

AFRA



Newsletter of the Association For Rural Advancement

Number 18 October 1992

Government to give land to Lebowa

ALMOST two months ago the government's plan to transfer state land under the Department of Land and Regional Affairs to homeland administration was uncovered. Throughout this period, repeated requests for details of the plan to be made public met with no response. And there has still been no consultation with communities living on the land.

Then, on October 13 1992 the South African Ministry of Land and Regional Affairs and Lebowa's Chief Minister announced in a joint press statement that 380 000 hectares of state land will be transferred to joint Lebowa/South African government administration. There has been no announcement yet of similar definite plans for KwaZulu.

The 380 000 hectares of former South African Development Trust land will be handed to tribes in Lebowa, existing

companies in which Lebowa is represented, the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation and the Lebowa Development Corporation. It is said this land will be jointly administered by the South African and Lebowa governments. AFRA believes that such transfer will mean de facto ownership of land and effective control over land settlement and use by the Lebowa authorities.

Under the cloak of joint administration and handing over land to companies and corporations, the government is trying to give homeland governments, who are in their death throes, effective power and control over land and development.

This confirms AFRA's fears that land is being used to win support in negotiations and to preempt any genuine negotiation around land reform.

Basic services, such as schools, health facilities and pensions, would hardly improve under the administration of structures which are grossly strapped for cash. A decline in quality and quantity of services has been the experience of areas now under homeland administration. Communities say that responsibility for development and administering services lies with the central government.

The land transfer plan is an attempt by the government to shirk its rural development responsibilities and to complicate attempts to reconstruct a post-apartheid South Africa.

Since the government's plan to transfer 1,2 million hectares of state land to homeland administration was uncovered, there has been widespread opposition to the plan from a range of different

☞ from page 1

groups.

Despite this, the government has gone ahead with its first phase of the plan.

It is clear that genuine negotiation remains a foreign concept to the government, and one which it is reluctant to engage in. Continuation of this approach can only lead to more conflict, especially in Natal, where some communities have made it clear that they find the transfer plan unacceptable.

The suggestion from the governments of South Africa and Lebowa that the proposal has been put to the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA), and that the public may approach ACLA over the issue, is cynical.

ACLA was set up as an advisory body by the government and is answerable to the state president. Now the government itself has put a proposal to ACLA.

Are we expected to believe that ACLA's advice to the state president about what should happen to this land will be in favour of communities? And if it is, why would the same government, that is now ignoring public opposition, listen?

Land Briefs



Farmer's Weekly calls for land claims court

STATE land must be allocated to meet claims resulting from racial laws of the past and to establish more commercial farmers regardless of race, says the Farmer's Weekly in its editorial of September 11 1992. "The problem is that the state does not have a body which can handle the most urgent part, the land claims, with total impartiality and free from political pressure or interference. The only solution is to set up a judicial structure; what the SA Agricultural Union terms an accountable legal process and what the ANC more properly calls a land claims court." Referring to the government's 1991 White Paper statement that restoration of land would not be feasible, the Farmer's Weekly said: "The statement itself caused so much conflict the government was forced to backtrack. It now has a committee to advise it on land allocation. But the final word must come from the cabinet or a minister, and land claimants have little reason to respect what

they see as political decisions. Only a court composed of legal experts from all population groups can earn that respect."

(Farmer's Weekly: editorial September 11 1992)

Babanango indunas challenge KwaZulu government

INDUNAS from Babanango in northern Natal have applied to the Durban Supreme Court to stop the KwaZulu administration from installing four chiefs in the area. The indunas say they were not consulted about the plan and described the action by Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Mangosuthu Buthelezi as "illegal and designed to reduce the authority of His Majesty, the King Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu". Babanango traditionally falls under King Goodwill Zwelithini, who appointed his brother, Prince Clement, to assume responsibility.

In their reply to the court action brought by the Babanango indunas, the KwaZulu government said it saw no reason to consult with the Babanango community before dividing the land into four sections and installing chiefs from outside the area. Carel Marthinus Vos, Deputy Secretary in the KwaZulu Chief Minister's department, said the land was not lawfully occupied as communal/tribal land. People living there were doing so illegally, he said.

