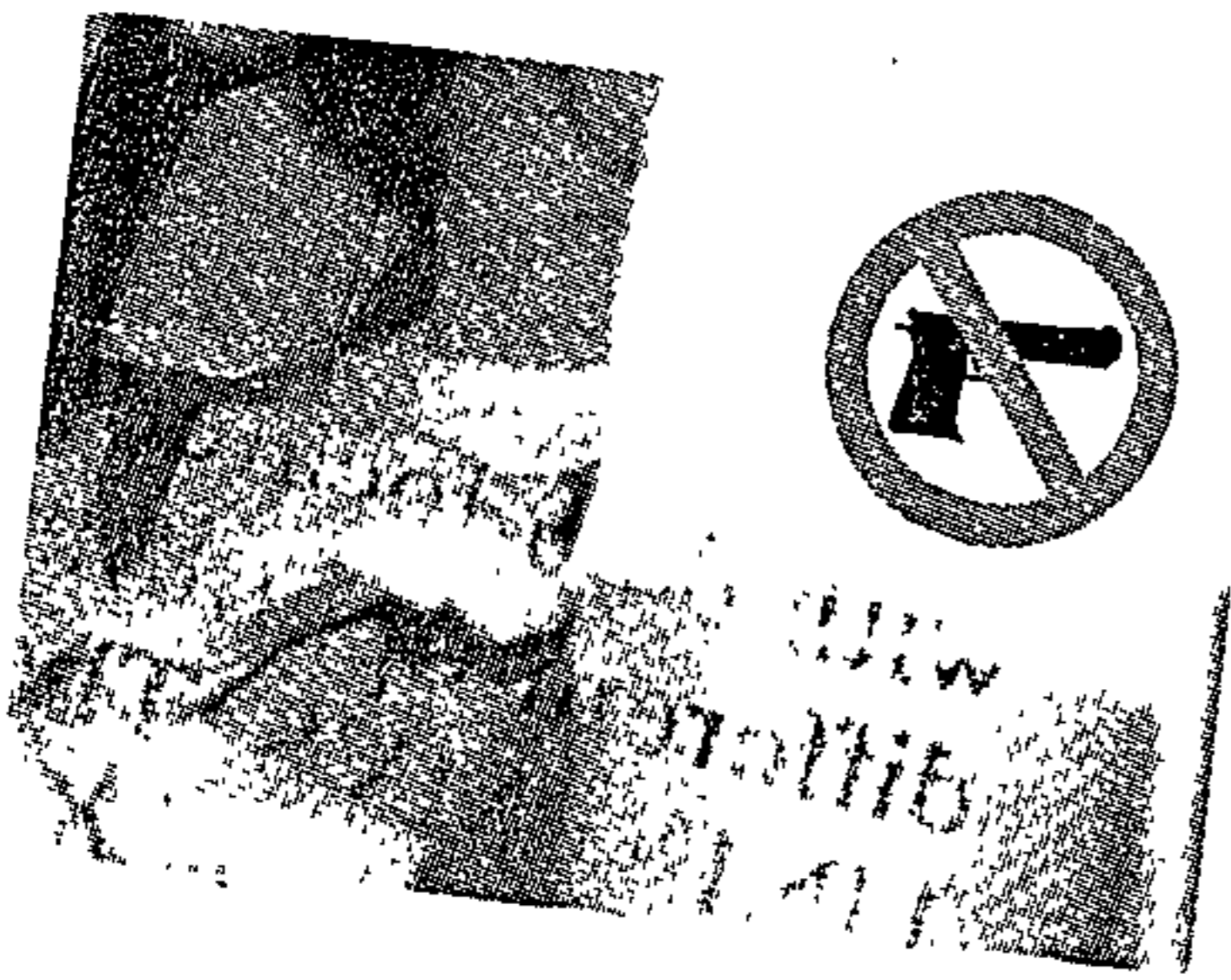
Kahn's office said he would not grant any media interviews or make any public speeches until much later this year or early next year.

However, on Thursday, before officially taking up his position, Kahn met SA Police Union representatives to discuss the union's five major issues in its wage demand. These are salary regrad-

ing, the R600m budget cut in the police medical aid fund, the shortage in the overtime budget, the reinstatement of extraordinary allowances and fair distribution of performance bonuses.

"What became clear was that although Khan was willing to do everything in his power to address these issues, he rightly said that he did not hold the purse strings of government," union vice-president Supt Arno Nel said after the meeting.

Nel again warned that unless government addressed wage demands, police might take part in protest action.



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Open War rages on Flats

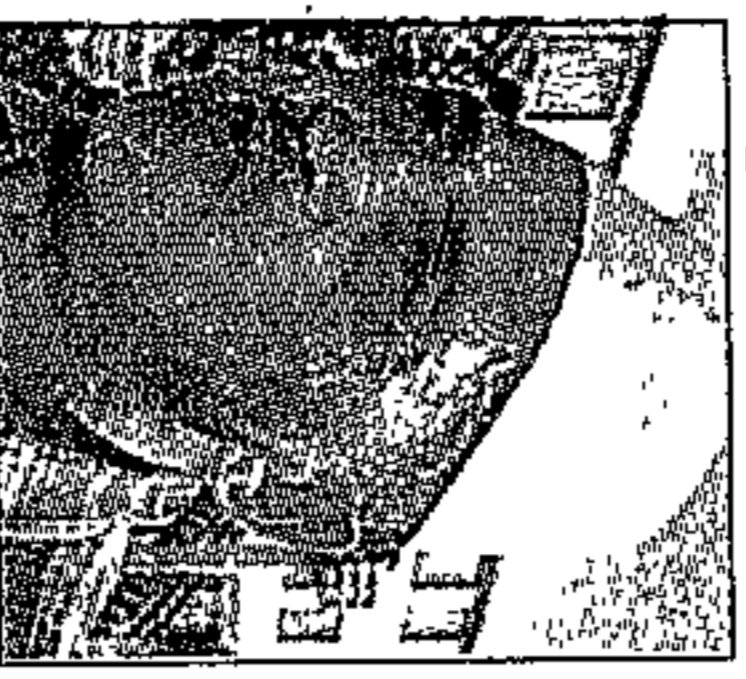
Man killed, houses attacked by gunmen

ASHLEY SMITH, LINDSAY BARNES, JOHAN SCHROEN, JERMANNE CRAIG AND JOSEPH ARAMES Staff Reporters

The long-feared war between Cape Flats gangsters and anti-crime campaigners erupted overnight with the killing of a man outside a Muslim business and several other attacks.

The home of a leading Hanover Park neighbourhood watch member was shot up and and a Mitchell's Plain house was petrol-bombed, allegedly by gangsters. And an alleged Kraaifontein drug dealer's house was attacked, allegedly by Pagad.

Under fire: Faldie Meyer of Hanover Park



Cape Flats residents were asking today how many more people had to die. One resident said: "This is getting bad. How many people still have to die on the Cape Flats before this bloody war is over?"

Rashied Martin, 42, of Surrey Estate, was shot dead as he stood at an automatic teller machine near the Primrose Café in Comet Road, Athlone, about 9pm.

The café is midway between the Gatesville Mosque, where Pagad meets regularly, and the Hard Livings gang's Manenberg stronghold.

Police spokesman Shorty Pistorius said the owner, Siraaj Parker, was lured out of the shop by gunmen, but "got suspicious and ran for his life".

Mr Martin, a bystander who was drawing money a few metres from the shop, was fatally wounded in the shooting that followed, he said.

Two Manenberg youths, aged 21 and 16, and a 42-year-old Mitchell's Plain woman were wounded and rushed to hospital. Mr Parker escaped by diving behind a car.

Abduraghiem Martin said his brother had no links with Pagad or gangsters.

Earlier this year Mr Parker was wounded in an attack on his Surrey Estate home.



LEON MILLER

Aftermath: police and bystanders converge on the scene where Surrey Estate resident Rashied Martin was shot dead

In the latest attack on neighbourhood watch members, the home of key Hanover Park watch member Faldie Meyer, whose photograph appeared in yesterday's Cape Argus, was riddled with bullets in a drive-by shooting early today. Police opened an attempted murder docket.

Three watch members have been killed and several wounded in a spate of attacks in the past four months.



Horrified: Hamona Morton and Abduraghiem Martin, whose brother died

"They are targeting people who are working for the community to eradicate crime. We are not Pagad, we are neighbourhood watch members," Mr Meyer said.

A petrol bomb was tossed into a house in Shackleton Street, Rocklands, last night, allegedly by gangsters, but no one was hurt. And in Scottsdale, Kraaifontein, a suspected drug dealer's stronghold in Klipfontein, was shot up and petrol-bombed

early today. Police said all three attacks were being investigated by detectives assigned to the "Pagad war".

Pagad today said gangsters were trying to create the perception that the anti-drug campaign was causing the war.

Spokesman Cassiem Parker said Pagad was ready to "defend the lives and properties of innocent people".

ARG 7/8/99

(3/11)

FBI to help beef up local law enforcement

B027 | 8 | 1977

(34)

Stephen Laufer

THE US government has posted representatives of four federal law enforcement agencies to SA to beef up cooperation in the fight against international crime syndicates and help with local training programmes.

Attached to the US embassy in Pretoria, the agents represent the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration, the US Customs Service, and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

With local police, the revenue service and home affairs, they will target international money laundering, drug trafficking, smuggling of goods, arms, endangered species and illegal aliens,

and other cross-border crime.

The agents will be responsible for liaising with the authorities in a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. They will be involved in training members of the SA Police Service (SAPS) and other enforcement agencies, help plan a local detectives' academy and identify candidates for leadership courses in the US. Two SAPS officers are to be invited to do the equivalent of a master's degree in law enforcement at the FBI's Quantico academy.

Experts said yesterday that SA had become a playground for international crime syndicates because entry barriers were low, communications and banking infrastructure were good, and control mechanisms were weak. SA

was behind the times in understanding the sophistication of Russian, Japanese, Italian, Nigerian, Latin American and other syndicates operating in and through the region, and which were "making hay while the sun shines".

International organised crime was "a threat to the security and sovereignty of nation states". There was a need to expedite laws preventing money laundering and providing for seizure of the proceeds of criminal activities.

The agents' postings to Pretoria follow the signing of a memorandum of understanding on law enforcement cooperation by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and US Vice-President Al Gore during a bilateral commission meeting last year.

When perception becomes the reality

FM 8/8/97
The Corruption Perception index

(34)

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In the latest of a series of depressing pronouncements on SA by foreign agencies, Transparency International (TI) says SA's score on its Corruption Perception index has deteriorated from 5,68 out of 10 last year to 4,95.

The index doesn't measure actual levels of corruption; it measures what people think. So SA's worsening image could just be a bad byproduct of good changes. Better transparency is exposing the ghost workers, kickbacks and consulting scandals.

But from the foreign investor's point of view that's irrelevant. The perceptions "may not always be a fair reflection on the state of affairs, but they are reality," says TI.

A recent study by Harvard's Shang-jin Wei, based on the 1996 index, establishes a clear link between levels of corruption and foreign direct investment (FDI).

Bribes act as a sort of tax on business. In 1996 Singapore's score was 5,5 points higher than Mexico's. Wei finds that difference to be the equivalent of raising the marginal tax rate by over 20%.

And a 1% rise in the marginal tax rate reduces inward FDI by about 5%. This implies that if Singapore lost 6 points, it could lose all its FDI.

One thing that emerged from SA's scoring was that respondents varied widely in their opinions.

A high average variance of 3,08 implies that 66% of SA's scores ranged between 3,3 and 6,8.

Hong Kong's variance was also high. TI suggests the reason in both cases could be insecurity about "future developments."

It's hard to identify trends

based on TI's research, which only goes back to 1995, but other historical data suggest perceptions of countries like Mexico, Poland and Portugal have improved, but those of China, Russia and SA have deteriorated (see chart).

The index is based on seven surveys by well-known bodies like Gallup International. Local and expatriate executives, staff and the public were polled.

PERCEIVED CORRUPTION

	1996	1988-1992	1980-1985
New Zealand (rank*: 1)	9,43	9,30	8,41
Sweden (3)	9,08	8,71	8,01
Canada (5)	8,96	8,97	8,41
Singapore (7)	8,80	9,16	8,41
UK (12)	8,44	8,26	8,01
US (15)	7,66	7,76	8,41
Portugal (22)	6,53	5,50	4,46
South Africa (23)	5,68	7,00	7,35
Poland (24)	5,57	5,20	3,64
Mexico (38)	3,30	2,23	1,87
Russia (48)	2,58	3,27	5,13
China (50)	2,43	4,73	5,13
Nigeria (54)	0,69	0,63	0,99

*OUT OF 54 COUNTRIES
SOURCE: TI & GÖTTINGEN UNIVERSITY

'GRAFT HIGHEST IN EAST CAPE'

Corruption costs R20bn — NP

CT 11/8/97
THE NATIONAL PARTY says corruption levels of up to R24 million in the Western Cape are "statistically insignificant" compared with provinces like the Eastern Cape. **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

CORRUPTION in South Africa cost taxpayers between R13,5 billion and R20bn over the past three years — and now threatened the institutional collapse of the public sector, the National Party claimed yesterday.

The NP claimed, according to a 375-page analysis of newspaper reports from July 1994 to June 1997 on national and provincial government, that corruption had "spiralled out of control" over the past three years — and had actually accelerated over the past year.

In the Western Cape corruption was found to range between R11 million and R24m over that period — "statistically insignificant" compared with the Eastern Cape's R1,4bn.

The NP initiative comes in the wake of a Transparency International corruption index which ranks South Africa the 33rd most corrupt of 52 countries polled.

The NP report said maladministration alone, during the first three years of ANC government, cost the country between R7,9bn and R10,6bn.

The findings were based on a computer analysis of 2 000 newspaper articles over three years, coding the reports into categories and then interpreting the data.

NP spokesman Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk said the figures could not be attributed solely to greater transparency under the current regime.

"This is not an ANC-bashing exercise — we have a huge problem in South Africa, things are going much worse now. It's between the citizens and the government," Van Schalkwyk said.

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said last night that the NP had not only tolerated but encouraged corruption "so that we inherited a civil service here and in the TBVC states, created by them, where corruption was rife".

He said the ANC recognised that corruption "was not a white issue. Corruption is non-racial — it can infect anyone and the (inherited) environment has infected people in several parts of the

country. It's like a cancer which we inherited — I think it's spread and has to stop."

Omar said he wanted to congratulate the NP for "becoming converts to the anti-corruption struggle".

He said the Heath Commission — once criticised as "draconian" — would be a vital anti-corruption instrument in creating "instant, summary probes", with special tribunals issuing corrective orders.

He would be meeting Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel this week to ensure Judge Heath was "properly equipped and adequately financed".

The NP report said fraud constituted the second most important form of overall corruption, involving between R5,5bn and R9,6bn. Corruption at a national level (excluding the provinces) involved between 75 000 and 102 790 people.

Besides threatening the collapse of the public sector, the current situation blackened the character of the state and tarnished South Africa's image, deterring foreign investors.

Recommendations about combating corruption were ignored in some provinces and the will to eradicate corruption was "largely absent in the leadership of provinces such as the Eastern Cape", the report concluded.

Corruption was more prevalent in the Eastern Cape (71 cases involving between R1,462bn and R2,728bn), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (54 cases involving between R1,152bn and R1,607bn), the Northern Province (25 cases involving between R174m and R652m).

The Free State had 48 cases involving between R103m and R222m, and Mpumalanga 37 cases involving between R34,5m and R88,5m.

The NP proposed that President Nelson Mandela declare the prevention of corruption a national priority, in the same category as crime.

It said that while there were individuals in the ANC government concerned about the problem, a general commitment to combat corruption was absent.

Illegals 'not criminals'

ET 14/8/97
OWN CORRESPONDENT

~~236~~
34

PRETORIA: Organised crime and illegal immigrants are not the main culprits in South Africa's escalating crime rate.

Dr Chris de Kock, director in charge of crime research at the police's National Crime Information Centre, said that although the estimated four million illegal immigrants had long been blamed for the escalating violence, it wasn't true.

A few immigrants were involved in taxi wars, he said, but most were illegally employed as cheap labour in legitimate industries.

De Kock also played down the role of organised crime syndicates, saying that although the syndicates were on the increase, they did not play a direct role.

"Yes, they do contribute by selling drugs and bringing weapons into the country but it is the moral position of the citizens of South Africa which does the damage."

A pilot study conducted over a four-day period in Hillbrow showed that 80% of all suspects arrested were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he said.

Only two percent of the 26 000 murders that occurred in South Africa every year were carried out by organised crime syndicates, he said.

Illegals to blame for joblessness?

CT 14/8/97

(25) (34)

CHERYL CHIPPS

IT IS widely claimed that unemployment ranks alongside crime as South Africa's greatest challenge. Indeed, some argue that until joblessness has been drastically reduced, crime will not.

But it is not at all clear just how large a problem unemployment actually is; those other bogeymen in the public's mind, illegal immigrants, may also have little to do with crime and unemployment. On the contrary, their participation in our economy may be irreplaceable.

A "significant proportion" of people who claim to be unemployed are in fact productively employed in the informal sector of the economy. This is according to a study conducted by the South African Institute of Race Relations. The preliminary results of the study are reported in the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the Institute.

The study questioned the validity of claimed unemployment after it found that the monthly personal expenditure of people who said they were unemployed was more or less at the same level as that of employed, low-level unskilled workers. Less than one fifth of the unemployed were living in dire poverty. Some 30% of coloured and 21% of African "unemployed" respondents to the study said that they were working in the informal sector, while the figure for Indian and white respondents was somewhat lower at 15%.

According to estimates by the Central Statistical Service, 1,74 million people (or 17% of the total number of people working) were involved in the informal sector, three quarters of whom were self-employed. The CSS estimated that the monthly contribution of the self-employed in the informal sector to gross domestic product was about R2,7 billion in 1995. According to the study, a number of the "officially unemployed" were not in the market for low-wage, labour-intensive job-creation schemes because of their earnings outside the formal sector.

At the same time, opinion polls indicate that most South Africans in all race groups regard illegal immigrants as the single greatest cause of unemployment. This despite the effects of the distortion of the economy over decades in pursuit of social engineering. But would South Africa's unemployed accept the jobs that immigrants are apparently happy to

take? It is not clear that they would.

The lowest wage (after deductions) that unemployed African respondents were prepared to accept for formal-wage employment was at an average of R756 a month. White respondents indicated that they would not accept a wage or salary below R1 434 a month. This is significantly higher than what is regarded as the kind of wage that should be paid in public unemployment relief programmes, and is close to the market-related wages paid for unskilled starting grades in many formal commercial and industrial sectors.

The study demonstrated that supporters of the ANC and the IFP were emphatic in blaming business self-interest for unemployment.

The majority of South Africans believed that trade union demands had a significant effect on unemployment and in creating inflexibility in the labour market.

Democratic Party, IFP, National Party and right-wing supporters endorsed this view strongly, as did African semi-skilled workers and people earning less than R600 a month.

Most of this country's unemployed are apparently not prepared to work at the same income levels as foreign workers, and the ... hostility towards [them] could be ... scapegoating.

Unemployed Africans, Indians and supporters of the Pan-Africanist Congress were the most inclined to disagree with this view. Some 53% of ANC supporters said that trade union pressure was at least partly to blame for unemployment. This is surprising considering the prominence of the Congress of South African Trade Unions within the ANC alliance. But if even the

non-unionised are not prepared to accept jobs at low wages, then who will take these on?

There is simply no convincing evidence to suggest that illegal immigrants are taking large numbers of jobs away from South Africans. The majority of this country's unemployed are apparently not prepared to work at the same income levels as foreign workers, and the perceived hostility towards foreign workers could, therefore, be a form of scapegoating rather than the result of competition for scarce jobs.

It appears that we have no choice but to rely on foreigners to carry the load of low-paying jobs if we are to enjoy economic growth.

Cheryl Chipps is a researcher at the South African Institute of Race Relations and a co-author of the 1996/97 South Africa Survey, released this week.

Specialists dispute corruption ranking

DD 14/8/97 (34) (3011)

Tim Cohen

LONDON — An emerging market specialist organisation has taken issue with a corruption poll published earlier this month which showed standards in SA were slipping.

However, in many ways, the Merchant International Group's analysis casts SA in a worse light than the poll published earlier this month by Germany-based Transparency International.

The Transparency International poll, based on responses of businesses and analysts, ranked SA 33rd out of 52 countries, down from 23rd out of 54 the year before. Nigeria, the only other African country polled, was worst.

Merchant International questioned the approach of the Transparency International survey, saying the subjective nature of opinion-based polls meant that it failed to distinguish the type and scale of corruption in each country.

Merchant International spokesman Peter Gore said his company tried to measure how problematic it was to do business in a country rather than only how much corruption existed.

Although there were dangers associated with corruption, a whole range of factors affected the success of investments, including terrorism, cultural idiosyncrasies, unfair market competition, vested interests and extortion, he said.

The company said this range of factors was quantified in what it called "grey area dynamics" which it then compared with a market consensus of a country's risk rating.

So how did SA measure up? SA's rating had decreased slightly from last year and it ranked alongside countries like India and the Philippines.

Gore warned that the two methods were not directly comparable. Several countries ranked well below SA in the Transparency International list were measured as better venues for business by Merchant International.

Gore listed both blue-collar and white-collar crime as SA's biggest problems, but said this did not mean that European companies were not interested in investing in SA.

Harsh sentences 'do not lower crime rate'

Wyndham Hartley

BD21/8/97

(34)

CAPE TOWN — Mandatory, heavy sentences for serious crimes being contemplated by government would not help to lower the crime rate, the chairman of the National Council on Correctional Services, Judge Gerald Kumleben, said yesterday.

Kumleben, in a presentation to the National Assembly's correctional services committee, said the belief that harsh sentences would bring down the crime rate was "largely an illusion unsupported by empirical evidence or history".

He said that harsh punishments, unless they were like the public amputation of the hands of thieves, did not work because criminals committed crimes in the belief that they would not be caught. He argued that, as in the case of car theft in the Western Cape, where only 10% of offenders were apprehended, the issue was detection and conviction and not the sentences handed down by the bench.

Kumleben said the minimum sentences as contemplated in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, at present before Parliament, embodied the popular but erroneous belief that harsh sentences halted crime.

The legislation at present before the justice committee commits the judiciary to impose 15-year sentences for first offences for serious crimes, followed by 20- and 25-year sentences for subsequent offences and allows judges discretion in imposing lesser sentences only if they offered their reasons in writing.

He also argued against life sentences that mean remaining in prison until death. While this would probably not pass muster with the constitution, Kumleben said that it removed any incentive for prisoners to behave themselves and not commit further murders. It would also involve the creation of geriatric prison units for holding prisoners who were of advanced years. The cost of this did not make sense.

The judge said there was a general misconception among the public that "lifers" did not spend that much time in prison. He pointed out that only under special circumstances did they achieve parole before they had served 20 years in prison. Last year of 19 cases referred to the council for consideration, only seven were recommended for early parole. This year the figures so far were two from seven applications.

Crime threat could soar out of control

(34)

Ncaba Hlophe

CT(BE) 22/8/97
Johannesburg — Commercial crime, which cost the South African economy more than R3,8 billion last year, could reach uncontrollable levels because Nigerian syndicates would gain ground over the next five years, Andre Pienaar, of the London-based Kroll Associates, said yesterday.

Addressing a seminar on corporate fraud, Pienaar said Nigerians already controlled 40 percent of the world heroin market and half the R211,05 billion drug industry.

He called for more co-ordination of strategies between the government and the business community to curb the "scourge" before it blew out of proportion within the next three to five years.

Flip Wolmerans, the senior superintendent of the police fraud division, said more than 14 000 commercial crime cases, involving more than R700 million, had been reported in the first three months at an average cost of over R50 000 a docket.

The study also indicated that South Africa's susceptibility to increasing fraud was the highest internationally because of a combination of economic pressures and weakening social values.

Graft is a corrosive threat to new democracy in SA, says DP leader

One of the greatest challenges facing SA is keeping corruption at bay, says Gauteng Democratic Party leader **Peter Leon**

ENTREPRENEURS and business people will largely determine whether SA becomes the Singapore or the Senegal of southern Africa. Does it succeed in creating wealth for everyone, and thus redistribute wealth through growth, or does it simply replace one élite with a new Afristocracy?

Although Singapore is hardly a model of constitutional democracy, that society has made the transition, in one generation, from a typically third world economy. It has achieved this without debilitating levels of corruption and crony capitalism. Singapore has largely done so because of the state's emphasis on discipline, education and competitiveness.

On Transparency International's latest corruption table, Singapore was the ninth least corrupt society in the world, while SA was 33rd, having slipped 10 places from last year.

It has recently been estimated corruption has cost SA between R13bn-R20bn since the present government came to power. Our prior history of homeland government probably dwarfs this sum considerably. The cost, though, is staggering, not just fiscally, but in the way corruption corrodes the moral fibre of our democracy.

Not only does corruption produce lost investment opportunities for a nation — a Harvard study has shown meaningful increase in corruption levels corre-

lates to a 20% increase in the marginal tax rate.

Commendably, government has established a permanent anti-corruption tribunal in the form of the Heath Commission, an independent complaints directorate and the institutions of the public protector and auditor-general.

In a commendable response to the auditor-general's recent revelation of a serious lack of budgetary controls in the Gauteng provincial government, Gauteng's able finance MEC Jabu Moleketi not only supported the auditor-general, but questioned the system where the public accounts committee could retrospectively authorise such expenditure.

However, the African National Congress (ANC) response to the Independent Broadcasting Authority affair is appalling. Corrupt commissioners have not only been permitted to resign on three months' paid notice, but two have now been invited to join a ministerial task team on broadcasting policy when their notice expires.

I am likewise appalled by the ANC's response in the matter of the Deputy Speaker of Parliament's forged driver's licence, as I am to their treatment of my convicted colleague Oupa Monareng of the ANC who — despite trying to bribe a policeman — remains a Gauteng legislature member.

The issue of corruption is vitally important to the future of our

embryonic democracy.

SA, like the Soviet Union, shares a common legacy of loosening repressive social controls in a transitional society which lacks a professional police service.

The results are all too obvious: rampant crime, public despair and increased emigration. Yet it is as well to remind ourselves where we were prior to 1990.

Our new society is, in truth, founded on accountability, responsiveness and openness which are thus foundational values of our constitution. For good reason: repressive societies not only avoid the truth, but try to manipulate it.

It fills me with hope that we have subscribed, at least constitutionally, to the conditions precedent for a stable democracy. We have, as remarkably, seen in the ANC a conversion from socialism to a mild European version of social democracy in under five years.

Having ceased to be Marxist-Leninist, we must assume that the ANC leadership does not emulate China and become market Leninist. So far, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has acted more like Carlos Menem than Deng Xiao Ping, but we will be watching.

□ This is an edited version of a speech delivered by Leon, who was standing in for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, at a function of the Young Presidents' Organisation in Sandton earlier this month.

BD 27/8/97

(34)

Benz chairman urges Mandela to act on crime

German investors wary

ARG 30/8/97 (34)

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Stuttgart - The chairman of Daimler-Benz, one of Europe's biggest corporations, has written to President Mandela expressing concern about the high crime rate, which has begun to turn away potential German investors.

