

TUESDAY MAY 7 1996



EENT'S GENUINE LEATHER FIDLER TIE

SOUTHERN EDITION \* \*

Make-or-break for constitution tonight

# It's the final hour



TIME IS TIGHT: As the seconds tick away for tomorrow's constitutional deadline, Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa talks time with his deputy Leon Wessels.

#### **CLIVE SAWYER and TYRONE SEALE**

OPTIMISM surged today that the African National Congress and National Party would strike a deal as the last few minutes ticked away to the final deadline for amendments to the Constitution Bill.

"There is no final breakthrough yet but things are looking fine," an NP source said, as talks between top-level delegations continued this morning.

It is understood there was progress on all three issues - education, the property clause and labour laws - on which the NP and ANC have thus far stalemated.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa, speaking after yesterday's late-night round of bilateral talks, said progress had been made and there would be further consultations with principals this morning.

A special meeting of the constitutional committee was to start at noon to allow amendments to be tabled. It was expected to last until 3pm, after which debate would resume in the 490-member constitutional

However, as hope rose about the outcome of this morning's talks, there was speculation that the committee meeting would be postponed to accommodate the

Unless a settlement was reached by the end of the committee meeting, the present version of the bill, with the three clauses on which the ANC and NP are deadlocked, is the one on which partical

Voting is scheduled for tomorrow morning. The bill must secure a two-thirds majority to be approved, after which deadlock-breaking mechanisms, which could culminate in a referendum, will come into

Yesterday both parties were firing shots across each other's bows.

NP leader F W de Klerk told a rally in warned yesterday that his party, if the cri-Elim last night that his party would not sis resulted in a referendum, would conback down on the education issue.

The NP is insisting on a constitutional entrenchment of the right to state-funded single medium education, while the ANC says a decision on whether schools should be single or multimedium should be left to educational authorities and school com-

Mr De Klerk said: "The NP is fighting its arms to stumps so that you aren't told your school must change and education is mis-

used for political gain.' ANC senior negotiator Valli Moosa vide enough votes for the two-thirds major-

sider putting its own version of the consti-

tution to the vote.

Approval of a draft in a referendum would require a 60 percent majority of those taking part, which the ANC is confident of securing.

If the last-ditch talks between the ANC and NP today failed, there was a slim chance of the constitution being passed by

another route. If the Democratic Party and Freedom Front chose to support it, this would pro-

For the bill to be acceptable to the DP. there would have to be concessions by the ANC to strengthen the rights in the property and labour law clauses. The controversy over the education clause is not as significant for the DP as it was for the

The FF's support might prove as difficult to woo as that of the NP, after indications that it would also vote against the constitution unless there was some movement on the education clause.

• More reports on page 6.



## Residents fear power station pollution

#### Cheaper electricity - yes but at what cost to health?

**ANDREA WEISS** 

A DECISION to put the Athlone power station back on line has come under fire from residents of surrounding residential areas because they fear that pollution associated with coalfired power stations will affect their health.

A delegation from Pinelands, Langa and Athlone - the three residential areas clustered in the vicinity of the power station - addressed a meeting of the city's amenities and health committee on their concerns yesterday. They have enlisted the help of the Legal Resources Centre to push for a public participation process, and for proper environmental monitoring in all surrounding residential areas

The committee, which was holding its last meeting prior to the May 29 election, resolved that the matter should be taken up by the next council, but heard the objectors out.

William Kerfoot, from the LRC, said his clients were concerned about the lack of a public participation process because, although the power station was not a new project, bringing it back into operation was a significant departure from the past 10 years when it was not in use

"We would have thought the Cape Town City Council should have felt it was important to embark on public participation. Why was this not done? What is the policy in matters of this magnitude?" he queried.

