

LEBOWA HEALTH SERVICES

The following are extracts from questions put to the Minister of Health of Lebowa in the Lebowa Legislative Assembly and the answers received from him. They are taken from the annual report of the Department of Health and Social Welfare, Lebowa, 1979/1980.

Q: At St. Rita's Hospital the mortuary is too small, there are too few telephones and too many patients for the available accommodation. What is the difficulty?

A: Lack of funds.

Q: Is it not time that all hospitals and clinics be supplied with two-way radios?

A: Yes, but funds are not available.

Q: Freezing of posts should be abolished if still practised by your department.

A: I agree wholeheartedly, but can unfortunately not afford to fill the vacancies at once.

Q: Jane Furse Hospital is very overcrowded, causing the patients to sleep on the floor. How can your department be so cruel?

A: We do not want to be cruel, but we are forced to accept this deficiency because of the financial state of affairs.

Q: Ambulances are too old, causing the hospital to deliver medicines by tractor.

A: This is not ideal, but is a result of the everlasting shortage of funds.

Q: Droogte and Bolahlakgomo Communities informed me to request the Hon. Minister to build a clinic within one of those places. Will it be possible?

A: Such requests should not be directed to me but to my department. I am informed by my department that a clinic has already been approved for Volop i.e. Bolahlakgomo. It will not be possible to build the clinic, however, until (sic) funds are available.

Q: Last year I requested the Hon. Minister to enlarge the mortuary at Groothoek Hospital. What is the position now?

A: The position is the same as last year, as I have clearly indicated in my Budget and Policy speech. No funds are available for this purpose.