Jurgen Schrempp, who is also chairman of the Southern Africa Initiative of German Business, told Mr Mandela that because Johannesburg was considered the gateway to investment in the sub-continent, the high crime rate in the city was a "hindrance to investment in southern Africa".

Mr Schrempp received a reply from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who assured the German business community that the Government was taking action.

Mr Mbeki specifically noted the appointment of SA Breweries chairman Meyer Kahn as chief executive officer of the SA Police Services as part of a new offensive against crime.

The letter from Mr Schrempp comes some months after German businessmen expressed concern about security in areas such as Gauteng. Their fears arose from the death in a hijacking attempt of a German businessman in Johannesburg. A survey found that half of German or German-affiliated companies operating in South Africa had been affected by crime in recent months.

A spokesman for Mr Schrempp, Josef Gorgels, said the Daimler-Benz chairman was hoping that the appointment of Mr Kahn would help turn the situation around.

Mr Gorgels said the crime situation in Johannesburg made SAFRI's task "a mission impossible".

"We are trying to mobilise investment and skills to Africa. Africa is practically unknown to the entrepreneur of medium size. The image of Africa is very bad. The present situation in Kenya and Congo makes our lives difficult. Every time you speak to investors they always agree with all the things you tell them. Then comes the question: 'What about security in Johannesburg?'"

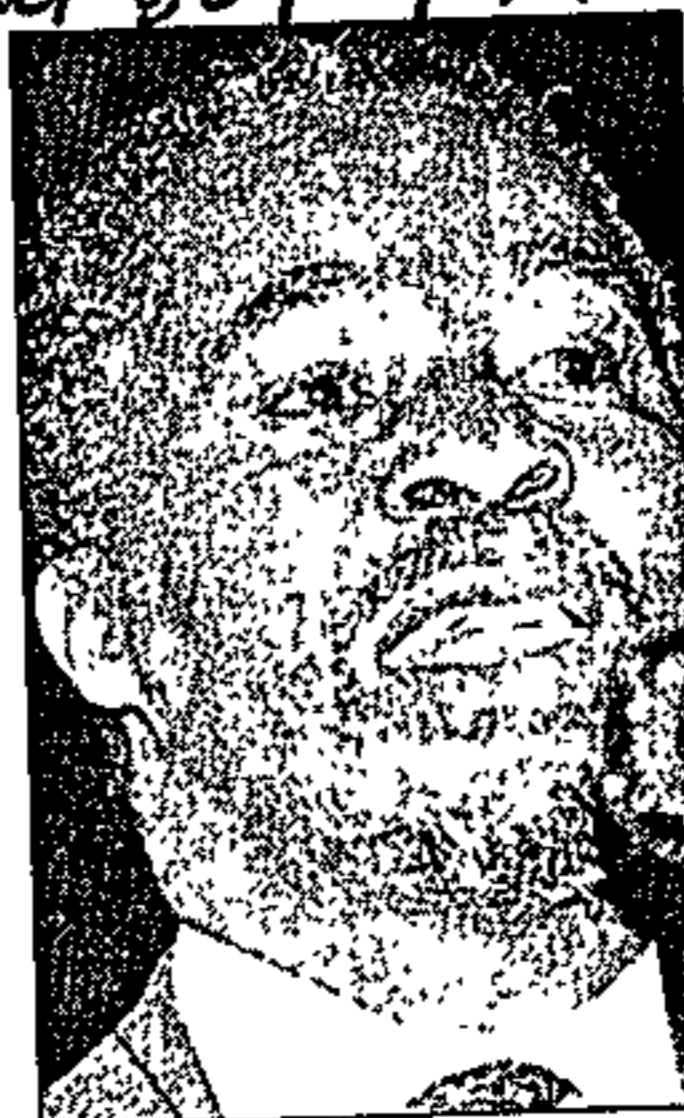
Mr Gorgels acknowledged there was "a distorted perception" of Africa in Germany.

"But remember we do not live on facts but perception. For South Africa this has reached a serious level."

Potential investors would have to take experts to Africa if they invested there but it was almost impossible to find a family who wanted to go to South Africa.

Mr Gorgels said a crime-infested city was worse than a war zone: "At least you know where the frontier is, but with this sort of crime there are no fronts, you cannot be safe anywhere."

The message of Mr Gorgels and Mr Schrempp was one the Saturday Argus heard repeatedly during a two-week visit to Germany sponsored by the



Thabo Mbeki



Meyer Kahn

German government. There was marked enthusiasm for doing business not only with South Africa, but also with the other countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

German government officials and businessmen said Pretoria should push the development of the SADC region into a common market of 140 million people, much like the European Community, which had been a major success over the past four decades.

"The message is to develop this common market. Many of the countries in the neighbouring countries are complaining that South Africa has maintained protectionist policies and that trade relations are tipped in favour of South Africa," said one businessman.

South Africa's lack of competitiveness, especially when measured up against other "high-wage" countries, was also cited as a drawback to investment.

Referring to international forums like the SADC, Mr Gorgels observed that "the situation changes as soon as South Africa leaves the room".

"There is like a club saying 'we helped them fight apartheid but they have forgotten us'."

"SADC should work hard and be stronger and work together in the global economy joint forces."

The Germans are pushing the line that the way the industrialised world can best help Africa is through investment and not handouts.

As part of a R10-billion arms package offered to the SA National Defence Force for its re-equipment programme, the Germans have made several proposals they claim will generate thousands of jobs.

Mr Mbeki is due to visit Germany in October as part of the German-SA Binational Commission, which is regarded in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria as of equal importance to the SA-USA Binational Commission that recently held a series of sessions in Washington.

Mr Gorgels said SAFRI planned a number of visits to southern Africa in the coming year.

Fear of crime 'serious threat to SA', says New York Times report

(34) STAN 4/9/97

Toronto - Fear of crime was posing a serious threat to South Africa, a report in The New York Times and the Canadian national Globe and Mail newspaper said this week.

Headed "Where even the police get robbed", the report said South Africans were increasingly disturbed by a continuing crime wave, despite statistical

indications that murder, rape, carjackings and robbery rates were no longer on the increase.

It noted policemen have themselves been crime victims in a number of cases, perpetrators in others.

Johannesburg, where tourists are cautioned against venturing out alone, and where drug dealers have taken over

whole blocks of flats, has "a beleaguered atmosphere", according to the report. Many of the city's businesses have fled to the suburbs and hotels have reduced their operations.

Some officials contend the problem has been exaggerated but "there is no doubt that fear of crime is having an adverse impact", writes Philip Boffey.

Other officials fear crime could keep overseas investors away, and business people in the country cite it as a deterrent to expansion, says Boffey.

He reports the Government is trying to tackle the problem with new measures, including enlarging the police force and a programme to improve police professionalism. - Sapa

Crime wave hits SA's poor the hardest

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - South Africa's poor are bearing the brunt of violent crime, a new report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has found.

The impact of crime varies depending on who you are and where you live, with profound implications for tackling the problem.

"There is overwhelming evidence that the poor bear the brunt of violent crime more than anybody else," says senior ISS researcher Antoinette Louw.

"And even though poor people have less property to steal, when they become victims of theft they suffer the greatest negative impact."

The poor, the majority of whom are black, are doubly disadvantaged by weak policing in township areas: 74.6% of police stations remain in white suburban areas.

And the impact of better security would be limited since the poor are more likely to be victimised by people they know or live with. A 1995 HSRC survey showed 42% of very poor people know their offenders, against six percent of people in the highest income group.

There is little recognition of the impact of crime on millions of people with little access to the media, pressure groups or government.

Stolen Opportunities: The Impact of Crime on South Africa's Poor, a

report by Ms Louw and Mark Shaw, director of the ISS's Crime and Policing Programme, is the first to delve deeply into the issue.

It is part of the Report on Poverty and Inequality in South Africa, a major study commissioned by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office into blockages that are slowing down poverty relief. Funded by Britain's Department of International Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, the full report will be handed to Mr Mbeki soon.

Despite the prominence of crime as an issue, says Ms Louw, surprisingly little is known about it.

In the former bantustans, there is no data prior to 1996. And according to the 1996 data, parts of the country not generally believed to have a crime problem - like the Northern Cape - display per capita crime levels far higher than elsewhere.

Northern Cape residents stand more chance of being murdered than the average South African, more than three times the chance of being seriously assaulted, and nearly double the chance of being raped. The province also has the highest reported levels of child abuse and child rape, according to the 1996 statistics.

Most serious crime in South Africa, say Ms Louw and Mr Shaw, began to increase from mid-1980. The collapse of apartheid boundaries in the early 1990s allowed township

crime to move into suburbs, where it is more likely to be recorded.

Recorded crime increased phenomenally from 1990 to 1994: assault by 18%, rape by 42%, robbery by 40%, vehicle theft by 34% and burglary by 20%. Since 1994, it appears that while many crimes are on the increase, several serious crimes - notably murder, armed robbery and vehicle theft - have stabilised.

Since 1994, Gauteng, Northern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape have had the highest murder

followed by much lower levels in KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape. Housebreaking is increasing in many provinces, with Gauteng worst afflicted and rates in Western Cape also high.

While crime rates are usually higher in cities than in rural areas, a 1994 analysis showed higher violent crime rates in non-urban areas of Northern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal, the latter explained by the spread of political violence to rural areas.

The predominance of violent crime among the poor is reinforced by data indicating that the proportion of crimes in which no injuries occur increases with income: 36.2% of the poorest income reported no injuries compared to 77.3% of the highest income group, according to the 1995 HSRC survey.

Areas inhabited by the poor are less likely to have the kinds of infrastructural development - such as street lighting and urban planning - that facilitate crime prevention.

Women in rural Northern Province rated electrification as a priority in reducing their vulnerability to physical attack and sexual assault. Also, walking long distances to collect water and firewood in rural areas increases women's chances of victimisation. Basic utilities and infrastructure in informal settlements such as telephones and roads, would greatly increase safety

and facilitate policing.

In the Eastern Cape, and the former Transkei in particular - which is below the national average, in almost all categories of crime - significant improvements to very weak police services would greatly enhance the position of the poor. Prominent crimes are stock theft and taxi violence.

In that area, only 33 police stations serve more than two million and 19 of them don't have a telephone or fax.

So the impact of crime on the country is not uniform, and affects different parts of society in very different ways. "This implies that since not all South Africans are exposed to equal dangers, different strategies will need to be devised in particular areas to curb crime," says the report.

It is essential that efforts to combat crime be devolved down to local and provincial police level and comprise carefully targeted programmes aimed at preventing prevalent causes and types of crime.

"Crime patterns in Northern Cape suggest the solutions will not lie in more aggressive policing."

There, violent crime is associated with alcohol and familiarity among victims and offenders. Most murders are committed with knives and are described as "assaults that go too far". This indicates that targeted anti-alcohol strategies, for example, could be more effective.

'The murder rate appears to be increasing in the Western Cape'

The murder rate has declined in Free State, KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng and Northern Province, but appears to be increasing in Mpumalanga, North West and the Western Cape.

The highest rates of serious assault are in Western and Northern Cape, and have been steadily increasing in the latter. Most rapes occur in Northern Cape, Gauteng, Western Cape and Free State.

By far the highest rates of aggravated robbery are in Gauteng,

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Murders are down, but there are still 62 a day

Star 10/9/97

(34)

By MIKE MASIPA
Crime Reporter

Rape and hijackings are on the increase, but murder and other serious crimes are dropping, according to statistics released by the police yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in Pretoria, where the statistics were released, Police Commissioner George Fivaz said law enforcers still had a long way to go to curb the high crime rate.

Statistics show that murder dropped from 12 144 during the first six months of last year to 11 394 for the first six months of this year, which translates to 62 murders a day across the country.

The number of attempted murder cases, 33 691, investigated from January to June

dropped by 7 000.

Reported rapes, however, increased by more than 600, to 24 805 cases reported from January to June this year.

Car hijackings are also on the increase. According to the audited statistics, 7 508 were reported from January to June last year and 8 374 during the same period this year.

Fivaz said that, contrary to popular opinion, the statistics released yesterday had not been manipulated to suggest that the fight against crime was being won.

"The system is transparent. We've actually gone past the transparency stage to that of nudity.

"There is no way that the books can be cooked because we have employed expertise outside the SAPS to ensure that

what we release is credible," Fivaz said.

However, statistics regarding cash-in-transit robberies and bank robberies did not correlate with the perception that these crimes were increasing.

The figures, compiled by the Crime Information Management Centre, indicated there were 106 cash-in-transit robberies during the first half of this year compared with 270 for the same period last year.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said that despite the good news, there was concern over the increasing killings of on- and off-duty police officers, and the frequent escapes of serious crime suspects from police custody.

Already 119 policemen and women had been murdered

from January to June this year, compared with 92 during the whole of last year. A total of 81 police officers had committed suicide, as against 74 last year.

"We regard the killing of police officers as a matter for concern.

"We call upon the community to play an active role in protecting its protectors," Mufamadi said.

He blamed the regular escape of prisoners on the corruption and gross negligence of officers, and on poor infrastructure.

Mufamadi said he hoped the situation would be further improved with the establishment of the detective academy in Pretoria next month.

At least 1 200 officers a year were expected to be trained at the academy.

'Murderous' SA plans to curb the criminals

LINDSAY BARNES

GAME DESK

Angus 10/29/97

34

South Africa may be the most murderous society on earth, an international report has found.

Between 1987 and 1994 the country's reported murder rate increased nearly 90%, although the figure for 1996 showed a 5% drop on the previous year.

While South Africa's recorded crime rate of 5 650 incidents per 100 000 residents is more than double the international average (but equal to the United States, France and Norway), its murder rate of 61 deaths per 100 000 residents is more than 11 times the international average.

This is according to a report to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict.

Car hijacking jumped 80% between 1992 and 1994.

All groups in post-apartheid South Africa feel increasingly at risk of violent attack and

are calling for action to address the problem.

The commission was established by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 1994 to address the threats of intergroup violence to world peace and to advance new ideas for the prevention and resolution of deadly conflict.

Entitled *A House No Longer Divided*, the report outlined progress and prospects for democratic peace in South Africa.

If people perceive the Government is not dealing decisively with criminal violence, the Government's ability to sustain political support for reforms and for re-election in 1999 will be seriously undermined, the report read.

Reform of the police is a top priority of the Government.
Progress made to date includes:

■ In 1995 and 1996 national Police Commissioner George Fivaz increased the number of police anti-corruption units in the country from two to 11.

■ Crash courses have produced a police officer hierarchy that is now 30% black, compared to only 10% in 1994. The police service is two-thirds black.

■ The country's first national crime prevention strategy was put in place. It is a four-part attempt to strengthen the criminal justice system, design crime-resistant government systems, institute educational crime prevention programmes aimed at youth and strengthen co-operation with our neighbouring countries to reduce trans-border criminal activity.

Members of the

140 000-strong police service have begun a

special course on human rights'

■ The Police Plan for 1996/'97 was put together in consultation with the public and marked the first time the Department of Safety and Security told ordinary people about specific policing priorities and objectives.

■ Nationally, the department has sponsored meetings between civic leaders and the police to devolve power and accountability from the police to the local communities.

■ Members of the 140 000-strong police service have begun a special course on human rights and community relations.

■ The Government is rapidly expanding its investigation efforts against white-collar crime and fraud, both of which are rising sharply.

■ In townships, where organised crime has been deeply entrenched, partnerships between police and citizen groups are working well to prevent crime and to press for stiff penalties as a deterrent especially to unemployed and undereducated youths.

More crimes but fewer serious ones, say

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — Although the actual number of crimes committed in the country increased in the first six months of this year, ratios pertaining to the 20 most serious crimes have decreased or stabilised, the SA Police Service's latest statistics show.

Compared with the period January to June 1994, 1995 and last year, the ratio of violent crimes such as murder, attempted murder and armed robbery decreased, while rape, assault, robbery and house-breaking stabilised during January to June this year. No single crime had increased in frequency.

Despite the positive trends emerging, the incidence of crime in the country is still at a very high and unacceptable level with crime frequencies still increasing in many instances," SAPS crime information management chief Chris de Kock said yesterday at the police's fourth quarterly crime briefing.

Actual figures show that from January to June this year, 11 394 people were murdered in the country (1996: 12 144), 24 805 raped (24 269), 31 737 armed robberies were committed (33 691), 122 830 homes were broken into (126 307) and 47 720 vehicles were stolen (47 143).

Although statistics show that commercial crime has stabilised, actual figures

indicate that 28 928 cases involving R1,7bn were reported in the first half of this year compared with 28 252 cases involving R1,5bn in the same period last year — an increase of 2,4%. Of these, 42,6% were reported in Gauteng, followed by 18,9% in the Western Cape.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, who acknowledged weaknesses within the police such as the inability to investigate, said the report painted an unacceptable picture regarding the increase in the number of escapers from police detention and the killing of police.

The report showed that from January last year to March this year 3 386 people escaped from police custody. Of these,

72,9% were detained in connection with murder, attempted murder, serious assault, rape and armed robbery.

In the first six months of this year, 887 policemen died compared with 497 in the same period last year. Of the officers who died this year, 211 were murdered, 173 died in vehicle accidents and 155 committed suicide. Last year, 81 committed suicide in the same period and 74 in 1995.

Statistics also show that the SAPS cleared (referred to court, withdrew or declared unfounded) 60% of murder cases reported from January to June this year, 57% attempted murder cases, 69% of rape cases, 21% of housebreaking cases and 9,7% of vehicle theft cases.

Of the 180 990 cases referred to court by the police in this period, 84,9% were finalised. These included 72,8% of the 5 012 murder cases, 73,9% of the 9 870 rape cases and 85% of the 3 896 armed robbery cases referred to court.

Guilty verdicts were given in 45,1% of the murder cases, 21,3% of the rape cases and 22,4% of the armed robbery cases. In only 38,5% of all the 180 990 cases taken to court by the police were guilty verdicts obtained.

SAPS CEO Meyer Kahn, who started the job five weeks ago, said the problems experienced by police were structural, skills- and people-related. Two priorities now were crime prevention and detection.

Police



Star 12/9/97

Red tape buries crime information

(34)

Recent clampdown on release of statistics is doing nobody any good, writes Derek Rodney

South Africa's crime rate is a topic of lengthy debate and the media's projection of crime has come under fire from the Government and business quarters in the past. But the current practice of exercising absolute control over all crime statistics "for collation" purposes is doing the beleaguered Department of Safety and Security more harm than good.

There can be little doubt that perfectly collated statistics that reflect identical statistics from station and specialist unit to provincial and national level should be a basic requirement for accurate and reflective statistics over the long term.

But how the clampdown at station and unit level can differ hugely with what Pretoria determines the sanitised crime statistics to be, is basis for reflection.

At present the media is allowed a glimpse at the crime situation with the introduction of quarterly reports usually released by national Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi. These reports are of little use as they are often released several months after the period in question. The January to March 1997 report was released in June and does little to tell residents of Naledi, Benoni, Brakpan, Jabulani, Kempton Park, Sunninghill or Bramley about how crime is affecting their lives today.

One recent investigation conducted by The Star has highlighted the shortcomings of this obstructionist approach. It set off to do a story on the escalating crime rate in the Wynberg business area. Interviews with various businessmen revealed that there was little or no police presence in the area.

This is nothing new and was echoed by the Bramley station commissioner, Superintendent Cobus van Zyl, who appealed to the business community to come up with an anti-crime plan as his resources were stretched beyond breaking point.

Attempts to get official confirmation of a number of incidents reported since the beginning of August were largely scuttled by bureaucracy.

Van Zyl referred The Star to the area public relations directorate. An area spokesman referred The Star to the MEC for safety and security.

"Our hands are tied, we have no authority to re-

lease any crime statistics in our own area and when we release a whole list of incidents it's interpreted as statistics leaving us in the firing line again," one spokesman said. A request to look at the station's occurrence book to get a station-level idea of the nature of the crimes in the area was refused.

Safety and security secretariat spokesman Mongezi Mnyani said he understood the Mufamadi directive to be pretty clear in stating that incidents and not statistics could be released to the public.

Gauteng provincial police spokesman Director Azwindini Nenghovela echoed Mnyani's sentiments, saying police can release incident reports with the provision that the incidents are identified as unaudited and not to be mistaken for statistics.

But, after numerous telephone calls, The Star was told that Johannesburg Area Commissioner Izak Pretorius wanted the paper's request for the incident reports to be faxed to his office for consideration.

The laborious process was further exasperated when it was discovered that the relevant information could not be accessed because the sole computer expert who can access the information could not be found. Then the newspaper was informed that the police's mainframe computer "was down".

The question is, how can policemen expect to address the public's concern about crime when it takes more than 36 hours of red tape and buck-passing to get an intelligible answer out of the service that is sworn to protect and answer to the nation?

The bureaucracy surrounding the release of what in most cases amounts to basic information (and not statistics) is indicative of the awesome task facing SAPS chief executive officer Meyer Kahn to improve the service.

■ Derek Rodney is The Star's crime reporter

Chaos as gangsters disrupt Pagad leader's trial

Magistrate acts when rival groups draw guns and trade insults

JOSEPH ARANES
Sinh Reporter

Cape Flats gangsters and the anti-crime group Pagad nearly brought proceedings at the Wynberg Magistrate's Court to a halt when members of the groups drew guns and hurled abuse at one other.

Yesterday, turned tense when dozens of gangsters and Community Outreach Form (Core) members, including Rashied, Staggie and Ernie Peters, turned up.

Mr Ebrahim is facing four counts of attempted murder after attacks on the homes of alleged drug dealers and gangsters.

Mr Ebrahim walked into the court building alone just before 9am and after a wait of more than an hour, the trial began.

The courtroom was packed, mostly with women Pagad supporters, and about a dozen policemen. After the first witness testified and the magistrate adjourned proceedings, the courtroom doors opened and hundreds of gangsters were seen in the corridor.

Some wanted to enter the court and a slanging match erupted. Pagad supporters shouted: "Allah is great" and "We fear no-one except Allah". The 15-minute adjournment was extended as the police intervened and kept the two sides apart, but allowed the Core members to enter.

Magistrate A R Kotze summoned Mr Staggie and Mr Ebrahim to his chambers and told them to keep their followers in check so the trial could proceed. The alternative, he warned them, was that he would clear the court.

When the court adjourned for lunch, supporters of the two groups moved outside and swore and shouted at one another. In the street Mr Staggie was sworn at by a Pagad member, who was soon surrounded by gangsters, who threatened him.

Confusion over scarves marks testimony on shooting

JOSEPH ARANES

The description of a shotgun attack on the Grassy Park home of known gangster Ismail "Bobby" Mongrel" April marked the opening day of the trial of Pagad national co-ordinator Abdus-Salaam Ebrahim in the Wynberg Regional Court.

Mr Ebrahim pleaded not guilty yesterday to four counts of attempted murder, allegedly committed between October 11 and 27 last year when three houses of alleged drug dealers and gangsters in Grassy Park and another in Rylands were attacked.

Basil "Bear" Ferdinand, who lives with Mr April, told the court the sound of gunshots and breaking glass woke him.

"I ran out of the house using the back door and made my way to the front of the house where I saw a group of men, their faces covered by scarves, fire several shots towards the house."

Pointing to Mr Ebrahim, Mr Ferdinand said his black and white checked scarf had slipped off and he could clearly identify his face from the numerous times he had seen it in the house.

Under cross examination, defence advocate John Van der Berg put it to him that in his original statement to the police soon after the incident he had identified Mr Ebrahim as a "tall man" wearing a red and white checked scarf.

Mr Ferdinand, who often refused to answer questions and kept asking Mr Van der Berg if he was at the scene of the shooting, conceded that Mr Ebrahim was in fact short after the magistrate, Mr AP Kotze, asked Mr Ebrahim to stand in front of the court so the witness could see him properly.



Court arrival: Abdus-Salaam Ebrahim

He later also conceded that he smoked Mandrax tablets and at times this affected his memory.

When Mr April was called to testify he too told the court that his statement to the police was incorrect when it described a "tall man wearing a red and white checked scarf".

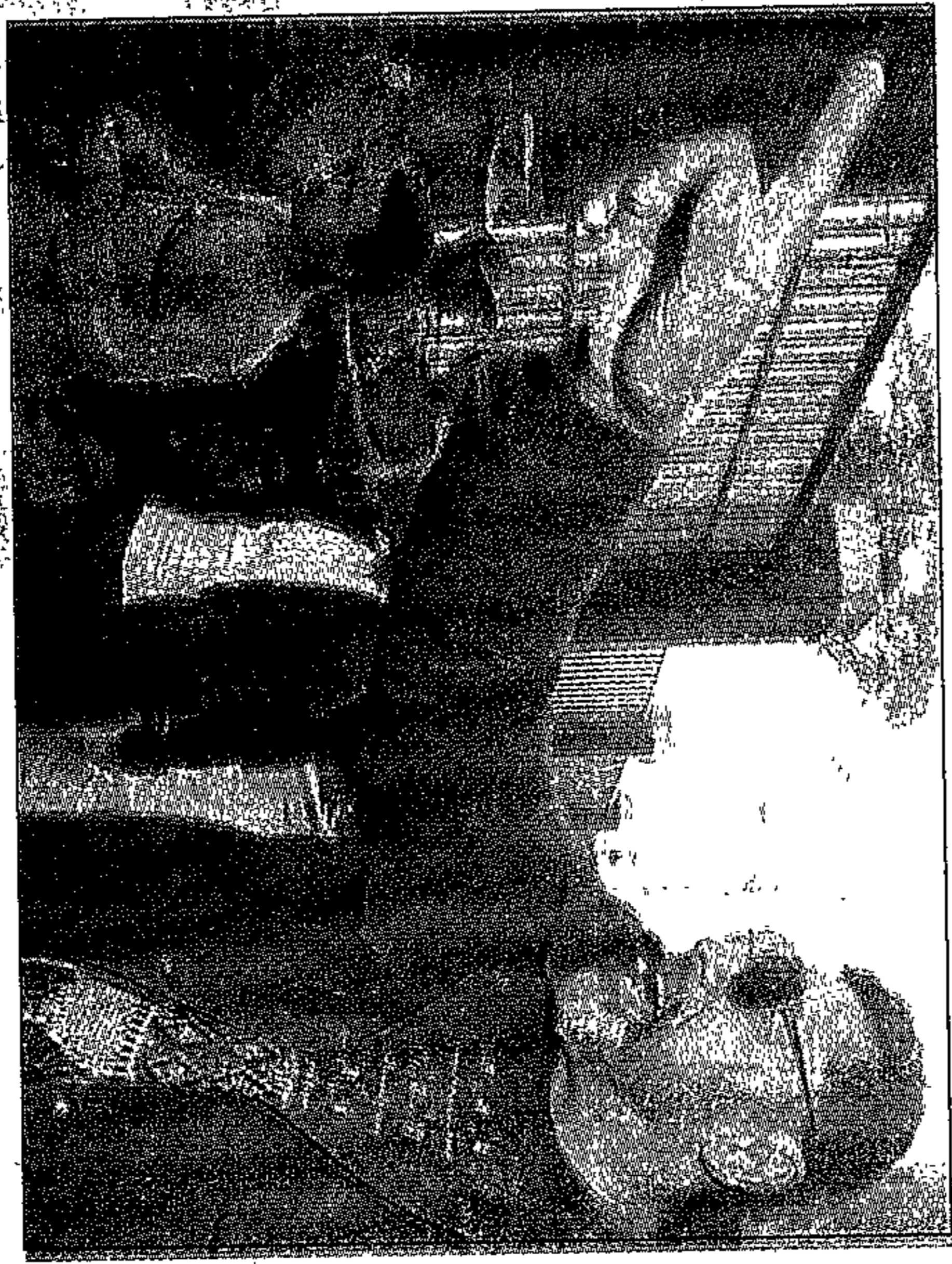
Two police witnesses testified that a red and white checked scarf was found at the scene but in their original written statements both noted that 12 shells were recovered.