Mr Kerfoot also asked whether the council had considered an environmental impact assessment before bringing the power station back into full production, and whether there was any study focusing on the potential pollution to the greater Cape Town

Finally, Mr Kerfoot asked why the council had not made further representations to Eskom in an effort to bring down the cost of peak-time electricity, the chief reason for the use of the Athlone power

Brian Watkyns, a Pinelands councillor, suggested that residents had already begun to feel the health effects of the power station, based on letters he had got from people complaining

He also queried the safety to produce electricity for Cape Town.

standards being practised at the power station with regard to asbestos.

Simpiwe Mbuli, of the Langa Development Forum, said residents of Langa, where there was a high incidence of tuberculosis, feared that the power station would further compromise their health.

While the power station could provide cheaper electricity, he was concerned that the people of Langa would "pay indirectly" with their health.

City electrical engineer Fred Berwyn-Taylor said it was not correct to imply that the council was unconcerned, because it had put steps in place to keep a close watch on the power sta-

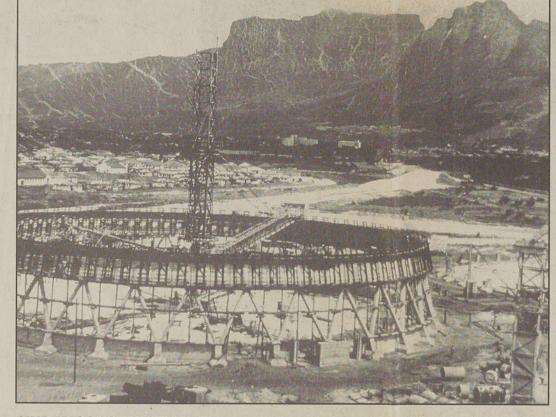
He said the Athlone plant was in good condition, and he believed it would be operating well within prescribed lim-

On public participation, he said he had always regarded the Athlone power station as part of his operational respon-

"I felt there were no new issues to be raised. It would be within limits. It was not an issue of public interest in my

With regard to asbestos, Mr Berwyn-Taylor said the power station was complying with all safety requirements. Asbestos was a substance which had been widely used in society, but now the dangers were being realised. Large sections within the power station would have to be replaced, and the council was dealing with those areas where it was most urgent.

"I don't believe there is any



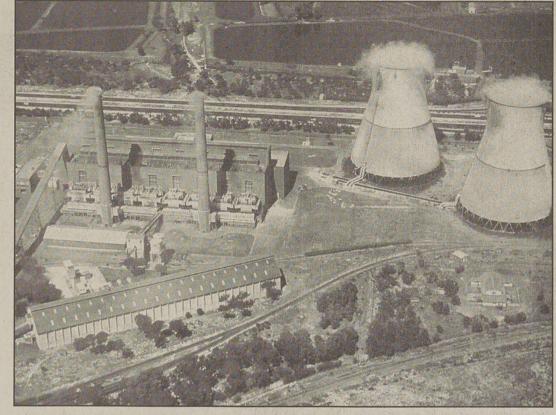
**UNDER CONSTRUCTION:** The massive cooling tower of the Athlone Power Station slowly takes shape in 1958; today it is a common sight on the landscape.

their electricity bills.

But residents living in areas

surrounding the plant say the

pollution the power station is



ATHLONE POWER STATION: The famous Cape Flats landmark is being fired up again to help produce cheap electricity for the greater Cape Town area.

## Council decision will save city millions

JOSEPH ARANES

THE controversial Cape Town City Council decision to fire up the Athlone Power Station, which has been on cold standby for the past decade, has stirred more than the dust now being emitted from the station's chimneys. A council report says the electricity supplied by the station during the periods when there is a high demand for power will save the residents of

producing cannot be measured in rands, and that there are also other hidden costs which the council is not revealing. For the past 35 years the power station's imposing towers have dominated the Cape Flats landscape, and residents living near it could easily tell the

> way its smoke blew. Then 10 years ago the power station was placed on cold stand-by, and the smoke and the noise of the turbines

> wind direction by watching the

But inside the complex workers kept the boilers and other machinery in a constant state of

The ever-increasing flow of people into the Cape metropole demanding cheap electricity ensured that the power station was never shut down.