☞ see pages 6 & 7 for more on the land transfer issue

March to protest farm evictions

ABOUT 200 rural tenants from farms in the Colenso District marched to the local police station in August to protest evictions. This was the first time rural tenants in Natal took to the streets to highlight their plight. The tenants have occupied land, now owned by white farmers, for many generations. In their memorandum, handed to the Colenso Police Station Commander, they demanded that:

- the government stop farm evictions
- the government speak to white farmers about tenants being allowed the right to remain on the farms and continue using the land
- the police stop helping farmers with evictions.

People who took part in the march came from several farms in the District, among them, Gannahoeck, Rietbult and Cromley Bank.

AFRA asked Mr Mbabayi Mtshali, one of the people who took part in the march, to tell us about the march and what has happened since.

"The idea of the march arose because of the increase in evictions in the Colenso area," said Mr Mtshali. "These evictions affected many people. We held a meeting to discuss the idea of holding a march.



Colenso tenants hand their memorandum to the police,

People at the meeting supported the idea of a march. After that we went to the Colenso SAP to ask for permission. The station commander asked us why we wanted to march. He asked us to tell him our reasons in writing and to write the letter in English and Afrikaans. We were assisted in writing this letter by a teller at the Colenso tearoom.

"The station commander agreed to the march and gave us directions to follow during the march.

"After we got permission to have the march, we drew up a memorandum. The station commander told us to write down all our grievances and to find someone who could put these in English. A local shopkeeper helped us to do this and to get the memorandum typed up. Four people were mandated by the meeting to see the shopkeeper. The demands which went into the memorandum were decided at the meeting and this was

done democratically.

"Since the march, nobody has reported receiving eviction notices. It is very quiet on the farms at the moment. But I can't say that the march achieved what we wanted it to achieve because the government has still not responded to our demand for an end to evictions. And we do not know what their response will be.

"One of the effects of the march is that people are getting organised. We have received messages from as far as Weenen that other tenants want to join us if we march for the second time.

"We have not planned any follow up activities. We are waiting for a response from the government. We go to the SAP offices to see if there has been a response. The government has the power to stop evictions by an act of parliament.

"Only a democratically elected government can do this."



THE KwaZulu Government has recently begun to assert its presence around land issues. Its representatives have attended public hearings in Natal, called by the government-appointed Advisory Commission on Land Allocation. What does the KwaZulu government think about current debates around land? AFRA asked KwaZulu's Minister of Interior, Stephen Sithebe.

Stephen Sithebe has been KwaZulu's Minister of Interior since 1989. Before that, he held the position of Minister of Welfare and Pensions. He was a founder member of Inkatha in 1975 and has been a member of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly since 1977. He told AFRA his interest in land issues arose when forced removals took place in Ladysmith in 1979.

KwaZulu govt

What is your view of the government's plan to transfer land to administration under the self-governing territories?

We are saying that the land which belongs to us must come to us. We made the tribes move from the Inanda area to make way for the dam. This was done on the basis that they would be compensated with other land. After making these promises the government goes and writes the White paper. We are not worried about the government's stupidity in writing the White paper and also making these promises to us. We say the land was part of the promises made to us and must come back to us.

What about how the government has handled the issue - the secrecy around it?

We are sure the government knows how to handle things. It's their problem.

How do you think the problem of landlessness may be addressed in South Africa?

I have not given much consideration to this. It should be the subject of negotiation of an interim government.

How do you think contesting land claims may be resolved? Some people have, for example, argued for a land claims court to adjudicate. What is your view?

I haven't given consideration to this.

What do you think of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) as a mechanism to deal with land allocation?

I'm not sure whether it is an adequate mechanism. You need a body that can satisfy all parties. At present, ACLA is made up of a bunch of academics, so we are not sure which side they are on. I think it would be necessary to have the major political parties represented on such an advisory body. Whether or not the present government is illegitimate, it is the de facto and de jure authority. Therefore, it should make the decisions.

The state president should identify which political parties need to be represented on such a body and call for these parties to forward representatives.

wants state land

What is KwaZulu's view of land reform in South Africa?

Land reform must be handled by an interim government. I haven't yet given much consideration to what KwaZulu would be putting on the agenda on this issue but I think land reform should be open to the negotiation process.

What is KwaZulu's view of future rural development?

In Natal/KwaZulu we have in our agenda a federal arrangement. Already in place are the JSBs (Joint Services Boards), which no other region has. Through the JSBs we are aiming to handle development - not only in certain areas and not others, but all-inclusively. Through the JSBs development will occur in rural areas. We already have so much cooperation in the Joint Executive. The JSBs are the infrastructure for a federal structure. They are already there. We are trying to bring development to rural areas now, even before an interim government.