Grassy Park detective Calvin Mokwa said he gathered the nine cartridges at the scene but when asked by Mr Van der Berg why he had entered 12 into the evidence register at the police station, he said he had made a mistake.

Nigel Kolkoto, a sergeant attached to the special unit investigating the Pagad-gangster conflict, told the court that as far as he was aware there were only nine cartridges found.

When it was pointed out to him that a letter he had sent to the police, ballistic testing section also mentioned that 12 cartridges needed to be tested, Sergeant Kolkoto also said the had made a mistake.

The trial continues today.



Point taken: Pagad national commander Aslam Toely at the Wynberg Court

PAAG 18/19/97

(34)



Vocal support: dozens of Pagan supporters chant slogans in opposition to gangsters present at the trial in Wynberg of Pagan leader Abdus-Salaam Ebrahim



Checking the options: Core leader Rasheed Staggie, left, and friends before entering the Wynberg Court to hear the testimony of Ismail April

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Crime syndicates are costing the PO millions

Cape Town— More than R2,6-million in revenue had been lost in the first six months of 1997 because of crime syndicates operating from within post offices, says Posts Minister Jay Naidoo.

The post office was losing clients and revenue as a result of increased syndicate activity, he said in a written reply yesterday to Dene Smuts (DP).

In February this year, one client lost computer equipment to the value of R1,4-million through a single incident of theft by a syndicate at Witspos.

stap 18/9/97
The goods were uninsured and the client had since taken his business elsewhere.

One of the post office's largest customers was looking at alternative mail arrangements and this could mean a loss of R11-million in revenue. Fundraisers were also threatening to follow suit, which could mean a further loss of R9-million, he said.

At least one syndicate — specialising in the theft of expensive jewellery and computer parts — had been identified as operating inside the post office.

~~(33)~~ (34)
There was also evidence of extensive syndicate activity in the theft, falsification and fraudulent manipulation of cheques and postal orders, Naidoo said.

Some syndicates were based outside the post office, but had members inside who obtained cheques, postal orders and credit cards and passed these on to other syndicate members in banks to "process".

Although syndicate activity was national, theft was concentrated in the Witwatersrand region, Naidoo added. — Sapa

LETTERS

Government not serious about combating crime

Sowetan 19/9/97 (34)

CRIME is dealing our hard-won democracy a heavy blow. Not only does it rob people of a full celebration of the long-wished for new order but it scares off foreign investment.

As long as there is unemployment on such a vast scale, South Africa and her people will find opportunities elusive.

The failed Cape Town 2004 Olympic Games bid is one of the examples of lost opportunities.

I have no doubt that crime in this country had to do with our rejection by the Olympic Committee as hosts of the Games.

At a time when all must be going well with South Africa after the defeat of apartheid, its image is being tarnished as the international community slowly turns its back on it.

Why? It's because of the spiralling crime wave which seems to be beyond the power of the Government to contain.

If the Government is genuine in assuring the public that it regards the fight against crime as a top priority, it must take heed of the views of its citizens on the ground.

I wish to suggest a few points which I consider crucial in reducing and eliminating crime.

Kid gloves

Democracy is a good thing but the Government treats criminals with kid gloves. Prisoners are clothed and fed for the entire duration of their sentence. Some even enjoy privileges that do not exist where they come from.

Criminals conduct a reign of terror with ease, knowing that their conviction will spell a nice time in

prison.

It is adding insult to injury for a victim of a criminal, as a taxpayer, to maintain the criminal in jail.

Some of the rigorous prison conditions during apartheid must be brought back forthwith.

The cries of the majority of South African citizens for the return of the death penalty still reverberate throughout the country.

When will the Government listen to these cries? For as long as the Government hides behind democracy and defends the lives of criminals who easily take the lives of others, we can expect more murders, rapes and car hijackings.

Why has the Government turned a deaf ear to pleas for a referendum on the question of the death penalty?

DUKE MARAGALO,
Mafikeng, North West

Corrupt miners stealing bullion worth billions and costing thousands of jobs

BY CRAIG URQUHART

Corrupt miners are stealing about R5-billion in gold bullion a year and selling it to major overseas-based syndicates, a *Saturday Star* investigation has discovered.

Some illegal dealers are earning up to R10 000 a day selling gold nuggets to syndicates.

Estimates of the amount of gold stolen from all the mines vary between 10 and 15% of the total production, and mine managers concede it is affecting the

viability of the mines.

"The irony is that if South Africa's gold mines could produce 10% more per annum, we could probably employ 80 000 more miners," says James Watt, a consulting metallurgist to the Harmony mine in Virginia, which has been particularly hard hit by the theft of gold concentrate.

And with the gold mining industry conservatively expecting 65 000 more job losses by the end of the century and mines hoping to boost production by an

extra 90 tons over the next two years, the problem has grave implications for the economy.

The preferred destination for bootlegged bullion is Switzerland, but Britain and India also have a passion for the precious metal.

"It's impossible to get an accurate figure, but we estimate R1,6-billion worth of gold is ending up in Switzerland alone," says Andre Fourie, operations manager for security at Gold Fields.

TO PAGE 2

◆ Gold syndicate

Most of the gold is smuggled through customs at Johannesburg international airport and Durban's airport and harbour.

"Yes, it's a hell of a problem. We are dealing with crooked miners and crooked security guards on the mines, and there are a lot of syndicates," says Superintendent Henk van Rensburg of the diamond and gold unit in Johannesburg.

His colleague, Superintendent Buks van der Schyff of the Durban unit, confirms that millions of rands of illegal gold is slipping through customs at the port city.

These syndicates are highly organised. They have infiltrated nearly every South African mine and are capable of refining gold, forging transport licences and export papers, and accessing foreign networks to sell their products.

■ See Page 9



A huge mound filling the space between two dormitory blocks testifies to the amount of gold being 'mined' by effective operations off mine premises

There's gold in them thar ... hostels

Star 20/9/97 (314)

Police estimate that illegal gold processing and deals worth hundreds of thousands of rands are done in and around gold mining towns each day, with profits running into millions each month. CRAIG UROUHART visits the site of one such 'gold rush'

"The biggest gold mine in the Free State is here in Thabong, an undercover policeman quipped as we accelerated through the dusty township streets towards a house where gold was being processed illegally.

And he wasn't far off. When the *Saturday Star* accompanied members of Welkom's diamond and gold unit on a series of raids this week, it became abundantly clear that much of South Africa's gold refining is taking place outside the mines.

Every home in the Welkom townships of Thabong and Kullungong visited by this newspaper had the essential ingredients for processing "homemade" gold.

The houses may be decrepit and unsightly, but they double as well-oiled gold processing operations.

A daily supply of highly concentrated soil is smuggled from the mines, "refiners" spend hours separating the gold particles from the soil, and there is a steady supply of buyers snapping up the refined product at bargain-basement prices.

It's an enormous industry, keeping miners, township residents (many of whom are illegal immigrants), the syndicates, and the beleaguered and understaffed police very busy.

Mine managers believe thousands of miners are smuggling "extremely pure" gold concentrate past security guards on the mines every day.

While most mines have stringent security measures costing millions of rands in place, they believe they cannot contain the problem as

"We've had cases where they have fired small bags of gold concentrate over the fences and collected it on the other side," said Merriespruit mine manager Gerry Nolan.

Once the gold-bearing sludge is off mine premises, dealers separate the gold from the soil by mixing it with mercury and water and spinning it in mills.

Another popular method is to run the soil over carpets where the heavier gold particles settle into the material, and the soil is discarded.

These processes may be crude, but in many cases the content of the finished product is higher than the gold refined on the mines.

Police this week confiscated thousands of rands worth of crude equipment used for milling concentrated gold-bearing soil in and around Welkom.

These included liquor bottles containing mercury and borax, heat-resistant ceramic vases to



REFINERY: The G hosted in Thabong is regarded by police as the largest illegal gold-refining plant in the country. Three years ago these windows were 2m above the ground. The mountain of soil that has been discarded gives an indication of the extent of the problem. LEFT: The cash and a nugget which changed hands during a transaction busted by the police

PHOTOGRAPHS: TI LEMON

running their operations the next day.

"As long as there's a demand, they will keep on supplying it," says Captain Bobby Jonker, commander of the diamond and gold unit.

Other policemen at the unit say they are busier now than ever before and

out this problem.

After the last raid at the hostel, every illegal immigrant arrested was deported, and only locals are now permitted to enter the hostel.

Jonker says that so far this year, 476 people have been

arrested in connection with gold theft.

"This figure may seem impressive, but the problem is that they are all small fry. Most (suspects) simply receive fines or suspended sentences. But we have been unable to nail the big

guns - the syndicates which are controlling this operation.

Undercover agents from the Johannesburg diamond and gold branch, Rand Gold Security and Gold Fields have smashed syndicates dealing in unwrought gold and arrested 59 people this year

however, and after being arrested on four occasions, he claims it has all become too dangerous for him.

"No way, man, it's bad news. You going to end up getting killed, for what? I've made my money and I'm happy," he says.

Another problem facing police is that it is almost impossible to determine where the stolen gold was obtained.

While chemical tests on legally mined gold bars can be carried out to establish which mines they came from, the illegal nuggets contain so many different chemicals that it becomes impossible.

A "former" dealer, who asked not to be named, says he rose up through the ranks from buying soil from miners and selling it with a small mark-up to the "refiners", to becoming a dealer delivering nuggets to syndicates in Johannesburg.

"I was earning several thousand rands for each trip to Johannesburg and sometimes I was going there twice a week."

He claims he was always accompanied by two "juniors" who would take the rap and face arrest if they were caught in possession. In return he would assist them and look after their families if they were incarcerated.

If didn't always work, however, and after being arrested on four occasions, he claims it has all become too dangerous for him.

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Mine managers believe thousands of miners are smuggling "extremely pure" gold concentrate past security guards on the mines every day.

While most mines have stringent security measures costing millions of rands in place, they believe they cannot contain the problem as long as corrupt security guards are accepting bribes.

"They hide it in loaves of bread, in cigarette packets, in hard hats, their Wellington boots and overall pockets.

"When you have thousands of miners taking up half a kilogram or a kilo at a time - believe me it adds up," says James Wait, a metallurgical and security consultant at the Harmony mine in Virginia.



HANDFUL OF DUST: Gold-bearing soil like this handful is smuggled out of the mines every day



MILLER'S TALE: The hand-operated mill separates the gold particles from the soil



REFINERY: The G hostel in Thabong is regarded by police as the largest illegal gold-refining plant in the country. Three years ago these windows were 2m above the ground. The mountain of soil that has been discarded gives an indication of the extent of the problem

PHOTOGRAPHS TILLEMONT

LEFT: The cash and a nugget which changed hands during a transaction busted by the police

running their operations the next day.

"As long as there's a demand, they will keep on supplying it," says Captain Bobby Jonker, commander of the diamond and gold unit.

Other policemen at the unit say they are busier now than ever before and they are struggling to contain the problem.

There have been eight major operations at G hostel so far this year. The last one, in August, resulted in the confiscation of 6 tons of gold-bearing soil, 623 homemade mills, 189 oxygen-acetylene cylinders and 104 bottles of mercury - and a mountain of other equipment used for the refining process.

Unemployed illegal immigrants have been blamed for much of the theft that has been going on, but police believe they have made progress in sorting

that separate the gold particles. One suspect was recently charged with offering undercover police officers a R10 500 bribe.

And at the notorious G hostel in Thabong, thousands of tons of soil discarded through the windows has created a huge mound - an indication of the activity that is taking place.

"We arrest the dealers and confiscate their equipment but they are back on the streets and



HARD WORK: A cutting torch is used to smelt the gold and mercury amalgam



WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD: The end result

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WHAT WE DO TO OUR LOCKS IS PERIMAT



Is it normal for a leading manufacturer to abuse their own products? At Trellidor, we think it's downright necessary. Our development staff are given the very tools that criminals use to break into our homes.

And then, armed with crowbars, sledgehammers and monkey wrenches, they are encouraged to do their very worst. What is the end result? A unique locking system that's designed to withstand even the most resourceful burglar.

In fact Trellidor is the only security systems

Unlike our competitors, we found off-the-shelf locks were not up to the job. The only alternative was to research and develop our own locks.

Although there is only one keyhole, the Trellidor Dead-lock is locked at two separate points. So it's not surprising that it's twice as hard to break through. And our Trellidor Slam-lock has been independently proven to be the strongest and most reliable slam-lock on the market. What's more our Trellidor Slam-lock uniquely has a Dead-lock option to give you maximum security. So you can rest assured that it would take a lot more than just a crowbar to get through our locks.

However, our attention to detail doesn't stop at our locking systems. Our Trellidor operating security doors were always included a top suspension track and bottom guide rail for added strength and durability.

And of course only the highest quality corrosion resistant galvanised steel is used in Trellidor security systems. But then all of this is what you'd expect from a company that's been the market leader for over 25 years. So if you've decided you

effective' not

guards are accepting bribes. "They hide it in loaves of bread, in cigarette packets, in hard hats, their Wellington boots and overall pockets."

"When you have thousands of miners taking up half a kilogram or a kilo at a time - believe me it adds up," says James Watt, a metallurgist and security consultant at the Harmony mine in Virginia.

At most mines in Welkom, Virginia, Carletonville and Klerksdorp, miners are prohibited from carrying catapults.

hold the substance, gas bottles to smelt the gold, scales to weigh the finished product, and cutlery to add up the profits.

"Because they have stolen most of the equipment they need for this process from the mines, they have no overheads," said a member of the SAPS's diamond and gold unit.

In some of the houses, receipt books recording the purchases of the finished nuggets indicate that some of the dealers are earning more than R10 000 a day.

Assistants who spin the mills that separate the gold particles are known to earn up to R500 a day. One suspect was recently charged with offering undercover police officers a R10 500 bribe.

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HANDFUL OF DUST: Gold-bearing soil like this handful is smuggled out of the mines every day



MILLER'S TALE: The hand-operated mill separates the gold particles from the soil



HARD WORK: A cutting torch is used to smelt the gold and mercury amalgam



WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD: The end result

Skilled in art of turning soil into riches

The men responsible for mining the world's most precious metal are now being blamed for ransacking this country's limited gold resources.

Day and night they are in contact with highly concentrated gold-bearing rock, and police say they have now perfected the art of stealing unwrought gold.

After underground blasts, the gold-bearing rock is washed and many miners collect the slush that is discarded (Picture 1).

Others settle for dry soil after the underground explosions, while the refineries on the

surface are also targeted. Another telltale sign is the glint that is evident in rich soil.

Either way, the rule of thumb is that the darker the colour, the richer the content.

Mine owners say the closer the gold gets to the finished product, the greater the incentive becomes to steal it.

Once the soil or slush has been removed from the mine premises, it is placed in hand-operated mills (Picture 2).

The "refiners" mix a small quantity of mercury with water and place a large metal ball in the drum to crush the soil

further.

This is the most dangerous part of the process and many of these people suffer from mercury poisoning.

The drum is sealed and, for several hours, it is spun vigorously until the gold adheres to the mercury. It is grinding work, but many unemployed people are earning up to R500 a day for their efforts.

When the drum has been drained, the gold and mercury amalgam is then placed in heat-resistant ceramic vases and smelted with a cutting torch (Picture 3). The process re-

sults in unrefined gold.

Borax, a chemical obtained on the mines that facilitates the melting process is added to this, and it is again burnt with a cutting torch.

This process is repeated several times, until small round buttons of gold are formed (Picture 4).

The ingots are then weighed on small scales and sold for between R32 and R35 a gram to dealers who sell them to the syndicates after taking a cut.

Police say the gold buttons are again smelted before being sold on the black market.

WHEN YOU WANT TOO MUCH TO PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

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So if you've decided you need to effectively protect your home and your loved ones call Trellidor toll-free on (0800) 118 022.

It's almost a crime not to.

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Im Cohen

Fraud may thrive if government departments fail to settle differences

CAMBRIDGE — Rivalry between government departments over the creation of a money-laundering watchdog organisation for more than a year, the confusion about whether SA Bank, the authority of the Reserve Bank, the finance department or the justice department should have the offer by Public Protector Selby Baywa

to get his office involved. Delegates to the conference left up beat about their ability to sort out constitutional differences over legislation to massive concern that legislation change controls might render SA open. Frank Kahn asked whether SA open did not report prosecuting once the investigating body was set up. Aca-

demies at the conference believed it would be futile to do so until the Financial Intelligence Centre could investigate suspicious transactions. It was originally proposed that the Reserve Bank should be made up of fewer foreign staff members who would also administer aspects of the Money Laundering Control Bill which is before Parliament.

However, delegates said the department for the details of the centre, but it was made up of the finance department, a bid for the exchange to be made on the details of the Minister Trevor Manuel to make a decision on the matter. Delegates pointed out that the SA Law Commission had made a de-

mentations about the legislation. On hearing, Baywa said that if any assistance was required, getting people into the money-laundering legislation. Meanwhile, academics argued that the money-laundering legislation should be considered as a challenge as it is harshness, he intended to recommend the legislation.

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Gangsters seek peace

3 shot dead in bloody weekend

Editor asked to broker Pagad pact

AR 4 22/9/97

(34)

Weekend

JOSEPH ARAMES
STAFF REPORTER

Three people were killed, known gangster Ismail "Bobby Mongrel" April was wounded, a petrol station was bombed and several houses were attacked as the conflict between Cape Flats gangsters and anti-crime campaigners intensified at the weekend.

On Friday butchery owner Cassim Ismail and café owner Asief Ali Ahmed were killed by gunmen who walked into their Belhar shops and shot them.

In Grassy Park a Pagad member and suspect in the Rashaad Staggle murder case, Nur Booley, was shot and killed after allegedly trying to rob a resident. A man has been released on R500 bail. Yesterday masked gunmen opened fire on the Grassy Park house of Mr April, wounding him in the shoulder. A few minutes earlier, four people driving a red car fired several shots at a Lansdowne Road service station and set the building alight.

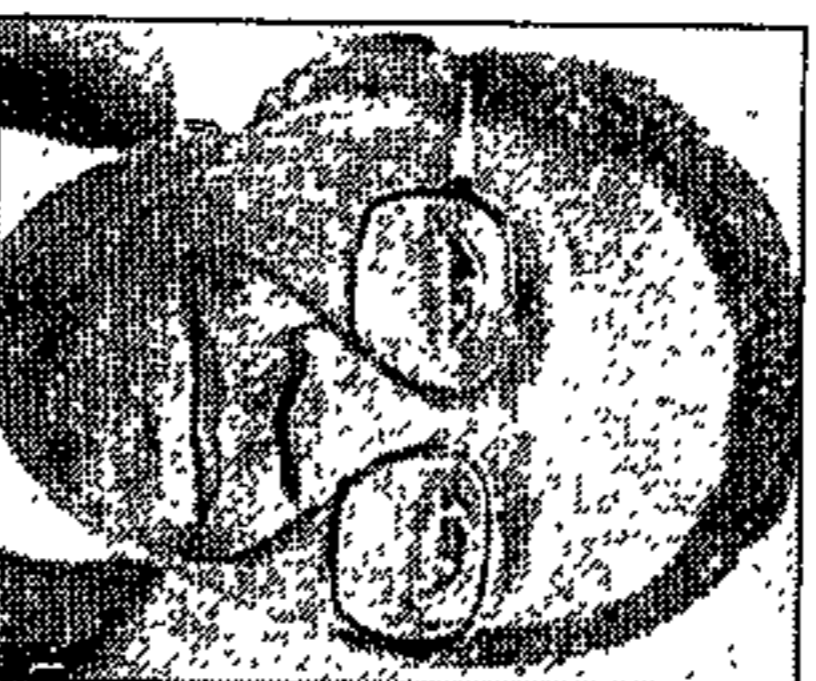
In Woodstock gunmen opened fire on the Page Street house of an alleged drug dealer known as "Bow Tie". No one was injured and the gunmen moved to adjacent Gympie Street and fired several more rounds there.

A group of Pagad supporters went to the Sea Point house of Rashed Staggle but left when they found no one at home.

Last night four men shot the owner of a Northpine, Brackenfell supermarket. Police said the motive was robbery.



Don Matera



Aggrey Klaaste

JOSEPH ARAMES AND ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTERS

Cape Flats gangsters have approached two prominent Johannesburg journalists, Sowetan editor Aggrey Klaaste and associate editor and poet Don Matera, to act as mediators in the bloody conflict between them and the anti-crime group Pagad.

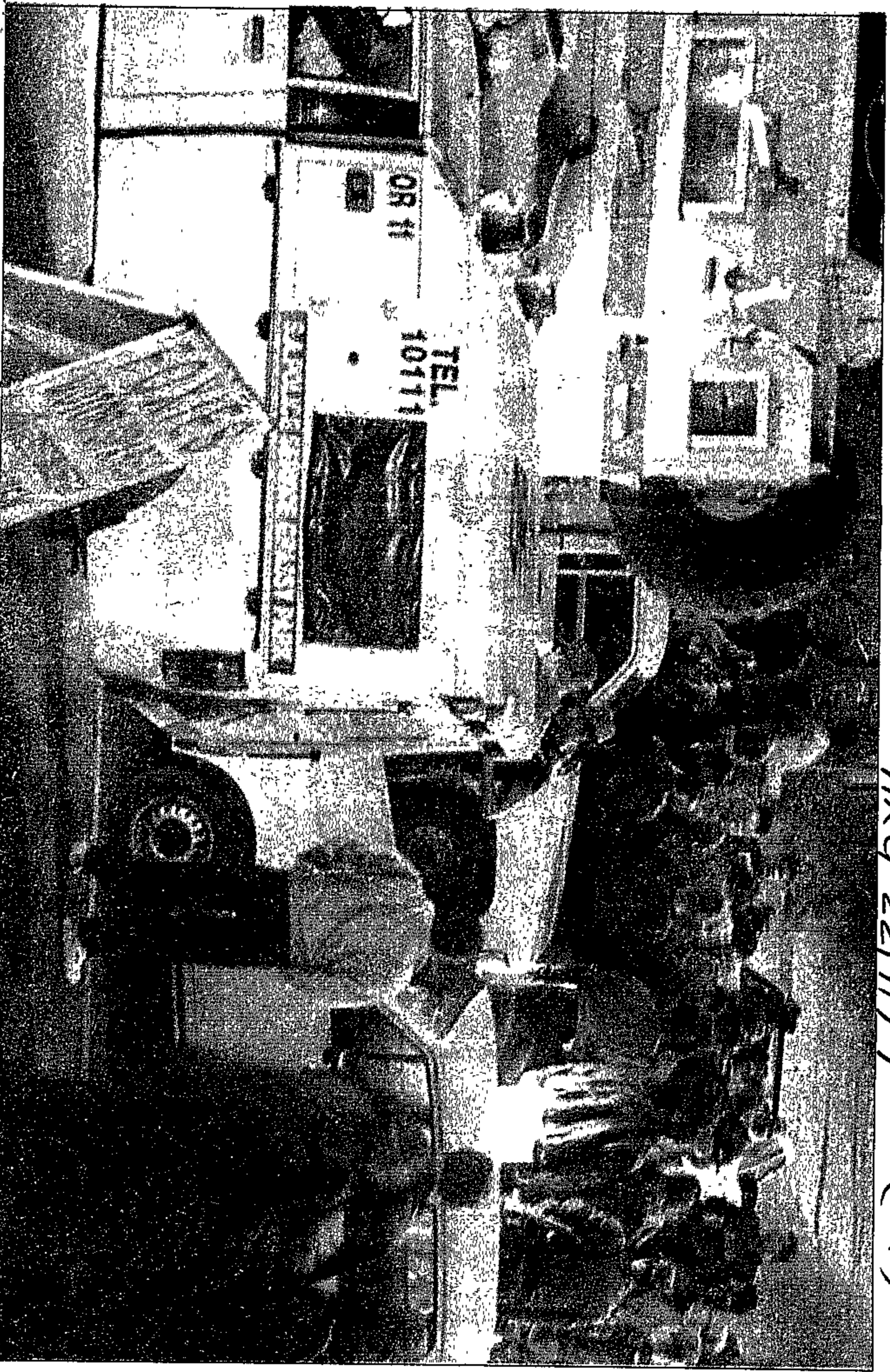
The two journalists have been involved in addressing the gang problem in Westbury, Johannesburg, with much success.

Mr Klaaste, who was born in Sophiatown, which was torn down to make way for Triomf, close to Westbury, said he would be happy to assist in whichever way he could.

"But to be successful we are going to need the support of all the parties involved." Mr Klaaste said he would have to think carefully about all the implications of the mediation before he could respond more fully.

Community Outreach Forum (Core) chairman Ernest "Tapepa" Peters said the war had reached alarming proportions and the Government and the police were doing little to resolve the explosive situation.

"While Core continues to criticise the Government for allowing the feud to degenerate, to show its (Core's) commitment to resolving the conflict peacefully, we have approached Mr Klaaste and Mr Matera to intervene."



Ring of bluer: police cordon off the Grassy Park home of gangster Ismail 'Bobby Mongrel' April after he was shot during an attack on Saturday night.

LEON MILLER

Mr Peters said the journalists were well respected and had sufficient clout and understanding to initiate a process between Core and Pagad.

He said Mr Matera was a former gangster himself and had been involved in stopping gang violence and killings.

"Mr Klaaste, with his vast nation-building skills and experience, can make a meaningful contribution to initiating talks between ourselves and Pagad."

Pagad national co-ordinator Abdus-Salaam Ebrahim said the organisation did not respond to utterances by gangsters.

Cops 'scared to take on Pagad', P3
Was slain Pagad man an addict? P3
Editorial comment, P11

Blasting a hole in crime stats

M+G 19-25/9/97

(34)

Gustav Thiel

The contention by Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi that serious crime has decreased has been challenged by the Institute for Security Studies, which says there is undoubtedly a rise in crime.

Mufamadi based his optimism on crime figures for the first six months of the year, released last week. The figures indicated that none of the 20 most serious crime categories increased during this period, compared with the corresponding periods in previous years.

In five of the nine provinces incidents of murder were down from 1994 figures. KwaZulu-Natal still has more murders than any other province, with 4 314, which is 34,8% down from the toll during the first six months of 1994.

In the Western Cape, however, the murder rate increased 19,8% over the 1994 figures. The Western Cape remains the most dangerous province, with the highest ratio of murders to population — 37,8 murders for every 100 000 people.

While Mufamadi admits "there are weaknesses in the organisation of the Department of Safety and Security", he seems oblivious to voices warning that statistical assurances of a decrease in crime resulted in an oversimplification of crime trends in the country.

Jakkie Cilliers, a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, says it is clear there is a rise in crime, and "the major reason is simply that the police are not doing their job".