And today the power station's towers are again spewing out steam and helping to keep the city's electricity bill down, much to the consternation of the nearby residents in Langa, Pinelands and Athlone.

Cape Town millions of rands on modifications done to the power station and the installation of a range of filters and sound mufflers, the noise and air pollution emanating from the plant still exceeds acceptable levels.

Athlone Power Station is a coal-fired station which means there will be ash emission and noise generated in the daily process of warming the steam turbines.

But plans are in place to keep these levels to a minimum and the Cape Town City Council has set aside R30 million to spend on improving the operation of the power station during the fire-up stages.

Power station manager Wouter Roggen said the national standard guideline for dust emission was 400mg/cubic metre, but that it was about to be lowered.

'We are working very hard to keep ash emission well within the expected new maximum of 170mg/cubic metre, and to reduce steam noise to a mini-

"Fabric filters are to be installed on the boilers to limit ash emission to about 50mg/cu.m, and council engineers are experimenting with m. They say that in spite of the sound-attenuators to limit The station's coal storage bill down.

sound levels. We are also heating the steam turbines at night to keep the levels down." He said the recommissioning of the station was in the early stage and much of the light fallout monitored in the vicinity of the station in recent months had turned out to be windblown particles from other

The station was commissioned in 1961 with an initial capacity of 90 000 kilowatts, but doubled its output after additional work in 1973, and its current book value was in the region of R600 million.

It had eight, two-drum, highhead natural circulation boilers and six steam turbines - five Swiss Orlikos and a Japanese Hitachi - with an output of 180 000 kilowatts.

Before it went on cold standby, the station was run as a base load station providing power to meet the basic needs of the city.

Those two enormous Davenport natural draft cooling towers are about 85 m tall and each has the capacity to handle about 20 million litres of water an hour, and the diameter of the cooling pond is a massive 70

facilities can store up to 25 000 tons of the fuel, and handling equipment like the wagon tippler and weigher can process 400 tons an hour, and the automatic continuous belt weigher 200 tons an hour.

In 1985 the council and Eskom struck a deal which enabled the city to get cheaper electricity from the Electricity Supply Commission than the station could supply

Mr Roggen said it made economic sense to use the Eskom supply as the costs of transporting the coal from up north were increasing all the time.

"Those very attractive rates of purchase made it difficult for us to compete and the station was no longer used but held in readiness to produce at least 50 megawatts on a 24-hour

"During the past 10 years, the station was occasionally called upon to produce the energy. It was only when Eskom reduced their preferential tariff to the council that we were informed to prepare for the big switch-on." So after being put on cold stand-by for the past decade, the station is being fired up in stages to help keep Cape Town's future electricity

When back in full service in three years' time, the station will save the city millions of rands annually by reducing peak energy purchases from

Mr Roggen said the council bought electricity from Eskom at two tariffs - one for the normal supply at a very cheap rate, and the other to meet the needs of consumers who use more energy during the peak periods like the cold winter months.

"It is the price of this peak energy purchase that pushes the city's electricity bill up and the station will now be used to supply power to help keep this cost at a minimum.

"In the past we operated as a

base load station, now we will operate as a peaking station to meet the peak demand of electricity during the day. He said electricity generated

at the Steenbras hydro-electric pumped storage scheme would also be used to help reduce the dependency on Eskom.

"Although it is very expensive to operate this coal-fired station, with the present peak rates offered by Eskom, we can deliver cheaper energy to the city and in doing so, save the consumer and the council mil-

#### Recognise street traders, says business leader

Municipal Staff

INFORMAL street trading may be too hot a potato for the central government to regulate, but the traders have found an unlikely ally in the streets, squares and malls of Cape Town.

Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Geoffrey Ashmead said it was time the authorities and big business realised that informal trading was an industry on its own, and had to accepted as part of business life.

Mr Ashmead said the burgeoning growth of informal traders represented a normal development process of economic activity which would lead, inevitably, to these fledgling businesses maturing into potential members of the chamber - "once they prosper, expand and become able to take the leap from informal business to small business.

