

Eastern Cape

contributed by Gordon Hartford
Port Elizabeth

The Bench

PILLAY SC and Mpati SC have been appointed permanently to the Bench. (See also p 22 of this issue.)

Bar Council

Buchanan SC has been elected chairman of the Eastern Cape Society of Advocates, with Whitehead SC as deputy chairman. The other members of the Bar Council are: (from Grahamstown) Eksteen SC, Smuts, Paterson, and Cole (honorary secretary); (from Port Elizabeth) Van Rooyen SC, Horn, Van der Linde, Jooste, and Jurgens (honorary assistant secretary).

Membership

Gouws departed and Shelver-Proctor is a new arrival at the Bar. The Port Elizabeth Bar has three new pupils this year: Dyke, Pillay, and Strydom.

Training programme

The advocates' training programme has enjoyed the benefit of admirable effort by Ben Ford of Grahamstown who organised a course there last September. Among participating instructors were Benningfield and Van Rooyen from PE. A further course is envisaged for this year's intake, and is bound to be well at-

tended, not only because of the crop of pupils at the Port Elizabeth Bar, but because several enthusiastic juniors are keen to "take further instruction" on their art.

Sport

There is no official news on the athletic front but gossip sources suspect cryptotraining for the Apple Express Run. The reasons for this go quite deep. "The Mighty Barflyers" team, which has beaten the best that the attorneys have in their *hubris* fielded in competition over the past two years, is a selected band (whether self-selected one dare not say) which takes this contest seriously. That there is a post-race party distinguished for the fineness of its wines, which must be paid for by the losers, is not mere canard. Why else should Nick Mullins and Patrick Scott leave the PE Society AGM with muffled apologies and footwear, i.e. takkies, sorry, trainers, at 5.15 p.m.? Boredom could never be a motive in such acute debaters. In vain did our new secretary hint at a case for ties at future meetings, while the immaculate chairman remained tactfully impassive.

Bar dinner

On the Bar dinner we can report more directly. It was held at St George's Club in February, with PE playing host. Among the distinguished guests were Judge President Zietsman, and Judges

Nepgen, Van Rensburg, Liebenberg, Melunsky, Jansen, Pickering, Erasmus and Mpati. A polished and amiable Grahamstown contingent ("a light reconnaissance force") contributed much to the enjoyment of the evening.

Whitehead SC, in introducing Judge Mpati and congratulating him on his appointment, mentioned the widely noticed newspaper report that the Judge, instead of taking the usual primrose path of judicial appointments who acquire a Mercedes, coveted a bakkie (and in Frankfurt Benz shares fluctuated). Whitehead then divulged, presumably in the interests of transparency, that Froneman J, Judge President of the Labour Court, upon seeing the report, had intimated that as he was stationed in Gauteng he could obtain any bakkie with disconcerting ease and would do so provided he could drive it down to Grahamstown for Judge Mpati. Such magnanimity so moved the by then somewhat raucous audience that no-one even breathed the words "unfair labour practice".

If the success of an evening is measured by the lateness of departures I should mention that at one a.m. there were at least a dozen members of the Bar, genially overseen by Judge Nepgen, indulging in the cut and thrust of anecdote, and later, if report is not false, of snooker cues. 

Johannesburg

bygedra deur Pieter Pauw
Johannesburg

Bar Council

THERE are a number of new faces on the Bar Council this year. The chairman is Johann Gautschi and Gerald Faber is the vice-chairman. The other seniors are Guy Hoffman, Dennis Fine, Paul Pretorius and Hilton Epstein. Other members are Brian Spilg (who obtained

senior status after his election), Ismail Hussain, Colin Lamont, Gerrit Pretorius, Pieter Pauw and Margie Victor. The honorary secretary is Richard Moerman and his deputy is André van der Merwe.

Judges

Congratulations to Ivor Schwartzman SC and Surita Snyders SC who were elevated to the Bench. During the past months a large number of members held acting ap-

pointments in the High Court.

Strategic planning

The Bar Council has also appointed a strategic planning committee. The purpose of the committee is to actively pursue a process of consultation with all members of the Society and all groups thereof in order to make recommendations to the Bar Council on long and short term planning. The recommendations of