He adds that recent pronouncements by Mufamadi, which blamed increases in crime on the nexus between the "third force" and organised crime, "smack of a political ploy — a politically expedient cop-out".

"The government needs a scapegoat [for crime], and the revelations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the run-up to the elections in 1999 provide an appropriate avenue. Thus far I have argued that there is, at best, some levelling off of crime at very high levels, but no indication of any turnaround in recent years," Cilliers says.

His chief argument is that crime statistics still do not take into account the evolution of organised crime, which he says will increasingly dominate crime statistics.

"Current evidence suggests organised crime has not only grown in scope worldwide and in South Africa, but has also changed significantly during the past decade.

"Given that organised crime was never a priority under apartheid rule — indeed, there is evidence that syndicates and gangs were used to police the opponents of the state — it is difficult to measure its growth."

Mufamadi says the investigative capacity and quality of crime-fighting authorities can be improved. "Early this year the Department of Safety and Security designated quality of investigations as inextricably linked to quality service delivered to the community," he says.

"The mere fact that there is stabilisation and decrease on certain crime tendencies speaks of our po-

tential to improve on clear-up rates of cases."

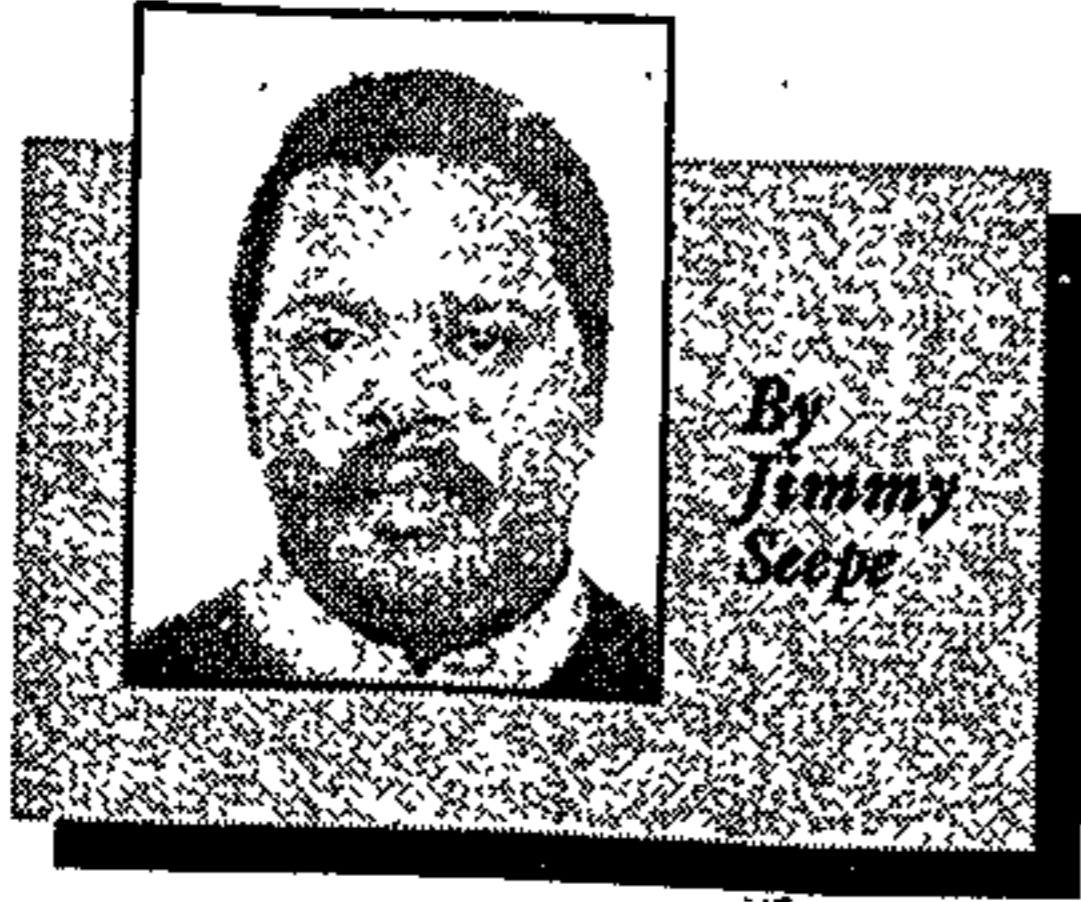
Cilliers says Meyer Kahn's appointment as police CEO could be a mere political ploy to appease the business sector, which has been a "vociferous" critic of the way the government addressed crime in the past.

Kahn's appointment comes at a time when South Africa spends around R11,9-billion on safety and security alone — a 15% increase on money spent in 1996.

Take that: Sydney Mufamadi's assurances of a decrease in crime are based on an oversimplification of crime trends in the country, says the Institute for Security Studies



Many youths pardoned by Mandela are feared to be back in jail as juvenile crime keeps growing



By Jimmy Sepe

KIDS WHO KILL!

THERE ARE 22 000 youths aged between 14 and 21 in South African prisons - and the fear is growing that a great number of the 2 000 juveniles pardoned by President Nelson Mandela in 1994 have found their way back into jail.

Of the youths behind bars, almost 5 000 have been convicted of murder and rape - and thousands more are awaiting trial on similar serious charges.

These are the feared killer kids.

Most have been involved in serious cases of car hijacking in which people were brutally and senselessly murdered.

One such case is that of Dr Steven Pong, who was killed in a hijacking incident outside the Johannesburg Hospital in Hillbrow in 1996.

Two youths - a 17-year-old not named because of his age and 18-year-old Zuko Nota - were jailed for life, plus 20 years for aggravating circumstances by Judge MJ Strydom.

Two youths, including a 17 year-old, are currently facing murder charges for the death of Elkim "Pro" Khumalo - the father of Bafana Bafana striker, Doctor Khumalo.

In just two years - from 1995 to August this year - the number of juveniles sentenced and awaiting sentence has jumped from 14 000 to a horrifying 22 000.

Figures obtained by City Press reveal a shocking number of juveniles serving time for serious crimes.

In August, the number of juveniles serving time for murder and rape stood at 4 650.

These growing figures have created panic about the culture of aggressive crime that is slowly gripping communities around the country.

And campaigns such as "Don't Do Crime" may have to be revisited if the growing trend is to be halted.

Correctional Services spokesperson, Col Barry Eksteen says the figures keep going up and show no signs of a decline.

More juveniles than ever before are serving sentences ranging from 10 to 20 years.

The number of sentenced juveniles and juveniles awaiting sentence has shot up from

14 754 in 1995 to 21 717 in August this year.

The figures have gone up despite a presidential pardon by President Nelson Mandela and Correctional Services Minister, Dr Sipho Mzimela two years ago - which saw more than 2 000 youths being sent back to the streets.

There is now fear that those who qualified for the presidential pardon might be back in jail. But the department is reluctant to give figures of how many of those now serving time might be repeat offenders.

Some of the youths, who are now housed in reformatory schools around the country, may have to be transferred to prison with other hardened criminals to serve their sentences.

And it now

appears likely that the figure could well pass the 25 000 mark by the year's end as more juveniles continue to involve themselves in serious crimes.

There are now 1 330 juveniles serving sentences ranging from five to ten years; 434 serving 10 to 20 years; and 143 serving more than 20 years.

The last category is considered the most dangerous - prisoners whose crimes include murder, armed robbery, rape and hijackings.

And as expected, Gauteng has the highest concentration of juveniles serving sentences for serious offences - followed by KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

(34) CP 6/10/97

DANGER: SMOKING CAN KILL YOU

16 mg tar 1.3 mg nicotine As per Government agreed method

CONSULATE

SOFT TIPPED VIRGINIA

A tale of four cities: it's safer than we thought

People living and working in South African cities are exposed to the realities of serious or violent crimes daily, and visitors or workers in central business districts are far more vulnerable to lesser crimes that often do not make newspaper headlines.

Crime Reporters **DEREK RODNEY** and **GILL GIFFORD** take a look at street crimes such as mugging and cellphone and bag snatching in four major cities to see what police are doing about them. Their survey of Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban

reveals that petty crime in the CBDs of all four cities is declining, despite perceptions that attacks on tourists (and thus the broader population) are increasing.

Statistical sources: Central Statistical Service, South African Police Service. In this survey, petty crime is defined as: mugging, and cellphone, chain and purse snatching.

JOHANNESBURG

POPULATION: 1.9M



PETTY CRIME: ±156 cases per month
TREND: Dramatic drop since deployment of more than 330 additional personnel
ATTACKS ON TOURISTS: ±7 cases per month

Much of the success a result of extra police and military personnel

Johannesburg's mugging statistics are starting to show a decline, due largely to the injection of more than 300 police and military personnel to assist CBD crime-fighters.

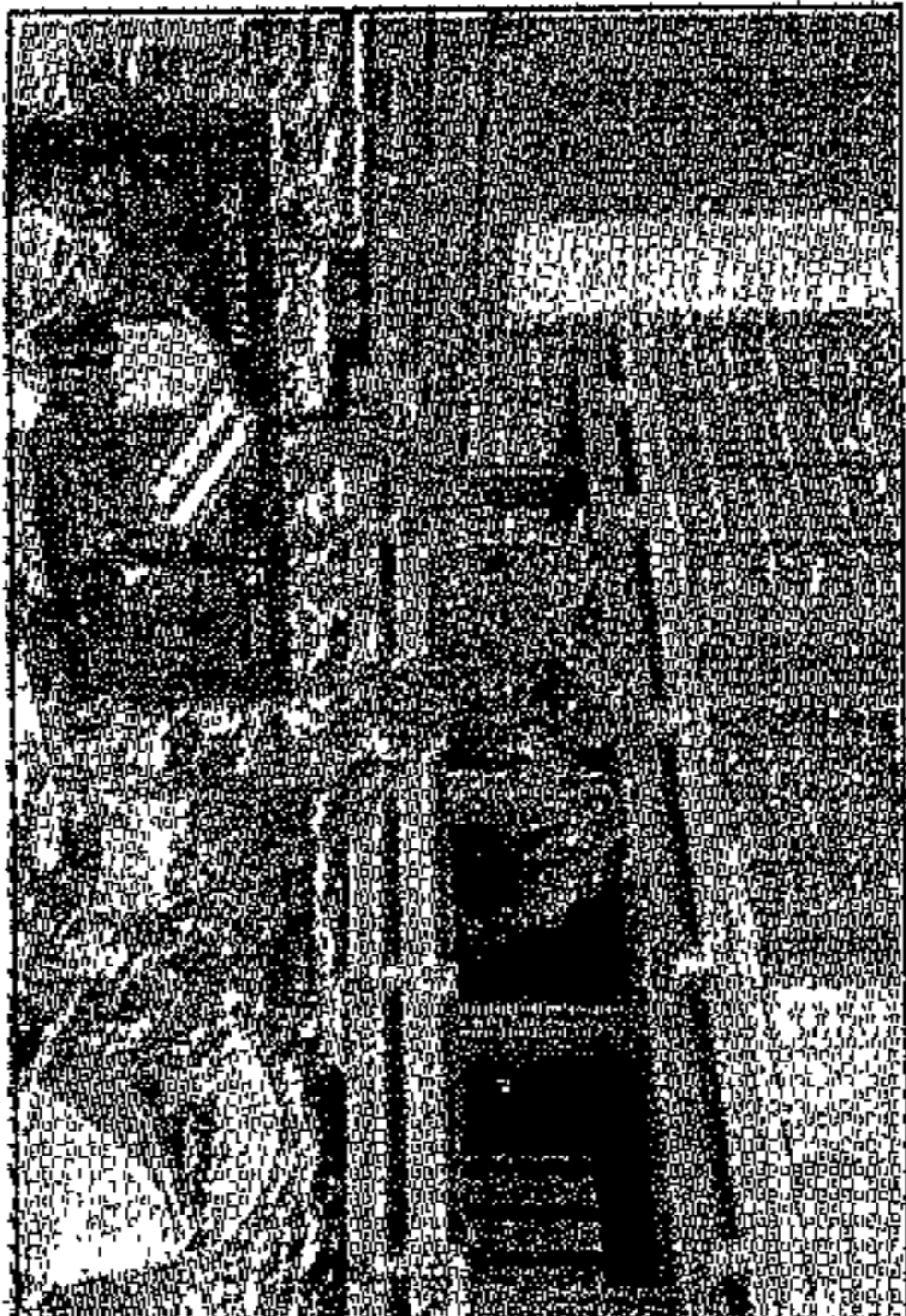
Over the last four months of last year, incident reports averaged 179 a month. But, according to Johannesburg's last unaudited figures, the city has recorded 148 a month, with August's count being 125.

According to police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds, much of the success can be attributed to additional policing in the city in which an average of 334 personnel have been deployed in the area daily over and above the 150 street policemen.

Reynolds said beefed-up response units had improved reaction times, and a boost in the number of cars on the road meant up to 60 marked response vehicles were available in the city each day.

PRETORIA

POPULATION: 1.8M



PETTY CRIME: ±133 cases per month
TREND: Down from average of 166 cases per month
ATTACKS ON TOURISTS: ±7 or 8 cases per month

Petty crime is showing a drop but convictions are all too few

Petty crime in Pretoria's CBD has declined gradually over the past two years, with current figures showing that street crimes like muggings and snatchings have declined by about 20 cases a month in a year.

CBD crime-fighters have identified about 200 muggers who operate in gangs.

"The gangs who have their own turf, are like a pack of hyenas attacking people walking alone. It's rare that they will attack a group," tourist unit member Inspector Timus Lourens said.

Special efforts to expedite the prosecution process in cases where tourists are involved have, however, proved problematic because a tourist court, which allows for one-day justice, is manipulated by suspects and attorneys who postpone cases to dates after the victims have left the country. "It's a major headache to

DURBAN

POPULATION: 1.1M



PETTY CRIME: ±65 cases per month
TREND: Down from 95 cases per month average in 1996
ATTACKS ON TOURISTS: ±12 cases per month

Better information and input from community have made a difference

Better, not more, policing and community-linked initiatives have been the key to stabilising Durban's CBD snatch-and-grab crimes.

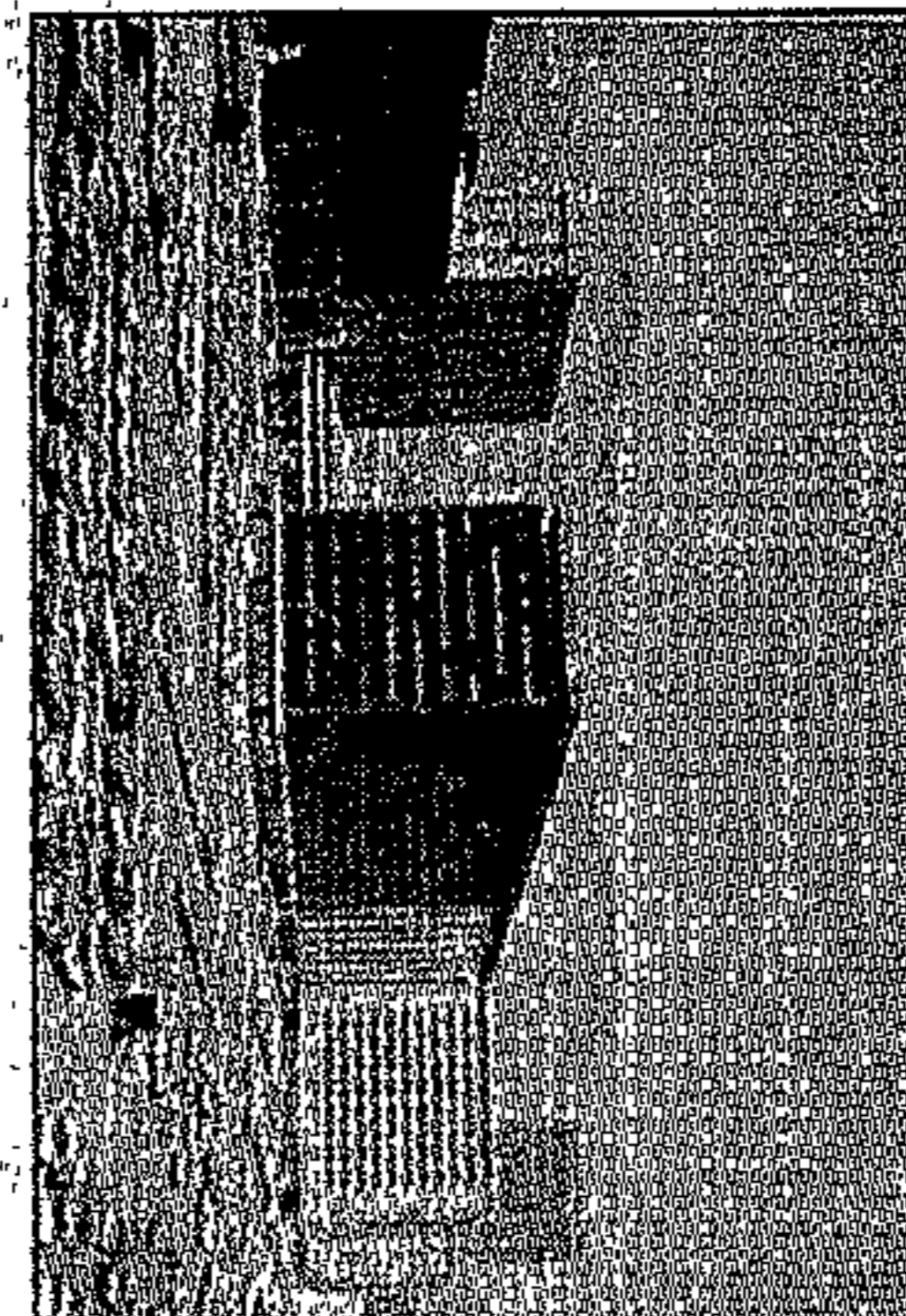
C R Swart, Square station commissioner, Director Ronnie Winter believes that concentrated police efforts and a positive move away from "police bashing" to active participation by the community has played a major role in mending the city's battered tourist image.

"Crime information is vital in pinpointing trouble spots and has been refined to such an extent that we can post policemen at static positions at peak crime times and areas, thus ensuring maximum visibility," he said.

Winter added that the information allowed him to utilise the estimated 200 CBD policemen to full effect. "The city's metropolitan police force is also working

CAPE TOWN

POPULATION: 555,000



PETTY CRIME: ±64 cases per month
TREND: Decline of 10% on 1996 figures
ATTACKS ON TOURISTS: ±18 cases per month

Emphasis on visible policing has made a huge difference

Tourists are the life blood of the Mother City and CBD police have made progress in bringing local and foreign visitors back into the city.

Cape Town Central station commissioner Director Raymond Dowd believes a strong emphasis on visible policing is the key to curbing CBD crime. Robbery and pickpocketing are two of the six top priorities identified by police as vital to ensuring the safety of about a million people, including about 3 500 tourists, who work or move around the city daily.

According to Dowd, most petty crimes are committed by professional gangs, or street children and a handful of squatters who are driven to crime in order to survive. Visible-policing efforts have contributed to a total crime drop of about 400 cases a month when compared with 1996 figures.

This approach has enabled Dowd to put about 50 "pobbies" in the CBD. They are supported by between four and eight roving vehicles. Municipal police and traffic officials have also been deployed in crime hotspots.

A "Rent-a-cop" scheme which made provision for a non-profit section 21 company allowing the employment of 70 police-trained volunteers paid for by the business community has bolstered the police's street presence.

An anonymous R200 000 donation to the central city police station enabled the SAPS to buy five cars that are ideal for inner-city patrols, binoculars for surveillance from observation posts, and a video camera for recording evidence.

The recent installation of closed-circuit TV has also enabled a closer scrutiny of former high-crime areas.

Cosab meets Fivaz, Omar on robberies

THE (34) 803/10197

They Reutner

THE Council of SA Banks (Cosab) had been holding regular meetings with national police commissioner George Fivaz in an attempt to combat bank robberies, and had also met Justice Minister Dullah Omar on the legal process. Cosab spokesman Dave Allen said yesterday.

Allen said Cosab CE Bob Tucker had held regular meetings with Fivaz since April after an increase in bank robberies earlier this year. They agreed on the necessity

of close co-operation by the banking industry with the SA Police Service (SAPS) in order to reduce crime.

The meetings took place against the background of the implementation of a SAPS plan of action to combat bank robberies and theft of cash in transit which began in March. Since then 124 suspects have been arrested in Gauteng.

SAPS deputy commissioner B van der Walt, who is in charge of the operation, said the strategy was aimed at enabling the police to act more quickly and thus be in a position to prevent

the robberies. The operation involved special response units focusing only on bank robberies. These units had immediate access to helicopters, aircraft, highway patrol cars, communication channels and a crime intelligence database.

Van der Walt said the publicity given to crime had been of great assistance.

The efficiency of the banks in reporting robberies and their co-operation in using the latest alarm and surveillance technology had also improved.

The banking industry appreci-

ated the police action, but Tucker said he had feared their success was in danger of being undermined by the criminal justice system and he had therefore met Omar in June.

The justice system still operated too slowly, said Tucker, many of the suspects were still on court rolls and the system was not always able to effectively prosecute offenders.

He was also concerned that none of the crime syndicates had been broken. "This, and resolving the problems in the criminal justice system, are the next major steps," he said.

Ministry considers voluntary retrenchments

803/10197

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — The granting of voluntary severance packages and the freeze on forced retrenchments were being examined by the public service and administration ministry as part of an analysis of right-sizing measures implemented to date.

Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya said yesterday his ministry had launched a number of initiatives to remove impediments to transformation including the institution of performance accountability systems in all departments.

He told a presidential review commission and Commonwealth seminar on challenges facing public service reform that other projects were legislative reform, transforming service delivery, the development of a new management code and right-sizing. He said the project on transforming service delivery engendered a customer orient-

tation and held public servants accountable for the services they provided.

"It is about consulting users of services, setting service standards and getting the best possible value for money. Procedures to be put in place will include specification of measurable outcomes, the development of efficiency and cost-effective indicators, the entrenchment of public reporting systems and the institution of effective complaints and grievance procedures," he said.

The project on right-sizing the public service was expected to make recommendations for implementation after March next year, Skweyiya said.

He said the project was conducting an analysis of the right-sizing measures which had been implemented and was examining the abolition of funded vacancies, the granting of voluntary severance packages, the redeployment of supernumerary personnel and the freeze on forced retrenchments.

Skweyiya said legislative reform would see a clear devolution of powers to executing authorities which would ensure powers on aspects such as internal organisation, appointments, promotions, discharges and other career incidents of public servants.

He said the projects would also propose changes to the personnel administration standard to decentralise control over work organisation within government departments and provincial administrations.

Presidential review commission deputy chairman Norman Levy said transformation had to be undertaken incrementally.

"These include the identification and creation of structures that will ensure quality, development and equity that will foster human resource development planning and ensure that financial planning and management systems are in place to effect savings, avoid waste and improve the quality of delivery," Levy said.

Cosab meets Fivaz, Omar on robberies

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Farmers threaten vigilante action

Louise Cook

PRETORIA — Farmers have called on President Nelson Mandela to fire all of the provincial safety and security MECs, as well as minister Sydney Mufamadi, if they fail to bring crime under control within three months.

Delegates at the SA Agriculture Union's (SAAU's) annual congress accused Mandela yesterday of being "afraid" to call a referendum on the reinstatement of the death penalty, saying the only solution left to farmers was vigilante action in the style of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and the withholding of taxes to pay for protection on farms.

Mandela agreed later in the day to meet a union delegation on the issue of crime and killings on farms. Speculation was rife at the congress that he would announce the appointment of a

BD 10/10/97
commission to investigate claims that a spate of rural murders and attacks on farmers were politically motivated attempts to drive farmers off their land.

Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gous told the congress the point had been reached where farmers needed Pagad-type task groups to raid criminals' homes. "Pagad can show better results today in fighting crime than any of us. Unless organised agriculture starts to deal with violent attacks, killings and raids on farmers and farm workers, splinter organisations will emerge to protect farms."

KwaNalu (formerly KwaZulu-Natal) Farmer's Union safety committee chairman Nduna Buthelezi said crime would continue to escalate unless the death penalty was reinstated. Criminals now had nothing to fear. However, Gous said it was futile trying to get the death penalty reinstated.

(34)
Farmers needed on-farm solutions.

The farmers' anger follows a spate of attacks and killings on farms in the Free State and Eastern Cape over the past 10 days. SAAU president Chris du Toit said it was alarming that violent attacks on farms had increased 53% this year and farmers were four times more likely to be murdered than the general population.

KwaNalu president Graham McIntosh said the scrapping of the death penalty had led to a tendency for people to take the law into their own hands. SAAU safety and security committee chairman Herman Vercueil said the attacks had prompted an "unprecedented wave of anger" among farmers, who were considered soft targets in apparent deliberate attempts to drive them off their land.

See Page 3

Welfare CT 14/10/97 fraud cut by R50m

A TOLL-FREE complaint number has helped the Western Cape Department of Social Services to make a dent in welfare fraud.

The line, by which the public can report people who are receiving grants to which they are not entitled, is one of several steps taken to curb fraud.

The MEC for Health and Social Services, Mr Ebrahim Rasool, said yesterday that forensic auditing had saved more than R50 million and contributed to the department's R67m surplus at the end of the 1996/97 financial year. Implementing recommendations in the auditor's report could save up to R80m a year.

However, the report, by Ernst & Young, says the number of fraud cases is so great it would take a team of eight many years to complete the investigations.

So far, 238 cases — involving just under R2m — have been identified and reported to police in three regions of the province.

The auditors also identified 28 officials involved in fraud. Two have been fined in criminal courts, one has been dismissed and a fourth has resigned. Another official took a voluntary retrenchment package before action could be taken against him. Proceedings have been initiated against three officials and hearings in seven other cases are pending. Five officials have been cleared.

Rasool said he had been dismayed by the light sentences imposed by the courts. The fines were between R500 and R1 500.

"We need to be seen to be acting strongly against any official guilty of defrauding the taxpayer and to be telling the taxpayers their monies are being jealously guarded," Rasool said.

It was important that all levels of government work together to stamp out fraud and irregularities.

The department was considering claiming R150m from Nisec, whose five-year contract to administer computerised pension and social welfare payouts was cancelled by the Western Cape Tender Board. It was found the company did not have the technology to pay pensions without the risk of fraud.

In February, two judges found Nisec had wilfully misled the provincial authorities by not disclosing that its computer technology could not do the job the company was being paid to do. Nisec's application for an order annulling the tender board's decision was dismissed.

Mr Tim Steel, who led the investigation into fraud, said there was still much to be done to minimise losses. "However, there is now the methodology and the commitment to achieve this goal."

The department's customer care number is 0800 22 0250. — Sapa and Political Staff

Rural protection plan for farmers

Louise Cook

(34)
BD 15/10/97

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has responded to farmers' urgent appeal for action against criminals targeting rural areas by announcing details of a protection plan — but he stopped short of appointing a commission of inquiry into allegations that there was a political motive behind the attacks.

Some farmers have said they suspect the recent spate of killings on farms has been co-ordinated, with the specific goal of driving them off their land.

Mandela, accompanied by high-ranking police officials, met an SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) delegation in Pretoria yesterday. He said afterwards that the intelligence services were investigating the possibility that the attacks were part of a strategy to destabilise rural areas.