He said that while he understood that many of the entrepreneurs did not choose to become street traders, they were forced to do so to survive as a result of the economy failing to provide the necessary resources to prevent

**Tonight Staff** 

Western Cape.

Samuel Dodgen is SABC's

new man in Western Cape

trading to survive.

They have now become part of the business sector and are creating employment opportunities for many others. This is part of their success story and it is happening in all parts of the

"But we must not let it develop into a situation where it will become a health hazard because of the lack of facilities or it becomes an obstruction to formal He said that while the traders

generally speaking had taken note of health aspects, pedestrian and motor traffic, attention needed to be given to other aspects such as the obstruction of shop windows.

"The chamber has for some years now appealed to the authorities to put in place bylaws which would adequately regulate informal trading while ensuring that the formal sector, and in particular ground floor shop owners, would not be adversely affected by the pavement sellers.

"From the legislation point of view, the business community has called with increasing urgency for reasonable laws to

people from turning to street govern the activities of informal traders in urban areas, and for such legislation to be capable of enforcement.

Pictures: THE CAPE TOWN CITY COUNCIL.

FIRST STATION: The Molteno Power Station was the first

"Because of central government deftly avoiding the issue and the initial lack of resources by the provincial government, a state of relative chaos was allowed to continue as far as street trading is concerned while a form of self-regulation gradually established itself.

"It now appears as if the provincial Department of Economic Affairs is at the point of promulgating a number of bylaws enabling organised street trading to function in a disciplined way, without incurring the wrath of formal traders."

Mr Ashmead said the chamber supported the initiatives and believed that the controls appeared both reasonable and workable, and generally did not impose burdens which were unduly onerous.

He said it was also time for a concerted effort by all the roleplayers to eradicate criminal activities including muggings, theft and serious assault which had continued to threaten both the informal and formal sectors in the central business districts.

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In 1989, he was appointed Editor of the Roeland News. In June 1992, he moved to the office of the min-

SAMUEL Dodgen is the new gen-

eral manager of the SABC in the

Mr Dodgen, whose appointment

is effective from June 1, began

his career as a teacher at Grassy

Park High School, before moving

to the Ella du Plessis High School

and the department of education

and culture, Cape Town.

ister of local government, housing and agriculture, and the office of education and culture, as chief ministerial liaison officer. In May 1994, he was appointed to the office of the minister of housing in the legislature of the Western Cape.

A year later, he joined Lanon (Pty) Ltd as communication and public affairs manager, where he was involved in a number of communication and public affairs strategies, and liaison with various bodies. Mr Dodgen is married and has one child.

#### Bonteheuwel candidate dies

Metro Reporter

AN election candidate has died in a Bonteheuwel ward in the Tygerberg substructure which means there will have to be a byelection there.

But residents of Ward T36 will still go to the polls on May 29 to vote for their preferred political parties on the proportional representation lists of the Tygerberg substructure and the Cape Metropolitan Council.

National Party candidate Najoemoenisa Kalam, of 43 Kersboom Street, died of a thrombosis.

#### Sit-in demo by postal workers

PORT ELIZABETH - A delegation from the Post and Telecommunication Workers' Association has staged a sit-in demonstration at Telkom's regional offices in Port Eliza-

Telkom's regional communications manager, Gill Burrows. said five Potwa representatives arrived at the office yesterday to demand a meeting with management.

The Potwa members wished to discuss "internal matters" relating to the Eastern Cape

Ms Burrows said the delegation was told it could not be accommodated at short notice and the meeting would have to take place today.

"The proposal was rejected by the Potwa members who indicated that they would embark on a sit-in demonstration in the regional general manager's office until the meeting had been granted," she said. The delegation then refused

to leave the building. - Sapa.

### All systems 'go' for constitution party

Flurry of activity for formal adoption of new bill

ESANN de KOCK

THERE is a flurry of activity as preparations go full steam ahead for the adoption of South Africa's new constitution tomorrow, at a formal sitting of the entire constitutional assembly.

Presses are working overtime to print the new bill, marquee tents are going up at Fernwood parliamentary estate, scaffolding is being set up for the unveiling of a huge mural in Plein Street, choirs are getting in final practices and political parties are going all out to make last-minute amendments

to the constitution. Katharine McKenzie, media liaison officer of the constitutional assembly, says there has been tremendous interest in the proceedings from the local and international media, and

that arrangements are in place to accommodate everyone and ensure the programme runs smoothly.

Final arrangements are also being made to try to ensure the adoption proceedings and ceremonies tomorrow are a

The day will start with a praise singer leading a procession of the national assembly after which deputy chairman Leon Wessels will welcome guests and introduce the programme.

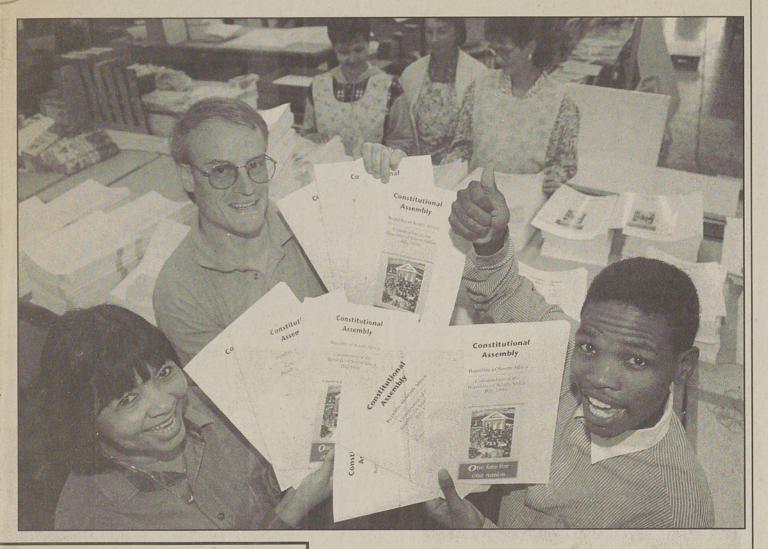
President Mandela and representatives of political

parties will address the assembly, and Mr Mandela will also speak at a gathering outside the national assembly chamber of schoolchildren and various organisations

The constitutional assembly song will be performed outside the assembly and everyone will be invited to join in the national anthem, which will be led by

A dinner will be hosted at Fernwood parliamentary estate tomorrow evening where Mr Mandela will be the guest of

Picture: LEON MULLER, Chief Photographe PRESSED FOR TIME: Creda Press staff worked through the night at the weekend to print the Constitution Bill in time for tomorrow's debate. Pamela Stanfield, Khayalethu Gomfa and Michael Bates join colleagues in celebrating their achievement. Time will tell whether deadlocked constitutional negotiators will produce further amendments.



# Tomorrow, there'll be one law for one nation.

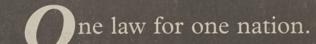


Tomorrow is the 8th of May, 1996. It's one of the most important days in the history of South Africa's long journey to democracy.

Because tomorrow we adopt our new Constitution, written by all the people of South Africa. Once it's adopted we'll submit it to the Constitutional Court for certification.

We'll have a set of new rules for all South Africans – including government – to respect and follow.

We'll have the foundation for a true democracy, and a Constitution we can be proud of.





#### Voter education advertising starts

THE Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) has announced the start of the radio, print and billboard advertising leg of its R2,45-million voter education campaign for the May 29 elections.

The announcement came amid widespread criticism that not enough was being done to reach voters at grassroots evel.

Speaking at a media briefing in Cape Town yesterday, CMC chairman Willie van Schoor expressed confidence that the advertising campaign would get the message across to voters of how, where and why to vote. He said the multifaceted, 11-phase campaign, launched two months ago, was now in full operation in an attempt to reach as many of the 1,3 million registered vot-

It was estimated that more than two million voters had been reached so far through voter education workshops and the distribution of posters and

The main bulk of the education activity had, however, been planned for May because the experience of the November elections showed widespread voter apathy until the last few weeks before the election.