After the meeting the SAAU also distanced itself from calls for farmers to take the law into their own hands. Union president Chris du Toit said proactive measures against those suspected of being involved in attacks, along the lines of moves by People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, would be irresponsible.

Andre Pruis, divisional commissioner for crime prevention and response services, said the rural protection plan was similar to the one which had successfully brought down the number of bank robberies, and involved the police, the SA National Defence Force and the public. Helicopter support, response units and tracing units would be used.

Land and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom was not at the meeting, but said he was alarmed at the growing number of murders of farmers. "I know tensions are running high ... but I urge them (farming communities) not to take the law into their own hands." Last week several delegates to the SAAU annual congress called for vigilante-style raids on the homes of suspects. This was taken up by farmers at Bultfontein in the Free State days later following the murder of a local farm owner.

At yesterday's meeting Mandela said government would not tolerate the attacks "because of the importance of the farming community, farmers, (farm) workers, to the country and the economy".

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Ex-soldiers 'involved in crime'

FORMER special forces soldiers were just as involved in organised crime as former African National Congress (ANC) cadres, Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut executive member JP Landman said yesterday.

"It is not only old ANC men who are stealing like hell," Landman told the annual AHI congress.

He said a detective described to him the involvement of two former reconnaissance soldiers in large crime syndicates. "The one steals heavy construction equipment which he exports to Africa, and the other luxury cars. These two networks are being run by old security force members."

He was reacting to a motion on the death penalty by another delegate, Pieter Haasbroek, who criticised the government for blaming crime on a sinister third force.

(34) BD 24/10/97

Citing examples of political leaders' bodyguards and drivers being charged with murder, Haasbroek said: "In fact, it appears that SA's criminal third force is coming from ANC ranks."

He called for the entire criminal justice system to be reformed. If this was not done it would be no use reinstating capital punishment.

Haasbroek accused the Constitutional Court of having been so intent on protecting the rights of criminals that it had forsaken the community. It was being argued that the death penalty had no place in a civilised society. "But how long will a society remain civilised under the onslaught of crime?" Haasbroek asked.

David van Jaarsveld, from Empanjeni in KwaZulu-Natal, warned that members of his local chamber of business were insisting on protest action

against crime. "There are calls for us to withhold VAT, and to invest the money in a trust fund until the situation improves," he said.

Dawie de Villiers of Pretoria asked for measures to compensate crime victims. Money from the SA Special Risk Insurance Agency could be used, he said.

The AHI suggested last week that the R9bn fund, set up during the apartheid years to cover contributors' riot losses, be used to compensate victims of apartheid.

Haasbroek said socio-economic development would not end organised crime. "The guys who heisted R18m in Pretoria did not do so because they were poor. Those people are part of organised crime syndicates."

The congress agreed to refer the issues raised at the congress to the executive for further consideration. — Sapa.

Police can't cope with organised crime

mtg 24-30/10/97 (34)

Gustav Thiel

Police admitted this week that not a single ringleader of any of the 700 crime syndicates operating in South Africa has been arrested.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) said the proliferation of crime syndicates since 1994 is crime fighting authorities' biggest headache. But police admit to making no significant inroads in crushing them. Only 192 syndicates are being investigated.

Mark Shaw, of the ISS, said the lack of success proved that law enforcement institutions "do not yet have the resources or technical expertise to cope adequately with crime."

"Intelligence estimates indicate that organised crime has doubled under the new government. Police estimates further suggest that there are currently about 700 extremely well-financed and superbly armed crime syn-

dicates operating in and from South Africa."

In contrast, the SAPS Crime Information Management Centre said in a report published in August that only "192 organised crime syndicates with 1 903 primary suspects are known to be operating in South Africa".

Police are unwilling to release any significant information about any of the syndicates while they are carrying out investigations. Giving out information "could seriously jeopardise future investigations", said Sharon Schutte, senior superintendent of the national detective service (NDS).

Her colleague, superintendent George Mason, agrees: "Due to the nature of the investigations and the fact that many individuals are standing trial on charges relating to organised crime, statistics relating to their identity and involvement cannot be disclosed."

What little information the police do offer shows their lack of success. "This year, they have made 321 arrests relating to organised

crime. An investigation into a vehicle theft syndicate led to the arrest of 30 people. Seven arrests were made on charges relating to the illegal manufacture of mandrax, nine for smuggling dagga from Lesotho to South Africa and 46 for cocaine smuggling.

In Gauteng, 229 people were arrested for crimes which, Mason said, were related to activities of major crime syndicates. A source at the NDS admitted that the arrests involve only small-time couriers for the major syndicates and that there are few leads pointing to ringleaders. According to police statistics most of the syndicates specialise in drug trafficking (96), vehicle-related crimes (83), commercial crime (60) or any combination of these crimes.

Shaw said the only way to successfully counter crime syndicates would be to establish a nationally co-ordinated body. He warned, however, that the growth of organised crime cannot be divorced from the broader issue of governance and economic development.

"The weaker the state becomes over time the more likely that criminal organisations will form parallel and competing points of power which will be difficult to displace," he said.

Guerillas – now turning to crime

Ex-soldiers said to be behind security raids

DESPERATION AND frustration has turned many of the thousands of former freedom fighters into robbers and murderers who use their guerrilla and organisational skills in huge raids on security firms, netting millions of rands.

This is the opinion of a defence lawyer who has represented some of them.

Although not all the gangsters involved in the robberies of hundreds of millions of rands over the past two years are former liberation fighters, it is suspected that the ringleaders are former MK or AP-LA members.

This is because of the fact that several military tactics have been used in the heists.

These include the use of flares and the suspected operation of a cell system which makes it difficult for the police to break up a whole gang or to recover the bulk of the money.

Another Pretoria lawyer, Mpho Mofomme, who is representing a former MK soldier, Collin Chauke, in the latest R18 million robbery in a series of robberies from the SBV security firm, this week struck out at the government for forsaking the men who made it possible for them to gain power through democratic elections.

Although not admitting that his client was guilty, he said thousands of youths had been taken out of the country to learn guerrilla tactics.

"Their task was to kill. They were not taught anything else. When they returned to South Africa after the conflict, there was either no place for them in the per-



By
Des
Blom

manent forces or they did not fit in, so they were given a lump sum – perhaps R50 000 in lieu of pension – and then forgotten.

"But soon the money was gone. They were unable to find work because they had never been educated or trained in anything but killing.

"So they turn to crime. It is easy and they are not troubled by morality because the liberation struggle has hardened them to death and they feel betrayed by their leaders."

City Press yesterday established that despite media reports Chauke was the only one of the three arrested this week for the R18 million robbery who admitted being a former freedom fighter.

Chauke returned to South Africa in 1994. He was discharged from the military that same year and has not worked since.

He has a common-law wife and a three-year-old child, with whom he lived in a flat in Craighall Park, in Johannesburg's northern suburbs.

Police claim an amount of R1,

4 million – the bulk of the R2,4 million recovered, was found in Chauke's flat.

Friends say that the better life for which he had fought as a member of MK had not come to his child.

He is only an accused and has not yet stood trial, but he represents thousands of other former guerillas who find themselves desperate, frustrated and feeling betrayed.

The SAPS have struggled to break into the syndicate because it would appear that the gang or gangs are organised on a cell-system similar to the old communist-cell system – where very few of the members are known to others, so that if one is arrested he is unable to betray others because he does not know them.

Police this week said there was nothing to substantiate the claim that the robbers behind the raids on SBV operate on a cell-system.

When reminded that the three men arrested this week for the R18 million theft last Saturday all claimed in statements to the police that they did not know the other two, the policeman said: "You could expect them to say that."

However, the fact that the three arrested suspects live in such disparate locations as Mamelodi West, Olifantsfontein and Craighall Park would appear to support the theory of the cell system.

Investigating officer Captain Barry Coertzen said that only one of the three admitted having been a former MK member.

cp 26/10/99

(34)

INTERNATIONAL crime bosses are hiring renegade security force members and former guerrillas to pull off multimillion-rand heists, the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, said this week.

Just as KGB agents had turned to crime in the former Baltic states, rogue military operatives, including Umkhonto we Sizwe and Apla guerrillas and SADF soldiers, had become guns for hire in South Africa, he said.

They were being recruited by international crime syndicates which had made South Africa the "theatre" of their operations.

Since August last year, a series of cash-in-transit robberies that have netted more than R80-million have been executed with military precision, using up to 35 men armed with AK-47 rifles, 9mm pistols and .38 revolvers to pull off a heist. In some cases, security vehicles were ambushed, using spiked metal chains which were thrown across the road and flares to mark out the attack area.

Said Mufamadi: "I have previously raised the question of whether elements of the police and security services or elements of liberation armies who have not integrated with the defence force could be playing a role in crime. I did not make these allegations lightly."

Commissioner Suiker Brits, the head of the murder, robbery and firearms investigation unit and the co-ordinator of the investigation into the heists, said the police had found links between eight of the armed robberies and had eight suspects in custody. He said three of the suspects were former Umkhonto we Sizwe members who were being held in Pretoria central prison.

The five other suspects were still being investigated for military links. The police had managed to link the robberies because of the modus operandi, he said.

"It doesn't matter if these people are MK, Apla or the National Party, we'll get them. And if there is anything political behind it, we will bring it into the open."

Colin Gregor, the managing director of Midrand-based SBV Security, which had been hardest hit, said his company was also investigating the robberies.

"We're concerned that only small amounts of money have been recovered when suspects have been arrested. How do you hide that kind of money? This has led us to speculate that these robbers are being hired to execute robberies. Someone else is giving the orders."

Heat rises over prison visit

THE row over the visit to Pretoria Central Prison this week by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has intensified.

An attorney acting for one of the men he visited has denied Mufamadi's claim that he discussed prison conditions with the men, former MK soldiers being held in connection with an R18-million heist in Pretoria.

Mufamadi said the visit was to acquaint himself "with the circumstances relating to escapes from police custody".

But Brian Mabaso, the attorney acting for one of the accused, Ephraim Matjeni, criticised Mufamadi's action as political interference.

"I reject the explanation that it was a courtesy visit... It was an important discussion, and it will form part of court proceedings should this matter come before the courts."

He said Mufamadi had also visited co-accused Collin Chauke and Lukas Yende.

Mufamadi told the Sunday Times that only Chauke was a former MK member.

But Commissioner Suiker Brits, the head of the murder, robbery and firearms investigation unit, said all three suspects in the Pretoria heist were ex-MK members.

Bert Slabbert, spokesman for the Minister of Correctional Services, Siphosizwe Mzimela, said it was not "usual procedure" for the minister of safety and security to look into the problem of escapes at prisons. This was Mzimela's job.

Dogs of war turn their guns on SA



Mufamadi says world crime bosses are hiring former soldiers

(S14) ST 2/11/97



Parliament's thieves shielded by Constitution

CRAIG DOONAN

EFFORTS by the Speaker of Parliament, Frene Ginwala, to improve security in Parliament have come up against a major obstacle — the Constitution.

Parliamentary officials have been trying to tighten up access and exits to Parliament to stop a spate of thefts.

Security officials have advised that one of the most effective measures, besides detection technology, to prevent theft and to stop visitors or others from entering Parliament with weapons, is a body search.

But, this week, Parliament's legal advisers warned that this was unconstitutional.

In terms of the Constitution, everyone has the right to privacy which includes the right not to be searched or have their possessions seized.

But one of the advisers, Anton Meyer, said another section of the Constitution stipulated that "reasonable measures" may be taken to regulate public access to the national assembly.

"This could amount to a specific provision for a person to be searched," he said.

Meanwhile, security specialists from both intelligence agencies and the police's national protection service are trying to hammer out a new plan to overhaul Parliament's security, which one senior official linked to the project described this week as "extremely poor".

This was highlighted when a group of about 30 Freedom Front

youths managed to enter the public gallery with undetected banners and effectively disrupt proceedings by noisily protesting against new education legislation.

Outraged MPs later warned that both democracy and their security was under threat.

"One day they'll throw down bombs (from the gallery)," boomed PAC secretary-general Michael Muendane.

"We need up to three metal detectors at entrances and everyone must allow a body search."

The ANC has set up a special committee to make urgent proposals to Parliament's presiding officers to ensure proper security without interfering with the institution's openness.

The committee, to be led by either the ANC's chief whip or his deputy, will make proposals to Speaker Frene Ginwala on ways to improve parliamentary security and prevent a repeat of this week's "invasion", said an ANC spokesman.

The committee will also discuss new measures that security specialists are planning to implement next year.

Secretary to Parliament Sindiso Mfenyana said new access systems would be erected in parliamentary buildings from March while regulations controlling visitors and tour groups would be strictly enforced.

One of the major headaches for the security specialists is how to handle the dozens of tour groups and hundreds of visitors and other non-parliamentary staff who pass through the premises daily.

ST 2/11/97 (34)

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AirSavers

DESTINATION RETURN FARES FROM

More cops back on beat as crime falls

POLITICAL STAFF

Parliament began a snap debate on crime and vigilantism today as figures were released showing a significant drop in most categories of serious crime across the country.

And Deputy President Thabo Mbeki revealed that about 30 000 police officers who are now desk-bound will soon be redeployed on active crime-fighting duties.

The new "cops-on-the-beat" policy is believed to be an early initiative by new police chief executive Meyer Khan, the former head of South African Breweries who was seconded to the South African Police Service earlier this year.

Today the South African Institute of Race

Relations released the results of a new analysis of police crime statistics showing 20% fewer murders in the first six months of 1997 compared with the previous six months.

Crime was analysed in relation to growing population figures rather than by comparing absolute statistics.

Over the same period, the study shows, the incidence of robbery with aggravating circumstances - which includes car hijacking - fell by 26%.

But not all crime figures are falling. Rape increased by 23% and household burglaries by 4% in the first six months of 1997, but there is still an overall downwards trend.

Political Correspondent Clive Sawyer reports that, ahead of today's debate, African National Congress MP Willie

ARG 5/11/97
Hofmeyr declared: "We may have reached a turning point in the fight against crime".

Using direct comparisons of SAPS figures - a different approach to the one used in the SAIRR study - he said the total serious crime rate had fallen by a significant 2,2%.

The rate for all serious crimes increased by 1,3% in 1995, stabilised in 1996, and this year dropped by 4,5%.

"The crime rate is now 3,3% lower than in 1994, if one takes account of the population increase," Mr Hofmeyr said.

The three most serious violent crimes showed some of the biggest decreases between 1994 and this year.

These were murders, down by 6% over the three years, attempted murder (down 3%) and aggravated robbery (down 6%).

Faiths join forces to bring crime to its knees

TRC-type talks

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

ARC 6/11/99

The Inter-Religious Commission on crime and violence in the Western Cape has adopted proposals to hold Truth Commission-style hearings in an attempt to get to the root cause of the problem.

The commission was established after Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane called on religious leaders to go beyond knee-jerk responses and search for a more sustainable, strategic intervention.

All the major faiths in the province endorsed the call and a task team was assembled to formulate ideas and proposals to enable the religious community to intervene in the conflict through programmes of inter-religious solidarity.

The commission consists of two tiers - the first comprising the high-profile religious leaders who will lend credibility and legitimacy to the work of the commission and will be its public face, and the other tier of commissioners who will concentrate on networking with other anti-crime organisations and initiatives.

Chairman of the task team Imam Rashied Omar said the time was right for everyone concerned to work together to find ways of ending violence and crime.

"People are living in fear and desolation and as a religious community we have a responsibility to restore hope and show we are serious about listening to their concerns and cries for help," he said.

"We are being charged with creating a new morality in society ... his will not drop from heaven and not all of us will undergo the 'Damascus Road' experience. It is our responsibility to open the eyes of the community to what is happening around them and to break the gloom."

Imam Omar said part of this process would include holding TRC-type hearings and giving the victims of crime and violence an opportunity to speak openly about their experiences and the troubles they faced.

"This will be done in consultation with community organisations operating in different areas but without all the trappings and paraphernalia of the Truth Commission. Alleged perpetrators of crime, who want to change their ways, will also be allowed to put their case to the community at these forums."

Task team member Chris Ahrends said this new approach could have a positive effect on other crime prevention strategies as it could get people from different backgrounds and cultures together to collectively apply pressure for change.

"We are engaging in a process of reconstructing society and are renewing the dramatic role the inter-faith community played during the anti-apartheid struggle, but our focus has shifted to crime and violence," Mr Ahrends said.

Many more vigilantes take action

CT 6/11/97

(34)

WILLEM STEENKAMP
SECURITY WRITER

VIGILANTISM — normally law-abiding citizens taking the law into their own hands — is on the increase in South Africa, as people from all walks of life lose faith in the state's ability to deal with crime.

Academics have warned that violent action by ordinary citizens "has become an accepted way of handling conflict in South Africa", and that it was "about time" the government realised that crime had spiralled out of control.

In the past year the anti-drugs organisation Pagad — which vehemently rejects being labelled a vigilante group — was the first major non-security force grouping to point to police inability to stem crime and gangsterism and embark on its own "programme" of action.

After an initial surge of community support for Pagad many later drew back, citing alleged illegal and criminal acts by Pagad members in the name of the fight against crime.

But recently Free State farmers,

a world apart from fed-up Cape Flats residents, began talking of a "Boere-Pagad" to deal with a spate of attacks on farms this year — and indications are that other groups around the country are thinking the same way.

So far this year there have been 60 attacks on and 14 murders of Free State farmers, mostly in the north and north-east of the province — leading to police suspicion that some of the attacks were made by criminals from Gauteng, apparently because it was thought farms in remote areas were easier targets.

According to a report by Dr Ben Haefe, of the Centre for Military Studies at Stellenbosch University,

who recently visited the Free State, there has been a 45% increase in attacks in the area this year.

Furious farmers have already taken the law into their own hands once — two weeks ago a suspect in the killing of Bultfontein farmer Mr Theo Pieterse was

beaten to death and other suspects were assaulted.

But what is also disturbing is that farmers have looked to Pagad

as proof that they can take action with impunity. They have also discussed implementing their own farm watch, without co-operating with the state, as well as withholding taxes.

Haefe's report noted that "the atmosphere is loaded with anger, frustration and powerlessness".

"The farmers feel isolated and alienated from the security forces, and it appears as if the farmers have lost confidence in the government and the SAPS," the report said.

Ms Lala Camerer, a senior researcher with the Institute for Security Studies, said although the creation of "non-state policing mechanisms" was not a new trend, it was burgeoning among a diverse cross-section of the South African population.

The rise of the massive private security industry in South Africa was also indicative of a lack of faith in the state to contain crime, she said.

Apart from the situation in the Western Cape and Free State, she said, there was a vigilante-style group in Soweto called Youth

Against Crime which were also "doing their bit for safety and security".

"It's definitely a growing thing," she said. "It's a hot topic, and one which we're very concerned about."

Camerer said there was a fear that vigilante-style actions would eventually become acceptable to society as a method of combating crime.

Crucial to the question of disaffection among normally

law-abiding citizens was the lack of "victim empowerment", Camerer said.

Victims of crime felt they were not included in the system — caused, for instance, by factors such as police failure to even keep them apprised of investigations — and needed to be "shown they are important role-players".

The public had to be educated in victim empowerment, as well as in ways to prevent becoming victims of crime, she said.

Vigilante action, growing out of a lack of confidence in the criminal justice system, was reactive, ad hoc and often delivered unforeseen results, Camerer said.

'The atmosphere is loaded with anger, frustration and powerlessness.' — Ben Haefe

'Vigilantes are a growing thing, a hot topic ... we're very concerned.'
— Lala Camerer

Positive steps in fight against crime

(E4)

PARLIAMENT may well be tabling stricter laws to deal with criminals, but has there been any real advancement in the battle against offenders? **WILLIE HOFMEYR** seems to think the tide may have turned in the fight against crime.

et 7 11/97

THE fight against crime has been in the news lately with Parliament debating tough new laws to provide for minimum sentences for very serious crimes, as well as making it more difficult to get bail and parole for such crimes.

But has any progress been made in the fight against crime? The release of official crime statistics for the first half of 1997 is perhaps a good opportunity to make some assessment.

In some ways, the statistics confirm what we already know — namely that crime is an extremely serious problem in our country and that our rate of violent crime is among the highest in the world.

But interestingly, the crime figures also show a significant decrease in crime and especially in the most violent crimes.

Table 1 shows that the number of serious crimes increased by 4,1% in 1995 and by 2% in 1996. The figure for 1997, however, shows that we may have reached a turning point in the fight against crime — the total serious crime rate decreased by a significant 2,2%.

The change is even more significant if one uses the standard international measure of crime, namely the rate of crime per 100 000 of population. (1)

Table 1 shows that the crime rate for all serious crimes increased by 1,3% in 1995 but that in 1996 it stabilised with a slight decrease. The figure for 1997 decreased by a significant 4,5%.

In fact, it shows that the crime rate is now 3,3% less than in 1994 if one takes into account the population increase.

Not only did crime decrease in 1997, but Table 2 (column A) shows that the three most serious violent crimes showed some of the biggest decreases: murders by 6%, attempted murder by 3% and aggravated robberies by 6%.

In fact, these figures confirm the previous trend of a decrease in these offences. Since 1994 murders have decreased by 14% and aggravated robberies by 21% (column B).

Statistics for three of the most serious crimes included in aggravated robbery have only been kept since 1996 and all show notable decreases: bank robberies down by 29%, robberies of cash in transit by 61% and car hijackings by 4%.

Column B shows a number of other crimes are now at lower levels than they were in 1994. Car theft is down 5% although it increased by 1% in 1997; drug related offences decreased by 7% although they increased by 11% in 1997; arson is down 18% and other offences down 6%.

For most of the crimes that have increased since 1994, the increase is less than the 7,4% population growth. Moreover, almost all decreased significantly in 1997: less serious assaults are down 4% in 1997, housebreakings down 2%, less serious thefts and robberies down 4% and malicious damage to property down 3%.

Commercial crimes have increased more or less in line with the population increase since 1994. The only crimes which have increased more than the population increase since 1994 is rape, up by 32%, serious assault by 14% and illegal possession of firearms by 17%.

But even here the news is not all bad. The 1997 figures show that they have all been brought under control with a 6% decrease for illegal firearms, no increase for serious assaults and a 2% increase for rape. (2)

The crime figures demonstrate that we may have turned the tide — that the increase in crime was halted to some extent in 1996 and significantly reversed in 1997.

Why is it that this is not reflected in public percep-

tions?

Part of the answer is that we are still suffering the effects of the huge increase in crime in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The SA Institute of Race Relations points out that in the old South Africa — in the four years from 1988 to 1992 — murders nearly doubled, robberies increased by 74% while percentages of other serious crimes also shot up. (Table 3)

Another part of the answer is that the media, by its very nature, tends to focus more on the bad news than the good news. Most newspapers wrote about the high level of crime shown by the 1997 crime figures, and hardly mentioned the fact that they had shown an important decrease in crime.

But the more fundamental answer is, I believe, that fact that crime has become more visible.

Under apartheid, crime was kept behind an iron curtain in the townships, and the government cared little about the huge criminal class created by its policies. As our society democratised, the iron curtain came down and crime also democratised.

Thus, although there has been an overall decrease in crime, there has probably been an increase in crime in many middle class areas where it tends to affect more prominent people, such as businessman Rob Kaplan and Doctor Khumalo's father. Thus crime becomes more newsworthy and more in the public eye.

This greater visibility of crime is good because it means that the community has become much more aware of the problem and is more willing to help to solve it. But we should not allow it to blind us to the fact that we are beginning to bring crime under control and winning some victories.

This is not to suggest that we can now relax. The level of violent crime is still completely unacceptable and continued drastic measures are needed to bring it down to acceptable levels.

Table 3 shows that

Table 1
Reported serious crimes: total and rate per 100 000 of population

Year	Number	% change	Crime rate	% change
1994	962500		2389	1.30%
1995	1002063	4.10%	2421	0.00%
1996	1021979	2.00%	2420	-4.50%
1997	999232	-2.20%	2311	-3.30%
1994-97		3.80%		

This table summarises the total for all crimes reported in SAPS Quarterly Report 3/97

Table 2
Number of offences

	1994	1996	1997	% change 96-97	% change 94-97
Murder	13257	12144	11394	-6%	-14%
Attempt murder	13347	13802	13365	-3%	0%
Serious robbery	39658	36881	31737	-6%	-21%
Rape	18801	24263	24905	2%	32%
Serious assault	97267	110267	110261	0%	14%
Assault	90753	101869	97815	-4%	8%
Housebreaking*	150060	170139	166546	-2%	7%
Theft of car	49975	47143	47720	1%	-5%
Other theft/robbery*	340349	364101	349821	-4%	3%
Commercial crime	30082	31778	32230	1%	7%
Illegal firearms	5171	6374	5975	-6%	17%
Drug related	23920	19969	22136	11%	-7%
Damage to property	58548	62780	61164	-3%	4%
Arson	5555	4541	4541	0%	-18%
Others*	20501	19082	19322	1%	-6%

Table 3
Increase in crime - old RSA 1988-92

	1988	1992	1988-92
Murder	10631	20135	89%
Rape	19638	24812	26%
Robbery	45847	79927	74%
Housebreaking	182754	254941	39%
Car theft	57851	73619	27%
Serious assault	125571	137800	10%

perhaps it was true to talk of "crime spinning out of control" when the previous government was in power. But to do so now is not only untrue, but also does a great deal of harm to our country.

More than that, it may well harm the fight against crime by discouraging the very people who have helped to start turning the tide — the many dedicated people in government, the police, business and the thousands of ordinary citizens who sacrifice their time and energy to work in Community Police Forums and elsewhere to combat crime.

Willie Hofmeyr is the African National Congress MP for Claremont, and is a member of the Justice Portfolio Committee in Parliament.



Duarte praises SA's openness on crime

(34)

Poor perception 'a result of tackling problem head-on'

BY MIKE MASIPA
Crime Reporter

The perception that South Africa is crime infested stems mostly from the transparent way in which the Government is handling the problem, Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Speaking at a Johannesburg seminar on the "New Role of the Police in Crime Prevention in the Province", Duarte told delegates that SA was more open in handling its problems - including crime - than most nations. This showed willingness to tackle the problem head-on rather than sweep it under the carpet, she said.

Duarte cited the UK, which she said had the highest rate of car theft in Europe but that fact

was not well documented because it was hardly reported.

"We have the highest (reported) rate of rape, for instance, because we encourage people to come forward and report the crime. It is better to have people reporting crimes than have them stay quiet in the face of the crime scourge. In that way, everybody concerned can grapple better with the problem," she said.

"Actually we need more of this. We need the media reports encouraging people how to report crime, instead of dwelling on the negative," Duarte said.

She castigated certain community policing forums, which she accused of racism and a general lack of representivity and commitment.

Duarte suggested that the forums needed something simi-

lar to the new code of conduct adopted by the SAPS last week to deal with policing in their areas.

Human rights commissioner Jody Kollapen said the code of conduct would help to kill a perception held in many quarters of the SAPS that that upholding human rights and effective policing were on opposite sides.

"There is nothing in the constitution, and its Bill of Rights, preventing the police from doing their job or opposing bail and from testifying in court in support of a conviction or an acquittal,

"It is, however, important that this (code) becomes more than a document. We should not allow the scourge of crime to blind us from what we want to achieve," Kollapen said.

Star 11/11/97

Stricter controls planned after 27 000 firearms go missing in '97

By **DEREK RODNEY**
Crime Reporter

This year, an average of more than 2 700 guns have been reported stolen every month.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Parliament yesterday that most of the firearms used in the 25 783 robberies and 2 026 attempted robberies reported during the first six months of this year were stolen from the country's estimated 3,4 million legal gun owners.

Replying to a question from ANC MP Dave Dalling, Mufamadi said that during the same period, 5 127 murders and 10 050 attempted murders involving firearms were reported.

About 6 000 people were arrested for illegal possession of firearms during this period.

Central Firearms Register (CFR) commander Director Abrie Burger said yesterday that many guns were lost

through negligence by licensed owners.

Police statistics show that from January 1 to the beginning of this month, 27 314 firearms were reported lost or stolen — more than 3 000 cases up on last year's corresponding figures.

While moves are being made to recover stolen weapons and make it tougher to own a firearm, CFR statistics show that more than 12 000 of the 50 585 firearms reported stolen or lost between January last year and the beginning of this month were police-owned weapons.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz made the recovery of illegal firearms the police service's top priority in his 1997/98 Police Plan, announced in April this year.

National firearms investigation unit (FIU) co-ordinator Henning Brand said units around SA were being bolstered from 289 members to 511.

The 28 existing FIU branches

are to be expanded by another 16 to tackle cases, especially in the former TBVC states where policing of firearms was minimal during the apartheid era. The CFR is also being expanded by 129 extra posts to deal with the more than 18 000 applications it receives each month.

Tougher legislation and control of firearms is on the way.

A firearms task force, set up by a parliamentary subcommittee, has presented a national firearm plan to the Cabinet.

The recommendations by the task force include: increasing penalties for the unlawful possession of a firearm, basic practical and theoretical competency testing for all firearm-licence applicants, and new licensing requirements by introducing stricter criteria for grounds to own a firearm.

► **Report and picture**
Page 3

Few safe from gangsters, survey reports

(34) bd 11/11/97

Business Day Reporter

A SURVEY on gangs in urban areas shows an alarming penetration of gangs into communities all over the country.

The bulk of black urban areas, in particular, are in the grip of gangsters, with 74% of black adults aware of neighbourhood gangs and 64% living in fear of them.

The survey was conducted for Business Day by Market Research Africa (MRA). An area-stratified probability sample of 2 510 respondents represented 92% of urban adults, excluding live-in domestics and mine workers.

Commenting on the results, MRA director Brian Culross said: "The extraordinarily high levels of expectation of gang attacks reflects a pessimistic view of society's future and the government's ability to provide safe living for its citizens."

He said Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's proposed anti-gang legislation, announced last month, was likely to receive broad public support — if people thought it had "the necessary muscle to tackle the situation". It would make participation in gang activities a punishable offence.

The survey showed that while gang activity was rife in the Western Cape, it was actually more prevalent in the northern provinces, notably North West, Northern Cape, Northern Province and Mpumalanga.

A total of 61% of urban adults

nationwide — up to 74% in North West and Northern Cape — knew of gangs in their neighbourhood. Coloureds were slightly more aware of gang activities than blacks but incidents or fears of attack were highest in black communities.

Seven in 10 blacks (representing 6.1-million people) said gangs of adults and/or youths roamed their neighbourhoods, and 46% expected gangsters would threaten, rob or assault them or someone in their household one day. Eighteen per cent had already been victims.

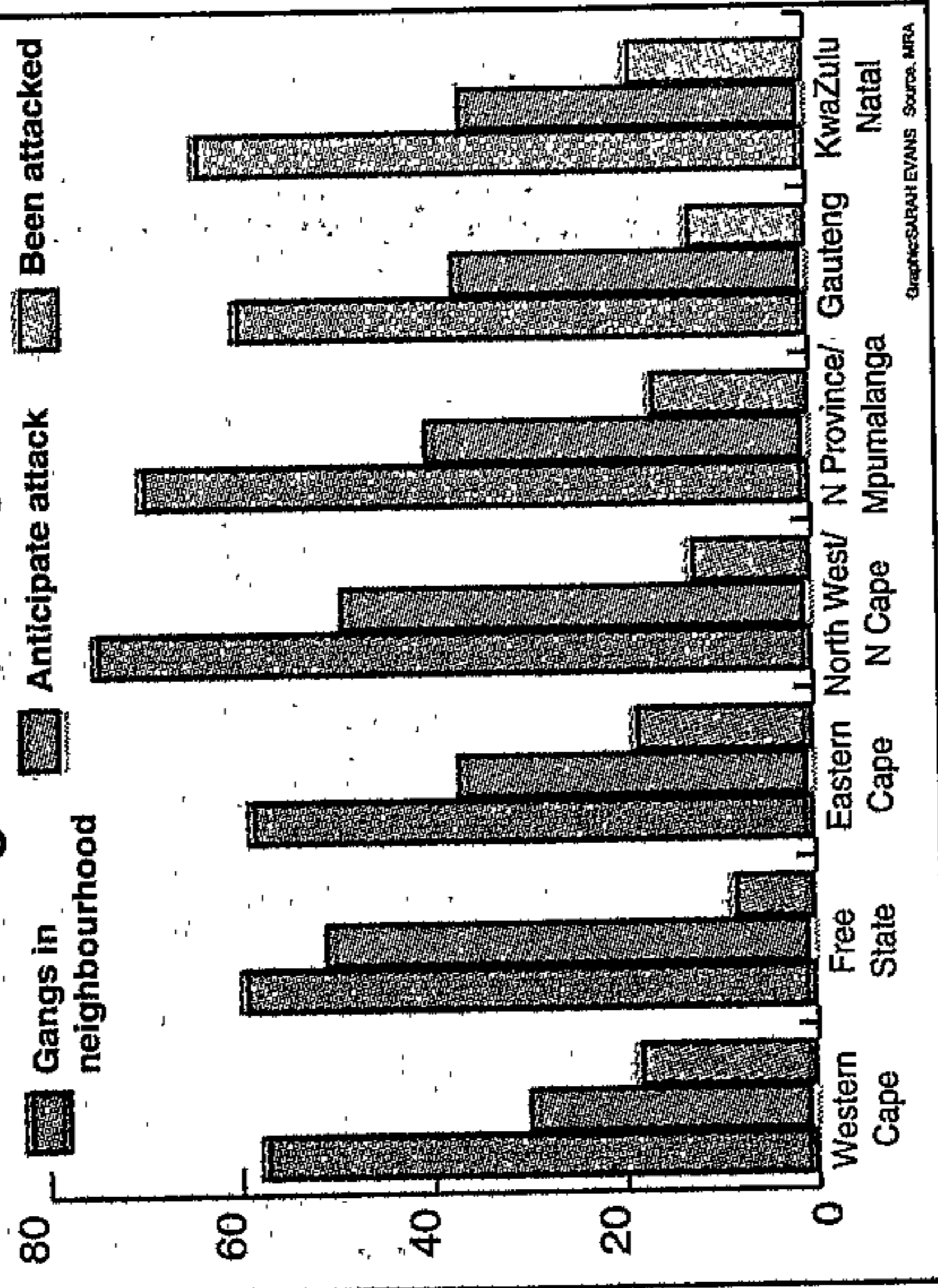
Of the 74% of coloureds who reported the presence of gangs, 12% had been victims and a further 42% were afraid they would be targeted one day. However, 20% of coloureds were not afraid of their local gangs.

"Gangs are also evident in white and Indian communities, but not to the same extent," said Culross. "Overall, 39% of Indian respondents and 32% of whites were aware of local gangs. One in 10 Indians and just under one in 10 whites had already been attacked, robbed or threatened, and 17% of whites and 20% of Indians were afraid of this happening to them or their families."

Gang violence was highest in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, where 18% of respondents in each province had been victims of gang aggression. While personal experience of gang violence was lowest in the Free State (8%), the fear of being attacked was the highest there (50%).

Despite the fact that few people

Awareness/experience of neighbourhood gangs



Zulu-Natal (19%) and least in North West and Northern Cape (7%).

Free State respondents were the most reluctant about using firearms to arrest people (15%). A further 17% were against patrols using firearms for any reason.

"This might seem at odds with their high level of apprehension about gang attacks," said Culross, "but most probably it reflects a worry that more guns means more mayhem."

year olds) said this should be for self-defence only. Most whites (45%) thought neighbourhood watch patrols should have weapons both to protect themselves and to use when arresting criminals.

Across the provinces, most people thought citizen patrols should have firearms for self-protection — especially Eastern Cape respondents (70%). Unarmed citizen patrols were favoured most in Kwa-

BMW offers hijack-proof car for SA

ARG 12/11/97

(34)

STAFF REPORTER

Now, especially for South African roads - the hijack-proof Beemer. BMW today announced the 540i

Protection, complete with body armour and security glazing.

The car is expected to become available here towards the middle of next year.

BMW says the car is almost identical in looks to the standard

production 5 series. But it offers protection "from attackers armed with anything from rocks and crowbars through to handguns of up to .44 Magnum calibre".

An external communications system, complete with handheld microphone, allows occupants of the 540i Protection to talk to people outside without having to risk opening side windows or doors.

The special security modifications include 19mm security glazing all round with polycarbonate

coating to prevent splinters from entering the interior.

High-performance aramide-fibre mats, which stop bullets by a process of energy absorption, have been installed around the passenger cell, in wheel arches and doors, the A-, B- and C-pillars, and in the roof and rear sections.

Special tyres are available capable of speeds of up to 80km/h after being penetrated. Under normal circumstance they will handle speeds up to 210km/h.

Crime-busters to take leaf from apartheid book

Provincial Cabinet to forge tough laws

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

ARC 13/11/97

(34)

A proposed new crime fighting structure set to go before the provincial Cabinet for approval could see the establishment of a multi-agency forum to co-ordinate anti-crime initiatives, similar to the apartheid regime's joint management centres (JMCs).

The structure was proposed after much debate and deliberation at the recent provincial crime prevention summit.

It was proposed that the multi-agency forum, to include the heads of provincial government departments, the police, the defence force, municipalities, representatives of non-government organisations and

commerce, would be chaired by Western Cape director-general, Niel Barnard.

The structure is reminiscent of the former government's JMCs in which the defence force, police, government departments and intelligence personnel collaborated to counter forces opposed to apartheid.

But even before the summit deliberated whether the structure was the best mechanism for fighting crime, a similar forum, the Integrated Planning Group (IPG), was meeting under the chairmanship of Mr Barnard.

It was this structure, and the fact that it was headed by Mr Barnard, who during the apartheid-era was head of the National Intelligence Service, that was the main focus of the debate at the summit.

Summit facilitator and executive direc-

tor of the Community Peace Foundation Nombulelo Mkefa said while the Barnard aspect of the group had been contentious, delegates has agreed it was a powerful and useful mechanism to deal with crime.

"It is true that doubt has been cast on the acceptability of such a structure but after broad consultation and long debate it was agreed Mr Barnard should be left out of the debate as that was a separate issue and had nothing to do with the proposed structure.

"Looking at the group as a structure, it is clear it has the capacity to prioritise and to decide on matters immediately and to take the necessary steps to ensure that problems are resolved."

Ms Mkefa said it was this type of delivery mechanism that was needed to fight crime.

... ..

The Specifics of South-South Co-operation

1 2 Novemb 1997



Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ian Forsyth, left, and SA Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Minty, at a conference in Johannesburg yesterday organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs to discuss south to south co-operation.

Picture: LORI WASELCHUK

'Drugs, refugees threaten stability'

Bonile Ngqiyaza

SOUTHERN African countries were faced with a host of potentially destabilising factors, including narcotics trading, displaced populations and environmental and economic problems, an SA Institute of International Affairs conference heard yesterday.

Institute for Security Studies representative Jakkie Cilliers, speaking at the conference organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), estimated the value of the worldwide trade in illegal drugs to be as high as \$500bn a year.

The US, Cilliers said, was the world's largest consumer of illegal drugs with 30-million users spending an estimated \$28bn a year on cocaine, \$6.8bn on marijuana and between \$10bn and \$12bn on heroin.

There were ominous signs SA was being targeted both as a major trans-shipment centre for a wide variety of narcotics and as a lucrative untapped market. Drug use was not simply a social phenomenon, but had wider political and security implications. "For instance, in Latin America there is an intimate relationship between the narcotraficantes (drug traffickers) and leftist revolutionary groups."

Cilliers said political unrest, social upheaval, economic dislocation and ecological disaster had all contributed to the movement of people across national frontiers from one southern African state to another.

"The largest and most dramatic population movements of recent years, however, have been the 30-million refugees and other displaced people in the

developing world," he said. "Mass population movements create domestic instability, generate interstate tension and threaten international security."

He said the waning of Cold War military tensions had coincided with the growing visibility of problems that threatened the security of many states and required international solutions.

These included the hole in the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, deforestation and the scarcity of water, energy and other resources.

"Current calculations are that by 2000 SA will suffer water stress. Malawi will have moved into absolute water scarcity," he said.

Cilliers called for the reformation of the United Nations and its security council in order to address regional representation and the existing permanent council members' veto power.

(34)

BO 13/11/97

SA murders far above global average — report

(34)
Bonile Ngqiyaza

BD 26/11/97

SA HAD a reported murder rate of 45 people per 100 000 inhabitants last year, comparing unfavourably with the international average of 5,5 per 100 000, a Network of Independent Monitors and Gun Free SA-commissioned report released this week stated.

The report on arms control and weapons proliferation focuses mainly on KwaZulu-Natal, which it said had the largest weapons problem of the provinces, with 45,4% of the SA total of weapons seized there.

It said of 24 765 murders reported in SA last year, 10 500 were committed with firearms — and calculated that 28 people were killed by firearms daily in the country.

The report said firearms were used in 43 279 of the 68 320 robberies which were reported in 1994. And last year alone, it said, 195 639 firearms had been approved.

The report said there were more than 2-million licenced firearm owners and more than 4-million licenced weapons in circulation in SA. The figure excluded an estimated 5-million weapons owned by the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and SA Police Services (SAPS).

The SAPS, the report said, was aware of and monitoring the activities of more than 2 800 suspects known to be involved in the illegal firearms trade.

The Ceasefire Campaign which, among other things, is campaigning for a total ban of limpet mines, said while accurate figures for the total of illegal weapons in circulation were unobtainable, it was estimated at 4-million last year.

While the report recognised that the flow and availability of weapons in SA was stimulated by historical and continuing political conflicts, both domestic and regional, it expressed concern that the new government continued selling arms to other African countries.

The report — which traces the history of SA society's militarisation during its apartheid struggle to recent crime syndicates and the taxi conflict — criticised the SANDF and the SAPS which it said continued stockpiling weapons, this despite the fact that SA never had a serious military threat and — according to military intelligence — was unlikely to have one in future, it said.

Poor crime management, including the low rates of arrest and conviction, were a national problem, the report said.

The situation was especially bad in KwaZulu-Natal, where former KwaZulu Police officers had little comprehension of the use of forensic evidence, the report said.

It said despite public perceptions, pistols and revolvers — not AK-47s — were the weapons most commonly used in SA.

The temptation is to push too hard to obtain results

(34)

By DEREK RODNEY

Star 27/11/97
The Government's drive to root out corruption has led to the formation of numerous bodies with extensive powers to purge the problem.

However, getting to the root of the matter often requires those pursuing justice to walk a thin tightrope between proving officials corrupt and corrupting them in the process.

Entrapment and enticement are in many cases the only means of exposing corrupt officials. With almost daily revelations of graft in the public service by the media and a number of bodies which have been appointed to probe behind the facade of bureaucracy, investigators face a very real temptation to push too hard to justify their existence.

Pressure to stamp out this corruption, especially in the public sector, has become most visible in the South African Police Service, which last month alone had 1 015 cases, involving 484 members, being investigated by anti-corruption units (ACU) around the country.

However, the vigorous pursuit of convictions, especially in a service described by one British newspaper as among the most corrupt in the world, may have unleashed a witchhunt for success where the end result outweighs the means to achieving it.

Several corruption cases are pending in Johannesburg and Vereeniging courts in which the modus operandi employed by the informer and the ACU unit, and the execution of several police traps, are being brought into question.

The methods employed are the subject of an internal probe approved of by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and referred to the Independent Complaints Directorate for further scrutiny.

Anger, alarm as rural attacks continue

Newcastle man and wife are found strangled and shot on smallholding

OWN CORRESPONDENT AND SARA Pietermaritzburg

Ten people have been murdered and eight injured in 18 attacks on farms and smallholdings this month.

The National Crime Prevention and Response Service said yesterday that eight of the attacks took place in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Yesterday's discovery of the bodies of Newcastle couple Nicholas Marais (43) and his wife Magda (33), who lived on a smallholding, brought to five the number murdered in the province since November 1.

Police said the couple were apparently strangled, then shot.

Wayne Botha (38), of Nyosi Farm at Highflats near Ixopo, was attacked by three men in his workshop yesterday.

He was hit over the head by one of his attackers.

A second man held a knife to his throat while a third attempted to shoot him with a gun loaded with a blank bullet.

The three suspects were arrested shortly afterwards.

Police said a farmer was murdered in two attacks on Free State farms. Three suspects were arrested.

In the Eastern Cape, two

people were killed in separate attacks: a farmer on Friday and a farmer's wife the week before.

Three arrests were made.

There were four attacks on North West farms, in which one farmer was killed and three people were injured. Nine arrests were made.

Three people were injured in an attack on a farm at Swartruggens in Northern Province and two suspects were arrested.

Superintendent Leon Engelbrecht said good progress had been made by the police's special investigation unit into farm attacks and murders.

Since the murder of farmers had been made a priority crime, additional task force members from Pretoria and the defence force had been deployed.

Norman Chandler reports that President Mandela has been given "sensitive information" about the murders of 350 white farmers since 1994.

This follows years he expressed recently that former members of Umkhonto we Sizwe and Apla, former armed wings of the ANC and PAC, could be responsible for the killings.

The PAC has also hinted

at this possibility.

It is expected that Mandela will meet South African Agricultural Union president Chris du Toit early next month to discuss the information, contained in a report being compiled by intelligence agencies.

"The president would like to have this meeting as soon as possible after this date," his spokesman Parks Mankahlana told The Star yesterday.

"We are unable to give any details as to the information he has so far received because he would like to discuss it with them before making any public disclosure."

AW 29/11/97

(24)

SAAU chief warns that farmers may act on attacks

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture should not be blamed if it took extraordinary steps to protect its members against criminal attacks on farms, the SA Agricultural Union said yesterday.

President Chris du Toit said in this month's call for a judicial inquiry. "We abhor the barbaric way in which a farmer and his wife were murdered in KwaZulu-Natal in the latest killing.

"The SAAU and its affiliates should not be blamed if they take extraordinary measures to protect their members and other farmers against such attacks."

those of a KwaZulu-Natal civic leader who said recently: "We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed."

The government had to act decisively if it really intended stopping the spate of killings, Du Toit said.

He called on farmers to take all possible precautions to ensure their safety over the holiday.

"Indications are that the attacks will increase during this period. We call on the security forces to be more visible in rural areas in the next few weeks."

The SA National Civics Organisation and police are investigating an alleged threat by a Sanco member that farmers in KwaZulu-Natal would be killed.

The Sanco member allegedly made the threat during a heated exchange with police at the Ingogo police station in northern KwaZulu-Natal on Wednesday, according to a Johannesburg-based newspaper.

The newspaper quoted the man as saying: "We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed."

A police officer at the Ingogo station confirmed the incident had taken place but would say only that police were investigating.

It was confirmed that the statement was made during a heated exchange over an eviction order served on three families from a farm in the area.

Sanco deputy president and provincial secretary Ruth Bhengu said Sanco did not have details of the incident, but did not dispute that it had happened.

Bhengu said although her organisation did not support any form of violence in dealing with conflict, the circumstances surrounding the incident should be taken into account.

Another KwaZulu-Natal farmer, Wayne Botha, 32, from Highflats in the south of the province, was wounded when he was attacked by three men on his farm on Wednesday afternoon.

The attack was apparently linked to the sacking of a farm worker three weeks ago. — Sapa.

(34)

28/11/97

word KATH... from the

SAAU chief warns that farmers may act on attacks

By 28/11/97

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture should not be blamed if it took extraordinary steps to protect its members against criminal attacks on farms, the SA Agricultural Union said yesterday.

President Chris du Toit said in Pretoria the wave of farm attacks this month lent weight to the union's call for a judicial inquiry. "We abhor the barbaric way in which a farmer and his wife were murdered in KwaZulu-Natal in the latest killing.

"The SAAU and its affiliates

should not be blamed if they take extraordinary measures to protect their members and other farmers against such attacks."

Newcastle farming couple Nicholas Marais, 43, and his wife Magda, 33, were found bludgeoned to death on their farm on Wednesday.

This brings to 10 the number of farmers murdered in 18 attacks so far this month. Another eight were injured.

Du Toit said farm attacks were encouraged by remarks such as

those of a KwaZulu-Natal civic leader who said recently: "We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed." The government had to act decisively if it really intended stopping the spate of killings, Du Toit said.

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Corruption unit to probe 2 000 cases

BD 1/12/97

(34)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The special investigating unit and tribunal into government corruption and maladministration has received 2 000 complaints — involving amounts totalling R19,7bn — since it was set up in March.

One of the biggest cases involved more than R1bn in fraudulent cheques in the health and education departments of Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Northern Province, the unit's second in charge, Gerhard Visagie, said at the weekend.

He said the unit had saved the state about R220m when a R400m tender for a new pensions scheme in the Eastern Cape was recently set aside by the Bisho High Court when the cheapest tender had been R180m.

Another example was investigation of the award of an R80m tender for a government building in Queenstown after improper tender procedures were followed, Visagie said.

The unit's "trials" had begun in earnest in the past two months, and most of its investigations still had to be heard by the tribunal, he said.

The investigating unit, headed by Judge Willém Heath, covered maladministration, misappropriation, corruption, negligence and unlawful conduct "with a bearing on state institutions" at national, provincial and local government levels, Visagie said. Its probes covered feeding scheme maladministration, pensions and tenders, theft and illegal land deals.

However, a "budgetary dispute" had arisen with government. The unit's request for R15m for its first six months

of operation was still awaiting approval. Visagie said the decision was regrettable, "because we feel we can recover so much more for the state". The unit, which had 50 staff members, was "an obvious investment for SA".

Heath has described the unit as a commission "with teeth", similar to the commission he headed in the Eastern Cape which saved about R10bn.

Visagie said the unit differed from a commission in that it not only investigated complaints, but had the authority "to initiate civil proceedings and bring such civil proceedings before the special tribunal. We not only investigate matters but bring them to finality by getting a legal judgment." Its judgments were equivalent to those "of a single judge in a high court".

If matters of a criminal nature came to the attention of the unit they were referred to the attorney-general for prosecution, Visagie said. Anybody could lodge complaints with the unit, which were then referred to the unit by proclamation in a government gazette. Not all the 2 000 complaints received so far had been proclaimed yet.

Heath was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to head the investigation unit, with retired Appeal Court judge Gerhardus Kotzé as president of the tribunal.

The establishment of the unit followed a cabinet decision to extend the probe countrywide as a result of the successes reported by the Heath commission, which was appointed by former Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba in 1995 to investigate malpractice in the province, including the former Transkei and Ciskei.

Third of accused slip through nets of justice

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

At least one-third of criminal cases handled by the courts are withdrawn because suspects disappear and witnesses go missing, contributing to an emerging crisis of dropping conviction rates amid high levels of ongoing serious crimes.

A study by the Institute for Security Studies revealed that convictions for most crimes had dropped steadily since 1992-93, while reported crime had stabilised or decreased.

But the decline in convictions had preceded the levelling off of reported crime by several years, and some serious crimes were actually increasing when convictions began dropping.

During the first half of this year, about 40% of murder cases went unsolved, while the remaining 60% were either put through the court system, withdrawn for a specified reason or unfounded because they were attributed to suicide or another non-culpable reason.

According to Michelle Baird, director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, bureau research indicates that one in

every three criminal cases is withdrawn because the suspect or witness goes missing.

"We found that one-third of all witnesses don't come back to court after their first appearance because of frustration, confusion or intimidation. The accused sometimes slip away when they are granted bail," Baird said.

The bureau, in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, jointly initiated the Pre Trial Services project to address flaws in the system.

According to Baird, while the effect of Pre Trial Services on conviction rates has not yet been analysed, it was expected to improve the current declining conviction figures - described by experts as an emerging crisis.

Pre Trial Services, started after a nine-week study at the Mitchells Plain Magistrates' Court in the Cape from May to July, is now active in both Mitchells Plain and Johannesburg.

"We were shocked to discover that if a witness or a suspect in a criminal court case misplaces or forgets their next appearance date, there is cur-

rently no way court clerks can look up the date for them unless they can remember the name of the prosecutor involved. This is because court filing is done according to the next appearance date," Baird said.

Pre Trial Services, operating from the holding cells at the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court, is working on registering all incoming cases and following them up.

Witnesses are also provided with a safe waiting area where they are informed of court procedures and offered the opportunity to liaise with the case prosecutor if they are intimidated.

According to Sarah Oppley of the Institute for Security Studies' crime and policing programme, police are also working on improving their investigation of cases and their partnership with prosecutors.

"The new Detective Academy was opened recently, marking a shift from the old service with its torture and beatings to a new system with better methods," Oppley said.

► Emerging crisis in SA
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Safer cities focus of conference on crime

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

Practical means to bring about a sustainable reduction of crime, violence and insecurity will be explored at an international conference on "safer cities" in Johannesburg next year.

The April conference follows major conferences on similar themes which have been organised by local authorities in Strasbourg, Barcelona, Montreal, Paris and Vancouver over the past 11 years.

Presented by the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council in co-operation with the Government and international entities, the four-day conference will focus on how local authorities and communities

can implement their own crime-prevention strategies and programmes.

Issues relating to industrialised and developing countries are to be examined by an estimated 1 000 delegates. The conference takes place from April 14 to 17, starting with a mayor's summit promoting safer-city initiatives.

According to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), which is organising the conference, some of the actions likely to arise from the discussions include the promotion of conti-

mental and regional forums for urban safety, the establishment and strengthening of co-operative partnership between various cities, improvements in the replication and adaptation of

promising and successful programmes, the exchanging of "best practices", and an improvement in the support obtained from national and provincial governments, the

private sector and international organisations for crime prevention at a local level.

"The conference," says the ISS, "will go beyond political

rhetoric and scientific conclusions and determine the practice, projects, approaches and activities for a sustainable reduction of crime, violence and insecurity."

It will "bring together those who are working with proven and promising crime-prevention practices from across the world to understand "what works and how to apply it".

It will aim to create an understanding of the relationship between crime and social and economic issues, develop successful problem-solving partnerships, promote the sharing of information, create a united worldwide commitment to the prevention of crime, and the development of safer communities.

“Sustainable reduction of violence”

Viljoen draws flak for militant stance on farmers

FREEDOM Front leader Constand Viljoen's militant stance on protection for farmers following the spate of attacks on farms drew sharp criticism yesterday.

Viljoen said yesterday farmers might formulate their own protection plan, including deadly self-defence measures.

The announcement was immediately criticised by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and by national police commissioner George Fivaz, who said some farmers themselves posed an obstruction to rural security.