Meanwhile, the Tygerberg joint executive committee has expressed serious reservations about the effectiveness of the voter education campaign and has requested a meeting with the CMC voter and election affairs committee on Thursday

Tygerberg returning officer Dave Wilken said they were worried that because of the size and magnitude of the substructure, not enough people were being reached.

The voter education programme during the next few weeks will include a print advertising campaign in community and regional newspapers, more than 3 500 radio ads and chat shows on various local stations, radio ads on music tapes supplied to taxi drivers, a moving billboard campaign and a ward/voting station knock and drop pamphlet designed for each sub-

A further 430 000 posters and booklets, in addition to the 530 000 already distributed, will also be disseminated during the next three weeks.

The cost of the entire campaign for the Cape metropolitan area works out at R1,90 a voter. The national campaign totalled R6 a voter and the campaign for the Western Cape rural areas for May 29 totals R5,90 a voter.

#### Metro ballot papers – W Cape printers upset

ANDREA WEISS Metro Reporter

ers as possible.

WESTERN Cape printers are upset that the printing of ballot papers for the May 29 elections is being handled by only two companies.

Selwyn Spolander of the Printing Industries Federation, which has about 250 members, said printers were hoping to avoid a repeat of the 1994 election scenario when South Africa's ballot papers were printed offshore at "huge cost", but had been disappointed at the handling of the printing of ballot papers for the Cape Metro.

Mr Spolander said he had held discussions with Brent Gerber of the Cape Town City Council and members of the Cape Metropolitan Council to offer the services of the printing industry.

However, his members were upset to find that Digitron, the company appointed to manage the process, would also be printing the bulk of the papers themselves.

Only one member of the federation. Federal Business Forms, was awarded the contract for the CMC's ballot papers, which is for about 1,4 million Digitron will be printing all the

papers for the six substructures, each of which require ward and proportional representation ballots. Mr Spolander said his members

had scanned the newspapers for

He had met Digitron and left the meeting under the impression that they would be managing the process only, and not printing, as they now

Stefaans Olivier, deputy returning officer for the CMC, said a co-ordinating committee of the chief executive officers had asked three companies, Digitron, Time Slot and MCS, to submit tenders for managing the

These companies had been chosen because of the complexity of the oper-Digitron won the tender because it

put in the best price, R118 000, for managing the security, delivery and auditing of the ballot papers. Digitron, in turn, had asked mem-

bers of the printing industry to submit their names, 22 of whom responded to their call. These 22 were given tender documents, with only five tendering. Mr Olivier said that at this point,

there was a meeting with the returning officers of the various substructures at which it was decided that, because of the tight deadlines, security risks and complexity of the job, Digitron should print the ballot papers for all the substructures as well.

Digitron has been asked to print 10 percent more than the required number of ballots, which includes papers for 172 wards

The total cost of printing is expected to come to about R600 000.

#### Bid to protect KwaZulu poll

KEY security ministries in the government are to start talks about a security plan for KwaZulu-Natal after the postponement of the local elections there from May 29 for a month.

The postponement was announced last night after a special cabinet meeting which lasted more than five hours, during which Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi was convinced to agree to the delay.

The decision - based on recommendations of a task team set up by President Mandela last month to probe allegations of voters' roll fraud and nogo areas in the province - will allow time for limited registration, a further look at fraud allegations and for the security situation to be assessed.

Government sources said the delay would allow time to plan and put in place effective security measures to ensure the polls were not marred by violence and intimidation. The cabinet is likely to discuss these

measures when it meets for its regular meeting tomorrow before a possible meeting of the Safety and Security, Defence and Intelligence ministries. However, presidential spokesman

Parks Mankahlana has said that security measures would not include a state of emergency, which the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal has demanded.

Yesterday, Chief Buthelezi, who had earlier opposed a delay, said the postponement had been a unanimous decision by the cabinet.

"We are hoping that this will have a calming effect," he said.