Viljoen said in Pretoria that farmers had no option but to take the law into their own hands.

He was reacting to the murder on Tuesday of farmer Gerhardus Scheepers, 55, and his wife Isabel, 53, of Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Fifteen farmers have been killed in 19 attacks in rural areas since the start of November.

The SAAU called on political parties not to make statements on behalf of the farming community.

This would lead to confusion over the channels to be used for solutions, said SAAU president

Chris du Toit. He said the SAAU would meet President Nelson Mandela on Tuesday.

Fivaz said police initiatives to curb farm attacks should not be hampered by what he described as short-term political point-scoring and divisive statements.

However, Viljoen said he intended calling a meeting with farmers in Pretoria today to discuss the possibility of formulating their own plan.

"To date I have pleaded with farmers not to take the law into their own hands," Viljoen said.

"Now I am afraid there is no other option. This is no longer crime—it has turned into a war against our farmers and rural communities."

His recommendations for a protection plan would include declaring farms no-go areas.

Fivaz said permanent success in rural security could be achieved only when farmers made an effort to improve relationships with their farm workers.

Workers were often the first to pick up information on planned attacks, or to spot suspicious-looking people.

BD 4/12/97

(34)

A rural protection plan operating in rural Free State areas had since November 1 resulted in 1 747 arrests, 24 of them related to attacks on or murders of farmers, police spokesman Spt Leon Engelbrecht said.

Statements that the police are not doing proactive work are utterly false, he said.

Louise Cook reports President Nelson Mandela "would not be surprised" if former Umkhonto we Sizwe and Azanian People's Liberation Army members were responsible for spiralling attacks

on and killings of farmers.

However, no conclusions could be made before the SA Police Service (SAPS) crime intelligence units' investigations had been completed, presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said this week.

There were several cases where demobilised forces of the past were involved in different types of crimes at present, but the unit's findings would not be made public if it was going to interfere with the course of justice and "bringing the criminals to book".

Toefy turns on Pagad

M+G 5 - 11/12/97 (34)

Andy Duffy

The man who led the militant group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) through 18 months of brutal conflict with Cape Flats gangsters has broken ranks with the organisation.

Aslam Toefy, who quit as Pagad's national co-ordinator last month, says it is time to stop marching on drug dealers' houses and to start attacking the causes of drug abuse and gangsterism.

Pagad succeeded in raising the profile of the Cape Flats drugs scourge, he says. But the group has become a "perfect alibi" for anyone, including gangsters and drug dealers, to engage in criminal actions such as fire-bombings and murder.

The Pagad leadership has little control over attacks carried out in its name. It is not even clear whether the strikes on alleged drug dealers and gangsters have won or lost the organisation support.

"I stood on a cliff and looked down and I didn't like what I saw. I was there on the edge with Pagad," Toefy says. "It was never Pagad policy to attack anyone. It was policy to spur the police to act. Pagad became a springboard for everyone. Pagad was a perfect alibi. It was far bigger and more violent than it should have been."

Toefy quit after what Pagad insiders have dubbed long-running strife within the organisation. He is believed to have lost out in a bitter power struggle with other leaders linked to the radical Muslim group Qibla. Toefy was linked to the Muslim Judicial Council, which has criticised Pagad for its violent strategy. There have even been unconfirmed reports that Toefy, long accustomed to death threats from gangsters, was facing them from within Pagad.

Until that power struggle, Toefy was the public face of Pagad, as its increasingly bloody war with Cape Flats druglords intensified — a war that has claimed several lives on the Cape Flats this year and wounded dozens more.

His Pagad exploits include targeting Cape journalists for their coverage of the organisation, threatening the Olympic Bid Company after it talked to gangsters, joining a march on the Israeli embassy as part of "Muslims Against Global Oppression" and holding a press conference from a police cell. He also eluded police for months over charges relating to the violent Pagad demonstration at Cape Town airport last Christmas.

"Our main task is to fight gangs and stop drug trafficking," he told the press, daring



Aslam Toefy: 'The more human and gentler person in me needs to come out'
PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

the police to try to stop him. Toefy says Pagad's aggressive strategy, which he personally drove, was "necessary ... the manner in which we approached the problem prompted the action we've seen from the police.

It was grandmothers and mothers who put their lives on the line. They proved to the police that the gangsters are not invincible. But the strategy needed to change, to look at closer co-operation with the police and focus more on the wider drug problem.

"I would certainly hope that Pagad would look at this new direction and move on," Toefy adds. "It is necessary to engage the police far earlier. They have the expertise. All

we have to do is give them the information." Toefy dismisses talk of death threats, and of a power struggle or ideological differences within Pagad's leadership. He says he wanted to leave "to broaden his horizons".

He is planning to launch a community-based programme, focused on prevention and rehabilitation, and job creation.

"We can catch more bees with honey than vinegar," he says. He says his relations with Pagad remain good, though there has been no contact since he resigned.

Toefy adds that he had been "demonised" for his involvement in Pagad. "The more human and gentler person in me needs to come out," he says.

Mzimela 'risks disciplinary steps' from IFP

Farouk Chothif
DBAN Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) national deputy chairman and Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela risked disciplinary action, and could even be forced to quit following his call for a merger with the African National Congress (ANC), IFP sources said yesterday.

The IFP-owned *Langa* newspaper, which generally reflects the view of the party leadership, launched a blistering attack on Mzimela yesterday.

It described him in a report as a "praise-singer" of President Nelson Mandela and criticised him for changing his name from Siphiso Sipo to "please the Americans", having lived in the US.

His proposal for a merger was intended to introduce "one-party state" in SA, the report said.

IFP sources said Mzimela had no allies in the party, so even those who favoured a merger would not defend him. Some members walked hints to resign, believing he would cause far greater damage to the IFP by remaining in the party.

Mzimela would lose his post as correctional services minister if he quit the IFP.

The IFP national co-ordinating committee was to have discussed Mzimela's decision to make his proposal for a merger public yesterday, but the meeting was postponed by a week.

Mzimela's conduct would ultimately be referred to the national council, which would have to consider what, if any, action to take against him.

The council criticised him on two previous occasions for making public comments that were not in line with IFP policy.



Prof Chris Barnard, right, and former theatre nurse Peggy Jordan, left, at the opening yesterday of a museum at Cape Town's Groote Schuur hospital, the venue of the world's first heart transplant 30 years ago.

50 000 firearms lost, stolen in under two years

Bonile Ngqiyaza

A TOTAL of 50 585 privately owned and state firearms were stolen or lost between January 1 last year and November 10 this year, Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Matthews said in Pretoria yesterday.

Of these, 12 218 were state-owned, he told a media briefing to announce a strategy to deal with the problem of the proliferation of firearms in SA.

He said 27 401 of the total had been recovered. It was estimated that there were about 4-million illegal and 3,76-million legally owned firearms in SA.

Last year, about 41% of murders and 76% of robberies involved firearms.

The government strategy singled out for scrutiny the tracing and recovery of stolen firearms; dealing with illegal firearms; and investigation into allegations of mismanagement, maladministration and corruption in the central firearms register.

A key issue would be reducing the number of legally owned firearms because theft and loss meant they were used by criminals to commit violent acts, Matthews said.

Additional firearm investigation units would be established, more re-

sources given to existing ones and co-ordination between units improved.

Government would centralise the issuing of permits to import and export firearms, improving control over their movements across SA borders.

Matthews also announced stricter measures including the appointment of a designated firearms officer at station level; linking the SAPS, SANDF and the citizens' registry to ensure that stolen firearms were not reregistered elsewhere; establishing a countrywide audit of firearm dealers; and blocking the serial numbers of all stolen state firearms to prevent reregistration.

Thieves target intelligence HQ

Minister deeply embarrassed

ART 6/12/97 (34)

HOPEWELL RADEBE

Criminals in South Africa have thrown down the gauntlet, President Nelson Mandela told the intelligence community at the opening of the headquarters of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the South African Secret Service (SASS) in Pretoria.

Mr Mandela expressed his outrage at the report he received from the intelligence service ministry that R750 000 worth of computer equipment and ten minibuses were stolen from the premises of the R166-million headquarters in the past six months.

"How can you (the NIA and SASS) claim with any measure of integrity that you are competent to protect the country if you cannot secure your own premises," Mr Mandela asked.

He said criminals had showed no respect for South Africa's intelligence community because of the blatant manner in which the thefts were conducted.

He said that this had sent "a clear message of arrogance" to the state that they (the criminals) can do anything with "impunity".

"Quite clearly, both the NIA and SASS need to examine themselves

closely," Mr Mandela added.

Deeply embarrassed intelligent service Deputy Minister Joe Nhlanhla assured Mr Mandela that he would leave no stone unturned to find the criminals.

Mr Nhlanhla said the intelligence community still had to be "cleansed of its unruly elements" and he vowed to find the stolen property at all costs.

The Pretoria building complex is to house both the NIA and the SASS, although the structures will operate independently.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar said the intelligence community would be operating in a very controlled atmosphere and would be accountable to the respective ministry, the president and Parliament with regard to its operations.

He said the ministry would be accountable to Parliament's portfolio committee and the president.

None of these structures would be used to spy on political organisations, he said. The NIA would be responsible for internal state security and to ensure counter-espionage, while the SASS would deal with external factors threatening economic, social and political stability.

The national co-ordinator for

intelligence, Linda Mti, said serious co-operation between intelligence and the judicial system was needed in order to change the laws to accommodate the crimes being committed at an international level.

He said many laws were outdated and failed to cater for industrial espionage, money laundering and international syndicates operating in various fields, including theft of computer information and technology.

Mr Mti is responsible for improving relations between military intelligence, the SA Police Services, the NIA and the SASS whenever investigations overlapped or demanded co-operation.

Asked about who qualified to be in the country's intelligence service, Mr Mti said only those born in South Africa were eligible because there had to be a "very deep level of patriotism and loyalty to the state".

However, in terms of skills, the intelligence services required a variety of qualifications - technical, engineering, medical, scientific research and law.

"This is a very specialised and diversified investigating field which needs almost every skill," said Mr Mti.

NEWS NATIONAL

R3,8-bn lost in white collar crime

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

WHILE gangsterism and drug trafficking are high on the anti-crime agenda, one of the underfocused areas is white collar crime. He revealed that the number of cases involving commercial crime in 1996 was 54 846 while for the first six months of this year, 28 252 cases were reported to the

Commercial Crime Component (CCC) of the South African Police Service. Figures for this year are similar. Operation White Collar" which resulted in the arrest of 752 people while in April this year, the police launched "Operation Tight Collar". In the first semester of 1997 alone, a further 4 082 suspects who were involved in cases with a total actual loss of R3,1 billion were

reported. Last year the CCC launched "Operation White Collar" which resulted in the arrest of 752 people while in April this year, the police launched "Operation Tight Collar". In the first semester of 1997 alone, a further 4 082 suspects who were involved in cases with a total actual loss of R3,1 billion were

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Sowetan 9/12/97

(34)

apprehended," he said. Mufamadi said that a vast number of operations were conducted against sellers of counterfeit goods in major metropolitan centres and at present the CCC was involved in a number of covert investigations directed against various criminal organisations. A further strategic measure implemented to stop white collar crime, Mufamadi said, was the establishment of a high-profit company called the Economic Crime Combating Research Institute of South Africa by the CCC, the Office of Serious Economic Offences, representatives from various academic institutions and the private sector.

The main purpose of this institute is to do research on, and design strategies against commercial crime," Mufamadi said.

Anti-crime strategy launched

By Noxolo Kweza

Former MK cadres believe police allow criminals to kill wantonly

MORE than 30 former Umkhonto weSizwe cadres have developed an anti-crime strategy to fight escalating crime in Sharpeville, Vaal Triangle, amid claims of poor policing.

Group leader Mr Samuel Ngobese claimed that people are being killed every day in Sharpeville and suspects are known to the police who do nothing about it.

“Criminals are being arrested by the community daily for crimes ranging from murder to rape, but at the end of the day nothing happens to the suspects. They are allowed to walk freely on the streets as if nothing happened and they continue with the killings.”

Ngobese said when they inquired from police about developments in cases of people who had been arrested, they were sent from pillar to post and sometimes were accused of taking over police duties.

Ngobese said the group needed support from police and the community. “We need funding and any kind of assistance because most of the time we use resources belonging to others.”

However, police spokesman Superintendent Piet van Deventer yesterday denied the allegations levelled against the police.

Van Deventer said it was difficult for police to charge someone within 48 hours without having sufficient evidence.

(31) Kweza 0112/97

Van Deventer appealed to the public to report any incidents of crime and create a good working relationship between communities and the police. “Anyone who can help the group, can contact Hector on (016) 451-3487.”

Farmers ⁽⁷⁴⁾ give Govt *sowetan 10/12/97* ultimatum

AGRICULTURAL leaders yesterday gave the Government until the end of January to curb criminal attacks in rural areas, failing which they will consider further action to protect farmers.

"That is our D date," said South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) president Chris du Toit after meeting President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria.

"If nothing improves by then, the farming community will have to sit down and see what we can do to protect farmers."

Thirteen farmers were killed in 18 attacks in rural areas last month. Another four have been murdered since the beginning of December.

Mandela did not comment on the matter yesterday and delegated Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi to speak to journalists.

Mufamadi said Mandela had earlier in the day received an intelligence report on the farm killings, which would be used to devise steps to prevent the attacks.

Mandela needed time to study the report and would first discuss it with the SAAU. - *Sapa*.

Govt admits it failed to protect farmers

Star 10/12/97 (34)

17 have died in attacks since
the beginning of November

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT
AND SAPA

The Government has admitted that its plan to protect South Africa's farmers has failed.

Despite successes in the Free State, the rural protection plan (drawn up with the National Intelligence Service) is to be revised and two senior policemen will be sent in to seek ways of curbing the onslaught.

After President Mandela met officials of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) in Pretoria yesterday, Safety and Security minister Sydney Mufamadi said Mandela had received an intelligence report on the farm killings which would be used to devise steps to prevent further attacks. The report is expected to be made public only next year.

"We believe arrests in the Free State have been successful but we must emphasise farmers themselves have to prevent attacks and must take precautions on their properties."

Safety and Security spokesperson Thembi Mboisa said yesterday little or no success had been made in KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and North West due to a lack of resources and commitment and poor co-operation between farmers and the SA National Defence Force and the police.

SAAU executive director Jack Raath warned that, should Government provide no solutions by the end of January, the union would have to rethink its position and look at other ways to protect farmers.

Raath, however, cautioned

farmers not to take the law into their own hands: "We cannot start a civil war." Raath said the meeting showed an effort by Government to curb the spate of killings, but had provided no answers.

While the SAAU pressed for a deadline for solutions, four armed robbers assaulted a Northern Province farmer and gang-raped his wife on Monday. The men entered the house after pretending they wanted to buy a sheep, police said.

Spokesman Captain Ailwei Mushavhanamadi said: "They caught the farmer by surprise when one of them pulled out a 9mm pistol and demanded the keys to his safe. When they found only about R50 in the safe, they assaulted the farmer badly and then all of them raped his wife."

Hours later, Mpumalanga farmer François Coetzer (75) was attacked and injured in the face by five armed men on his farm at Woestalleen, about 30km from Hendrina

Police spokesman Captain Izak van Zyl said five men had been arrested. One suspect was arrested and gave information which led to the arrest of the other four. They were travelling in a white Nissan Sentra about 6km from the farm. The gang is believed to have been involved in similar crimes in the area in the past month.

An R5 rifle, reportedly stolen from Mhluzi police station in August, was recovered from the five men.

Thirteen farmers were killed in 18 attacks last month and another four have been murdered this month.

Plan to protect farmers fails

ARG 10/12/97

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

(34) (S)

Pretoria – The Government has admitted that its plan to protect South Africa's farmers has failed.

Despite successes in the Free State, the Rural Protection Plan, drawn up with the aid of the National Intelligence Service, is to be revised and two senior policemen are to be sent in to seek ways of curbing the onslaught on farmers.

Safety and Security spokeswoman Thembi Mboisa said yesterday that little or no success was achieved in KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga or North-West, due to a lack of resources, commitment and poor active co-operation between farmers and members of the defence force and the police.

Attempts would be made to improve this state of affairs, she said.

SA Agricultural Union executive director Jack Raath warned that should the Government provide no answers or solutions for the killings by the end of January, the union would have to rethink its present position and look at other ways to protect farmers.

He did not want to speculate on what options would be considered but said that the establishment of a fund for security activities could be among them.

However, he cautioned farmers not to take the law into their own hands. "We cannot start a civil war."

No possible motives for the killings were given at yesterday's meeting between President Mandela, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, Agricultural Minister Derek Hanekom and a delegation from the Agricultural Union.

And while Mr Mufamadi was telling journalists that the success rate in capturing perpetrators was as high as 90 percent in the Free State and adding that it was more important to prevent attacks, another farmer, Robin Frost, 63, was fighting for his life in a Mpumalanga hospital after being attacked by six armed men.

More talks are expected in January, when Mr Mandela receives a final report from intelligence agencies.

Intelligence report on farm killings given to Mandela

Louise Cook

(34) (U)
80 10 12 97

THE long-awaited intelligence report on farm murders, which might indicate whether the killings were politically motivated, was handed to President Nelson Mandela yesterday, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said.

No details of the report's contents would be released until the president had had time to study it, Mufamadi told reporters in Pretoria after a meeting between Mandela, certain ministers and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

However, there were indications that the report would find there was no political motive behind the attacks.

A police source close to the intelligence team which undertook the investigation said last week that remarks by an African National Congress leader that set off suspicions of political motives had been checked out and found to be purely speculative. Only one of the more recent attacks bore any signs of a possible political motive, the policeman said.

The SAAU asked Mandela two months ago to appoint a commission of inquiry into what seemed to farmers to be deliberate attacks to drive them off their land. But the president said the intelligence community would first investigate the attacks before he was prepared to appoint a commission.

Mufamadi told the SAAU yesterday that two senior police officers would be appointed to co-ordinate criminal investigations into the farm murders. Last month 13 farmers were killed on their farms and another four have been killed this month.

Reuter reports SAAU president Chris du Toit gave Mandela an ultimatum yesterday, threatening that farmers would take the law into their own hands. "Towards the end of January, that is the D-day for us. We as a farming community are (then) going to see what we can do to secure the lives of our members," he said. The union called again for a judicial commission of inquiry.

Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom called the farmers' threat "irresponsible".

— Reuter.

Govt action on crime 'eroding rights'

CAPE TOWN — Basic human rights principles were being eroded in government's attempts to find quick fixes to the problem of crime, outgoing human rights commissioner Rhoda Khadalie said yesterday.

At a breakfast hosted by Amnesty International in Cape Town to mark International Human Rights Day, she said civil society had a vital role in keeping human rights alive.

"Don't be fooled that we now have politicians in government who we have chosen," she said.

"Power has amazingly odd effects on the very people we trusted and put there. You cannot trust

politicians anywhere in the world.

"So it is our job to keep them vigilant and to hold them to their task, which is to build a human rights culture."

Khadalie, who will quit the commission on December 31, said one of her biggest criticisms of the body was that although it was "very good on paper", with theories and national plans of action, it was not so good at making human rights a reality.

Faced with the enormity of the challenges of reconstruction and development, it was easy to become overwhelmed and seek quick fixes by amending a bill of rights.

She had heard it said that SA's

bill of rights was too expensive for such a poor country, or that crime was too far out of control to be dealt with in terms of human rights standards applicable only in an advanced democracy.

Fundamental principles such as presumption of innocence were being eroded in attempts to address crime by introducing legislation on minimum sentencing, parole and bail.

Often these measures deflected attention from the remedies that were really needed, such as an improved conviction rate, more secure prisons and better-trained magistrates, prosecutors and police. — Sapa.

BD 11/12/97

(34)

Crack detective squad to target farm killers

Two top policemen have been ordered to draw up a plan and appoint an 'A-team' to curb violent rural crime

By RYAN CRESSWELL

Two top policemen, appointed yesterday in a bid to curb soaring farm killings, have been given a free hand to assemble their own teams of crack detectives in the campaign against violent rural crime.

Assistant Commissioner Suiker Britz and Director Errol Seyisi were told by National Commissioner George Fivaz that they had the difficult task of co-ordinating national efforts to stop the scourge, which has the rural community up in arms.

Britz is a veteran murder and robbery detective and Seyisi is the former head of Ciskei's detective force.

Last month 13 farmers were killed and four have been murdered this month. Most of the killings and attacks took place in the Free State, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga.

Britz said it would take about two weeks to formulate a new plan of action, which would be presented to President Nelson Mandela. The president was given a long-awaited intelligence report on farm killings this week but it will be made public only next year.

"We will look at all the angles to see what is going on. I must now go to each province

and look at dockets going back about three years and then start from there," Britz said.

Fivaz had told him about his new mission on Tuesday afternoon.

"I have carte blanche to choose the people I want for this one. We will definitely do a good job," he added.

Sapa reports that KwaZulu Natal Agricultural Union president Graham McKintosh addressed about 400 farmers in the Farmers' Hall.

He said: "The Government should declare a three-month-long state of emergency of the whole of the Republic of South Africa, or in selected magisterial districts, so that the security forces can search, detain and vigorously sort out criminals, gangs and syndicates.

"There is no shame in a state of emergency if it is enforced by a Government which has the legitimacy of being democratically and peacefully elected," McKintosh added.

Farmers also called for a six-month moratorium on the prosecution of people in possession of unlicensed firearms, to allow them time to hand in their weapons.

"At the end of the moratorium, anybody found in possession of an unlicensed firearm should face a mandatory sen-

tence of five years in jail without the option of a fine," McKintosh said.

In the latest attacks, farmer Christoffel Fourie (41) from the Roadside area near Vrede in the Free State was stabbed by an intruder on Tuesday night. Fourie scared off his attacker by firing a shot from his shotgun after being stabbed in a shoulder and an arm, according to police.

In Bothaville, also in the Free State, Magdalena Erasmus (63) was attacked and stabbed several times in her home on Tuesday afternoon.

South African Agricultural Union spokesman August du Preez said the organisation welcomed the appointment of the two new police co-ordinators and their free rein to pick and choose detectives.

"The community trusts these people. We will give them all the co-operation we can," he said.

Government officials, farmers and police gathered yesterday to begin discussions on a day of prayer against crime on December 21.

Parks Mankahlana, spokesman for the president's office, said details of the plan would be announced by early next week.

"The Government's attitude is that the day should cover all crime, and those involved should be from all faiths," he said.

By Ido Lekota and Noxolo Kweza

ORGANISED crime and syndicates have cost the international community, including South Africa, an estimated R9,8 trillion through crimes such as money laundering and drug trafficking.

Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi revealed this during a media briefing at Sowetan offices yesterday.

Mufamadi said SA had lost an estimated R17 billion in revenue during 1996 to syndicates who used the country as a conduit for their operations throughout the Southern African region.

Economy loses billions to crime syndicates

(34) Sowetan 12/12/97

Mufamadi said factors such as the country's advanced industrial base, banking sector and communication network made it attractive to criminals.

"With the sophisticated transport network, a criminal can commit a crime in Johannesburg and while the police are manning roadblocks there she or he could be relaxing in another

city," he said.

SA's advanced banking sector created a congenial environment for money laundering, while the communication network gave criminals access to mobile phones, Mufamadi said.

Mufamadi said during a joint operation with Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambican police, 1 576 stolen vehi-

cles were recovered of which 90 per cent were from SA.

The involvement in crime by elements from the liberation armies or covert structures in the old regime contributed to the operational sophistication with which some crimes, such as bank robberies and robberies of cash in transit were executed,

Mufamadi added.

Mufamadi said his ministry inherited a situation where only 12 000 out of 140 000 SAPS members were detectives. Only 20 percent of the 12 000 had been properly trained.

To alleviate this problem, 69 percent of detectives have now been trained and the remaining 31 percent will be trained before the end of the year.

The minister said the recent opening of a detective academy in Pretoria, was also part of the strategy to enhance the skills of detectives.

To curb the trafficking of illegal goods between SA and its neighbours, the government intended reducing the number of border posts from 95 to 34.

(34) Star 13/12/77

Rural murders seen as a severe blow for black farmers as well

Land redistribution to emerging black farmers could be dealt a severe blow because of the spate of farm killings.

National African Farmers Union executive director Andrew Makenete said the security crisis in rural areas was discouraging potential black farmers although they stood to gain land from the Government.

Land Affairs and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom this week announced that 500 000ha of land would be transferred to about 50 000 new owners next

year as part of the land reform programme.

Commercial farmers whose lands were up for redistribution could adopt a hardened stance against the process and not volunteer to engage farmworkers in training and skills transfer programmes, Makenete said.

He said many farmers were already following these programmes, and although the process was progressing slowly, the upsurge in the number of farm killings had thwarted plans to speed it up.

Many of these programmes were based on goodwill and good relationships, and if farmers felt threatened, they might change their attitudes, he said.

Farm killings did not serve the interests of land allocations or the economy. They were random and unwarranted, and had to be condemned in the strongest terms.

The 45 000-member union of emerging black farmers believed the killings could be remedied if the core motivation for the focused attacks were identified.

Free State PAC chairman Mofihili Likotsi said attacks - especially those in KwaZulu Natal, where black and Indian farmers had been victims - were not always racially motivated.

Sometimes farmers were attacked for resources such as food, and they were vulnerable as they live in isolated areas.

Six opposition parties this week took steps to ensure their areas of influence will have police roadblocks, farm patrols, and information kits on possible suspects. - Sapa

Farm killings deal blow to emerging farmers

(34) 12/12/97

OWN CORRESPONDENT

ARG 13/14/98

PRETORIA - Land redistribution to emerging black farmers could be dealt a severe blow because of the country's spate of farm killings.

National African Farmers Union executive director Andrew Makenete said the security crisis in rural areas was discouraging black potential farmers from entering the food production market, although they stood to gain land from the Government.

Land Affairs and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom announced this week that 500 000ha of land would be transferred to about 50 000 new owners next year as part of the Government's land reform programme.

A total of 900 000ha of private and State land had been identified for eventual transfer, he said.

Commercial farmers whose land was up for redistribution could adopt a hardened stance against the process and not volunteer to engage farm workers in training and skills transfer programmes, Mr Makenete said.

He said many farmers were already following these programmes and although the process was progressing slowly, the upsurge in the number of farm killings had thwarted plans to speed it up.

Many of these programmes are based on goodwill and if farmers feel threatened they may change their attitudes and become more aggressive, he said.

Farm killings do not serve the interests of land allocations or the economy. They are random, unwarranted, and have to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

He said the 45 000-strong member union, which represents emerging black farmers, believes farm killings would be easier to remedy once the core motivation for these focused attacks had been identified.

Free State Pan Africanist Congress chairman Mofihili Likotsi said farm attacks - especially those in KwaZulu-Natal where black and Indian farmers had been victims - were not always racially motivated.

Mr Likotsi said the land redistribution programme was experiencing problems because of the attacks.

Murders, robberies down, hijackings up

(34)

JOHANNESBURG: Police appear to be making progress in the fight against crime in most categories, but have been unable to stem the rise in car hijacking and rape cases.

NATIONAL statistics indicate that the murder rate has dropped from an average of 71 a day last year to about 65 a day for the first nine months of 1997. The country's rape statistics, however, remain the highest in the world.

KwaZulu-Natal is still the most dangerous province in the country, with 4 372 murders reported during the first nine months of 1997, but the gap between KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng is closing as political violence in the coastal province continues to drop. Police recorded 4 022 murder cases in Gauteng in the first

nine months of this year.

In total, 17 709 people were murdered from January to September this year — 930 less than the corresponding period last year.

According to the latest police statistics, hijacking remains a problem, with an increase of 79 cases to 9 869 reported to police. However, only three provinces — Gauteng (5 972), Western Cape (236) and Northern Province (153) — recorded an increase in this crime.

More than 22 cars or motor cycles are hijacked each day in Gauteng and it appears there will be little respite for

law-abiding citizens as organised syndicates continue to derail police efforts to curb this traumatic crime.

Reported rapes for this period increased from 36 137 last year to 37 905. Gauteng was the only province to register a slight decrease in the number of reported rapes, but with 9 292 reported cases, still recorded the most rapes.

Police speculate that the higher rape rate may be attributed to a renewed emphasis on crimes against women and children as a national priority, which may have triggered the higher reporting rate.

Attempted murder cases are down from about 105 cases a day last year to 76 this year, although Gauteng, with 5 234 cases, has become the province with the highest number of cases reported. KwaZulu-Natal follows, with 5 059 reported cases.

National statistics show that armed robbery declined slightly from 50 414 cases last year to 50 406 cases this year, but indications from the final crime report to be issued this year show that this crime increased in all but one of Gauteng's seven policing areas when compared with figures from the previous year.

An anti-crime drive focused primarily on central Johannesburg had a stabilising effect on inner-city crime with only 13 more cases being reported this year than the 7 383 cases reported in 1996.

Vehicle theft showed an increase from 71 713 to 74 476 in the corresponding period with an eight per cent increase in Gauteng to 40 761 cases and a 13% increase in the Western Cape to 6 872 reported cases.

This crime showed a 10% drop in the Free State and Northern Cape. — Own Correspondent

CRIME AT A GLANCE FOR 1997 (JAN TO SEP)

NATIONAL	1994	1995	1996	1997
Murder	19 672	19 131	18 639	17 709
Attempted Murder	20 100	19 257	20 906	20 516
Robbery (aggravated)	62 877	60 354	50 414	50 406
Carjacking *	-	-	9 790	9 869
Bank Robbery *	-	-	500	353
Cash-in-Transit Robbery *	-	-	323	233
Rape (incl attempts)	29 399	33 139	36 137	37 905
Assault (serious)	147 551	155 576	162 758	166 775
Assault (common)	137 303	147 500	149 126	146 174
Burglary (residential)	167 983	179 112	184 547	184 239
Burglary (business)	67 098	64 666	65 660	65 515
Vehicle Theft	77 429	76 617	71 713	74 476
Theft out of Vehicle	136 056	142 713	136 935	130 199
Shoplifting	50 158	46 318	46 083	47 717

(* Figures included in aggravated robbery statistics)

HIGH COURT ROLL

THIRD DIVISION Court No 16

Admission

G J G C H Bodart - Attorney
J J Sarkin - Attorney

Rule nisi

O v I Hassam - Sequestration
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Man's best friend: 'people are unaware of the capacities of guard dogs or how their social systems of order and rank work'

Dogs in frontline in war on crime

ARG 13/4/98 (34)
12/97

Better deterrent than guns

OWN CORRESPONDENT AND REUTERS

If all South Africa's armed homeowners banded together, they could probably muster enough firepower to win a small land war.

But despite their arsenal, they are losing the fight against criminals in their own backyards.

The answer, security experts say, is to scrap the Glocks, Colts, Magnums and Berettas and replace them with well-bred, well-trained dogs.

"No one can steal a dog and turn it against you like a firearm," says Terry Baikie, who breeds and trains German shepherd dogs to protect their owners.

He also teaches the people who buy his dogs how to handle them properly.

"I have had a couple of rape victims who are now back in their normal life with a dog as a family member, following them around.

"I believe they have gained a lot of self-confidence and are feeling more secure. They are not 100% safe, but they will get a second chance with a dog near them," Mr Baikie says.

South Africa has 3.4 million registered firearms, most of them in the hands of the white population of about 5 million.

But the presence of a gun in a home seldom deters robbers, and

more often becomes a lure as powerful as jewellery or cash.

Thousands of firearms are stolen every year.

"The trend for the homeowner is towards a dog which can afford some degree of protection, as opposed to pure pet value," says Mr Baikie.

Clive Birch, who trains security dogs and has twice been saved by his German shepherd, says nothing compares to dogs as a crime deterrent.

"I would rather work with a dog than a man. A dog is not going to drop you in it - he will back you up, he will lay down his life if necessary," he says.

"A firearm nowadays has become a primary target for any would-be thief, so your armed guard is at a very high risk. The guy's got this perception that a firearm is a key to every bank, every shop, every till."

Mr Birch points out that it is easy to miss with a gun, but a trained dog will always get its man. "Once that dog is released, you can duck and dive and go into a ditch, all sorts of things, but the dog is going to get you."

Dogs sometimes attack innocent people, which is where animal psychologists such as John Faul come in.

"In South Africa, as in most other countries, more and more

people are buying large guarding breeds to protect themselves from crime and are totally unaware of the real capacities of these dogs or how their social systems of order and rank work," he says.

"In the great majority of cases, aggressive dogs are created by their owner's lack of understanding of how they regulate their social behaviour."

Mr Faul says owners have to make clear to their dogs who is at the top of the hierarchy.

"There's no doubt that a lot of people are now recognising the advantages of owning one or two guard dogs as opposed to firearms," says Bruce McKenzie, who last year rescued a three-year-old Doberman from the SPCA and sold his Beretta pistol.

"I found my firearm controlled me. It was always a concern that I could shoot the wrong person for the wrong reason or, even worse, have my own weapon used against me. With Candy I've got something I trust and I know she's always looking out for me."

In October, 4-year-old Bella of Ridgeway in Johannesburg scared off six armed hijackers to protect her mistress, Nicole Russell. When one of the assailants produced a knife, Bella lunged at him and was fatally shot by his accomplice. The men then fled, and Russell believes she owes her life to her young dog.

Three laws part of wider government commitment to corner SA's criminals

APR 15/198

(34)

I would like to respond to the recent article by Martin Schönreich in which he argues that the new bail law is unnecessarily harsh and will be of limited help in the fight against crime.

This is part of a package of three tough anti-crime laws that deal with bail, prescribed minimum sentences and parole. These laws are certainly drastic: they are not measures one would like to see in an ideal democracy.

But we are not in an ideal democracy - our country has a very serious crime problem and these laws are part of a wider commitment by the Government to take strong action against criminals.

For the first time, the three laws will ensure that those committing serious, and especially violent, crime are targeted for harsher treatment in all parts of the justice system. These criminals will, in the words of Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, "carry the mark of Cain".

The most drastic treatment is reserved for a new category of "super" crimes, consisting of most cases of murder and armed robbery and the most serious cases of rape. Those charged with "super" crimes will not qualify for bail unless they can prove that "exceptional circumstances" exist.

If convicted, there is a compulsory sentence of life imprisonment unless the court finds there are "substantial and compelling reasons" to impose another sentence. The parole system, too, is changed to provide that those serving life can be

The new bail law will help significantly in the war on crime, argues WILLIE HOFMEYER, ANC MP and member of the Justice Committee

released on parole only if the court agrees, and they must serve at least 25 years before they can apply to court. This will mean, in serious cases, that life imprisonment will mean life.

Mr Schönreich argues that these laws are not a panacea for our crime problem and that they will do little to help fight crime.

Few would disagree that there is no quick fix to crime. In fact, we have repeatedly emphasised that these laws will not be a quick fix - rather, they are part of a wider strategy in the war on crime. But the African National Congress, and indeed the other parties who were fully consulted, believe that these laws will significantly strengthen the state in the fight against crime.

Firstly, it will ensure that those who commit serious crimes are treated seriously by the legal system. Too often, we see those accused of the most serious crimes released on bail, or receiving ridiculously light sentences, or being released on parole after serving a small portion of their sentence.

All the evidence suggests that serious criminals are more likely than others to abscond, to interfere with wit-

nesses and to commit further offences while on bail or after their release. These laws will ensure not only that they stand trial and do not intimidate witnesses, but will keep them off the streets for much longer.

But, more than that, I believe the three laws, with other measures, will serve as a deterrent. Those who use violence or firearms while committing crime will learn that they will be treated with the maximum harshness by the justice system.

We may not be able to stop all crime while there is so much poverty in our country, but I believe that with harsh measures like these, criminals will start to think twice before using violence or guns.

Mr Schönreich's other major criticism is the removal of the right to have bail applications heard outside court hours, and he argues that it is a "fundamental right" and "should never be limited because of administrative difficulties".

But his argument is simply wrong. After-hours bail is not recognised as a fundamental human right in our constitution or any other constitution in the world. Furthermore, there are very good reasons to remove the existing right as

it will help to deal exactly with some of the practical difficulties in the justice system to which Mr Schönreich has correctly drawn attention.

Firstly, night courts are not proper open courts - victims or witnesses are not able to attend the hearings and are seldom even told about them. The system deprived victims and the community of a chance to give their views on bail. Secondly, night courts placed a huge extra burden on prosecutors, interpreters, magistrates and other court staff.

Thirdly, police and prosecution did not have enough time to prepare properly for cases and much of the information could not be verified in the middle of the night.

Fourthly, these bail applications often did not get all the attention that they deserved.

In fact, the law still allows after-hours bail where it is desirable and practical - it merely means that the accused will not have

the right to insist. I agree with Mr Schönreich that these laws indirectly infringe on the rights of all of us. But unless we find the correct balance between human rights and the need to fight crime, we may find that all our hard-won rights are swept away in a wave of anti-crime hysteria.

'With harsh measures like these, criminals will think twice before using violence or guns'

Criminals' paradise

ARGUMENTS over how to tackle the problem of crime have become commonplace locally and internationally. The extent of the problem was adequately conceptualised at a recent Interpol conference in New Dehli, India.

It was agreed at this conference that organised crime poses a growing threat to the sovereignty of nations across the world. As a matter of fact, the international community is unanimous that crime is the world's single biggest threat since the end of the Cold War.

The International Monetary Fund summed up the scale of the threat rather succinctly when it stated that organised crime had an estimated turnover of R9,8 trillion globally. This constitutes about four percent of the world economy.

Our country is not immune to the impact of the rapid globalisation of crime. There is growing evidence that transnational criminal syndicates perceive South Africa as an emerging market for criminal enterprise.

Syndicates from the former Baltic States, Western European countries, Asia, Latin America as well as Nigeria are becoming significant players on the local scene.

These foreign syndicates are forging strategic alliances with local groups and are providing them with access to vast amounts of capital and sophisticated criminal know-how.

Available intelligence indicates that organised crime is behind criminal operations such as hijacking of cars and trucks, theft of mobile telephones, military-style bank robberies, contract killings and sprees of burglaries.

Stage of transition

The factors that make South Africa so attractive to criminals are in many ways similar to those found in other countries that are at a comparable stage of transition. These include:

- A relatively advanced industrial and banking sector, and a sophisticated communication network. It is clear from this that South Africa offers a launching pad from which criminals can enter markets in the whole of the Southern African region.

- The cessation of hostilities between the previous regime and the liberation movement resulted in the relaxation of border controls. It is estimated that because of the porousness of our borders, we lost revenue to the tune of R17 billion in 1996 alone. This is more than the police service's annual budget.

- The level of corruption in the public service generally, and the criminal justice departments in particular, gives the criminals a tool with which to circumvent law enforcement.

Some of the civil servants collude with criminals for economic reasons. It must not be ruled out, however, that others see their collu-

(34)
The growing sophistication of crime is creating problems all over the world.

Sydney Mufamadi discusses the effects of the globalisation of crime.

Sowetan 19/12/97
sion in crime as a way of taking revenge on the new political dispensation.

- The involvement in crime of elements who were either part of liberation armies or covert structures in the old dispensation accounts for the growing operational sophistication which has become evident in the way some crimes, like robberies of cash-in-transit and escapes from lawful custody, are being conducted.

- Of particular grave concern is the fact that although the South African Police Service is not understaffed, it does not have enough members with appropriate skills to handle sophisticated criminals operating in our country today.

For example, out of more than 140 000 members, only about 12 000 work as detectives. Of these, only 20 percent were actually trained as detectives.

Needless to say, these factors mean that South Africa provides what is perhaps one of the most congenial environments for criminal activity.

The question nevertheless does arise - what are police doing to fight crime?

- The realisation that criminals do not respect borders and that they treat the entire Southern African region as a theatre for their operations provided the impulse for regional cooperation on matters of law enforcement.

In January we launched joint operations with policing agencies in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The aim was to recover stolen vehicles. Of the 1 576 stolen vehicles recovered in the operations, 1 464 were stolen from South Africa.

- Unlike in various other parts of the world, some of the crimes in our country have been attended by extreme levels of violence. This has to do with the fact that South Africa is located in a region which was (not so long ago) a zone of turbulence. Criminals have easy access to illegal weapons from Mozambique and Angola.

It is for this reason that we launched a joint operation with the Mozambican police to seize illegal weapons. We melted down more than 100 tons of illegal firearms seized from that operation.

- We have also decided to curb the illegal movement of goods by reducing the number of border posts open to commercial traffic from 95 to 34 and to institute tougher control measures.



In April the SAPS, South African Revenue Services and Home Affairs Department launched a nationwide customs and immigration blitz at major airports, harbours and border posts to clamp down on syndicates. By the middle of October, the campaign had yielded more than R45 million in revenue which would otherwise have been lost.

- The growing operational sophistication on the part of criminals which has become so manifest in our country meant we had to develop and improve skills of SAPS members.

Until early 1996 only 2 400 of our 12 000 detectives were trained. During 1996 alone we trained another 6 000. The remaining 3 600 will be trained before the end of this year.

Impact of training

The impact of the training received by the investigators last year and the new methods of managing our resources is beginning to be felt. It manifests itself in the speed with which the police are beginning to respond to reported cases of bank robberies and robberies of cash-in-transit.

It is also being felt in the manner in which we are now stabilising places such as Richmond and the Cape Flats.

On October 20 we opened our Detective Academy in Pretoria, the only one of its kind on the continent and one of only four in the world.

Not only are we sending South African detectives to this academy for advanced training, but we have also invited all member countries of the Southern African Development Community to send their detectives for training.

These detectives are benefiting from the expertise of trainers seconded to us by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This detective academy constitutes the region's cutting edge in the campaign against organised crime.

Notwithstanding the modest advances we are making, levels of crime in our country remain intolerably high. If we allow crime to worsen or persist at current levels, the prospects for the country are too ghastly to contemplate.

Informed debates on the subject will help us formulate better policies and strategies.

(This is an edited version of an address by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi at Sowetan recently.)

The year with a high crime rate ⁽³⁴⁾

By Muzi Mkhwanazi

THE high level of crime in South Africa in 1997 had a negative effect and left courts at the receiving end of this vicious cycle.

Since the abolition of the death penalty, the general public and lobby groups have criticised the courts, claiming that perpetrators of crime had more rights than victims in South Africa. So serious is the situation that some people are starting to lose confidence in the justice system.

In a desperate attempt to assert the rule of law, South African courts have in this year, meted out harsh sentences since the abolition of the death penalty.

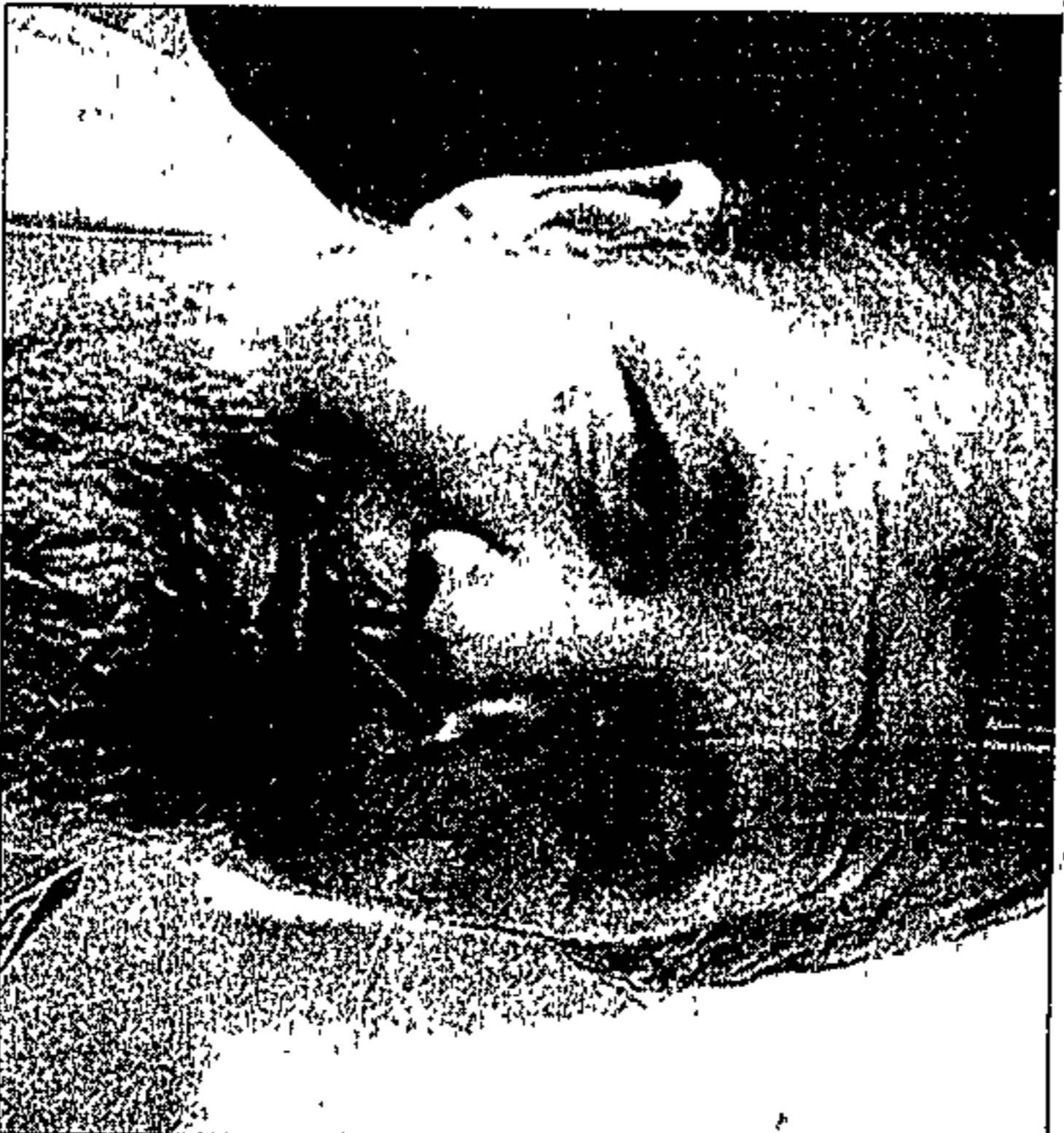
One of the sternest prison sentences was imposed on Gauteng serial killer Moses Sithole, who was jailed for a total of 2 410 years. Convicted killer Sylvester Motokeng, is serving 10 life sentences for killing 12 people as well as an additional 145 years in prison.

Sithole's sentence sent shock waves throughout the country prompting the South African Human Rights Commission to describe the harsh sentence as "ridiculous and making a mockery of the criminal justice system".

However, while the families of the victims and the public were pleased and expressed joy on hearing the news

Women and politicians are among those who had a brush with the law

Sowetan 29/12/97



AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche was sentenced to six years in jail for the attempted murder of his former security guard, Mr Paul Motshabi.



So-called people's poet Mzwakhe Mbuli was arrested for his alleged role in a R15 000 bank robbery and will spend the whole of the festive season in jail.

SA hard hit by bank and other robberies in '97

By Noxolo Kweza

A SERIES of violent bank heists involving millions of rands and sur-

the beginning of the operation in January. These cars had an estimated street value of about R95 million. The minister said in Gauteng

it now remains to be seen whether they will serve their sentences in full or if they will receive presidential pardon which may see them out of prison in a few years.

Numerous crimes

Mofokeng, on the other hand, proudly confessed in court to killing 12 people and claimed that he had committed numerous crimes of which the police were not aware.

During his trial Mofokeng refused to give evidence claiming that the investigating officer and the police owed him R1 300.

Popularly known as "S'nundu" in Soweto, particularly in Orlando East where he stayed, Mofokeng told Mr Justice Labe on one occasion that "at present my head is hot and maybe I will reconsider and change my mind about giving testimony".

Prior to this statement he had told Labe: "I plead that the matter be done with so that I can serve my time in jail. I have confessed thinking that I will get my money back but to my dismay the state has robbed me. F..k the state the court and the police.

"I will escape and again appear in front of you after three years for the murders of the policemen who took my money," he told Labe.

At the time of this trial, Mofokeng was already serving a 75-year prison term and had escaped twice from prison.

A dark cloud still hangs over Mofokeng who is yet to appear in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court facing an escape charge.

A statement of him in court, this year has been the increasing number of women charged with serious offences such as murder, rape and housebreaking with intent to murder.

The example of Mrs Thandwe Fakude is a case in point. Fakude, a schoolteacher, was convicted with four men of the brutal murder of her husband Mandla, who was stabbed to death on February 2 1991.

After being found guilty, Fakude and her co-accused refused to testify in

and she are mutual assassin in the joint statement, a further statement in Ventersdorp.

mitigation of sentence, claiming a mis-trial and that the court had relied on fabricated evidence to implicate them in the murder.

"If this court listens and believes liars and negates my true version of events, then I have been unfairly convicted.

"I wonder if I should continue testifying in mitigation because I deserve a re-trial," Fakude told Madam Justice Maitlani.

Earlier on the same day, Fakude and her co-accused had refused to honour court proceedings, demanding that the Minister of Justice intervene in their case.

After playing to the gallery and wasting the court's time, Fakude was sentenced to 35 years in prison. Not only ordinary people were subjects in this year's gruelling court roll, but prominent politicians bowed as is customary before magistrates.

Gauteng Housing MEC Mr Dan Mofokeng and Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging leader Eugene Terre'Blanche found themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Mofokeng faced a charge of unlawful possession of the AK-47 rifle found in his house in Germiston in September last year.

As expected sweeping allegations meant to implicate Mofokeng were heard in court. One such damning allegation was made by Constable Danie Pretorius van Rensburg who claimed that Mofokeng had told him in 1987 that he would kill him.

"I am the MEC for housing and you know what I mean when I say I will take care of you," he told the court when he alleged that Mofokeng tried to bribe him.

However, the state's case was so riddled with contradictions and unsubstantiated claims that it came as no surprise when magistrate Mr Victor Lagaajo dismissed the charges against Mofokeng.

At the extreme end of the political scale, Terre'Blanche was sentenced to

six years in prison for attempting to murder Mr Paul Mashabi, his former security guard, and for the brutal assault of Mr John Ndizima, a petrol attendant in Ventersdorp.

Ndizima told the police that the burglary he had witnessed at a local pharmacy was committed by a white man and for helping the police with their investigations he was assaulted by Terre'Blanche.

Bank robberies

Some of this year's high profile cases are "carry overs", as ardent horse punters would maintain, and are definitely next year's forthcoming attractions.

The "People's Poet" Mzwakhe Mbuli had his feathers ruffled by the long arm of the law for his alleged involvement in a string of bank robberies towards the end of the year.

He has been denied bail and the case is expected to attract attention next year.

Among the academics who rubbed shoulders with criminals, topping the list is Dr Omar Sabadia. His example affirmed the adage that crime knows no status or qualifications. Sabadia is alleged to have lured his co-accused to kill his wife.

Child abuse, which has plagued this country, reared its ugly head again in courts, this time with devastating repercussions.

The list of seven-year-old Momoqobu Mafabane by Daniel Mabote sent shock waves through the community and his should definitely be one of the major cases in the new year.

One of the reasons for the slow grinding of the wheels of justice this year has been widespread escapes from jails.

Two of the four men accused of killing and hijacking Mr Elkim "Pro" Khumalo, Mr Lawrence Mzimba and Mr Samson Masitfululele, escaped from prison and so their trial continues next year.

prisingly, the arrest of several suspects, dominated crime news this year.

Among these arrests was the R31 million stolen from a money-moving company depot near Durban Two suspects arrested for this robbery were acquitted by the Durban High Court.

Between January and September this year, 143 cases of bank robberies and 92 cases of robbery of cash in transit were reported in Gauteng alone.

A senior policeman, Captain Fabby Fabricius, investigating a charge of robbery against so-called people's poet Mzwakhe Mbuli and two others, said the projected loss as a result of robberies for the whole of 1997 was about R90 million.

Fabricius said more than R230 million was stolen in bank robberies countrywide over a period of 40 months ending in April 1997.

Bank robberies are followed by the high incidence of commercial crime involving 44 137 cases reported countrywide for the first nine months of 1997. These crimes were estimated to have cost the country about R2, 6 billion.

Gauteng topped the list with 18 882 cases reported, followed by the Western Cape with 7 996, Eastern Cape 4 728, KwaZulu-Natal with 3 155, Free State 2 805, North West 2 375, Mpumalanga 1 693, Northern Province 1 589 and Northern Cape with 914 cases.

According to a police quarterly report released last month, commercial crime incidence had increased drastically in 1997 compared with the same period last year. There were 42 029 cases reported in 1996.

Meanwhile reported cases of stolen motor vehicles were also on the increase. This year alone 3 972 incidents were reported to the police, while in 1996, there were 5 794.

Minister for Safety and Security, Mr Sydney Mufamadi, said that during a joint operation with four other African countries including Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique 1 576 stolen cars of which 90 percent were from SA, were confiscated since

alone, 1 266 cars estimated at R76 million were recovered and 27 727 suspects arrested for various offences between September and November this year.

Mufamadi said it was because of crime prevention strategies formed in and around Gauteng and other counties that police managed to have so much success.

He also highlighted the loss that was caused to the country by organised crime and syndicates.

Mufamadi said money laundering, drug trafficking and other incidents relating to organised crimes were costing the international community including SA, an estimated R9,8 trillion a year.

South Africa alone had lost an estimated R17 billion in revenue during 1996 to syndicates which had used this country as an entry point to markets in the rest of Africa. Factors such as the country's advanced industrial base, banking sector and communications network made it attractive to criminals, Mufamadi said.

Another highlight of the year was the newly-established Pretoria-based detective academy, which forms part of the strategy to enhance the skills of detectives.

Lastly, escapes from SA prisons: There were 937 prisoners who escaped countrywide from January until October 1997, while during the same period last year, there were 1 345 escapes.

Media liaison officer for the department Russel Mamabolo said 229 prisoners escaped in Gauteng, 160 in KwaZulu-Natal, 132 in North West, 122 in the Eastern Cape, 73 in Free State, 68 in Mpumalanga, 26 in Northern Cape and 25 in the Northern Province.

Mamabolo said the main contributory factors to the increasing number of escapes were negligence of personnel, insufficient electronic aids, the poor conditions of building structures, detention of more hardened and dangerous prisoners, insufficient security fences, overpopulation of cells and manpower shortage.