What is KwaZulu's attitude to private individual tenure?

We are for private individual ownership. In 1989 the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly passed legislation

allowing private ownership in tribal areas. The law was not passed because the state president did not sign it for some technical reasons. During the last session of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly (March to June this year) we passed another law saying that there could be private ownership in tribal areas. I don't know if the state president has signed it.

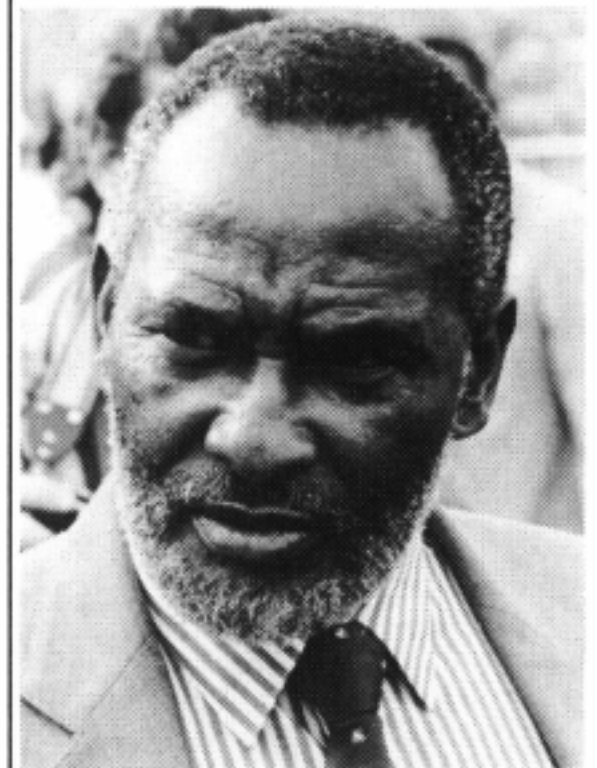
We see private ownership as the best solution. If something is privately owned then people look after it better.

What is KwaZulu's attitude to communal landownership?

We are prepared to let it live side-by-side with private ownership in tribal areas. But we see private ownership as better.

Any other comments you wish to make about land issues?

Your organisation, AFRA, behaves like a scavenger, feeding off the gains I've made. This is viewed in a very serious light by the local IFP leadership in that area.



"We are not worried about the government's stupidity in writing the White Paper and also making promises to us. We say the land was part of promises made to us and must come back to us."

Widespread opposition

A RANGE of players in Natal have come out in opposition to the government's plan to transfer some 1.2 million hectares of state land to homeland administration.

The Democratic Party (DP) rejected the plan and the DP's Mr Wessel Nel said in a statement in August that: "It is incumbent upon the government to consider first any recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, submissions by the affected communities and rural development needs and then to negotiate an acceptable practical solution".

Also in August, the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) said it opposed the planned transfer and that it believed no state land should be given away until land restitution arising from claims by people dispossessed of land under apartheid laws had been dealt with satisfactorily. Mr Hans van der Merwe, the deputy director of commodity services at the SAAU said, "the state has ample land available for restitution purposes. We believe this should not be disposed of before the legal claims have been answered adequately." The president of the SAAU, Mr JJ Fourie said his

union hoped the government would consult widely on the issue before making a final decision. He said he believed the issues of land, land use and allocation of state land should be handled in a way which would solve short-term problems and also contribute towards general long-term satisfaction.

The Daily News, in an editorial in September, slated the proposed transfer as making little sense when a new constitution was being negotiated. Referring to the possibility of Clermont, which previously resisted transfer to KwaZulu, now being transferred to KwaZulu administration, the Daily News said: "If bureaucracy has produced a plan for the incorporation of Clermont, to complete the apartheid blueprint, somebody in authority needs to publicly remind the bureaucrats that the blueprint is no more. If no such plan exists, this has to be made abundantly clear. South Africa has more than enough potential flashpoints."

The Southern Natal Region of the ANC has also begun to put pressure on the government to halt its transfer plan. On September 9, a delegation from the region presented a

N/MERCURY 16.9.1992
Report by the Association for Rural Development

Land transfer bargaining chip for KwaZulu in negotiations

THE government's recently exposed plan to transfer about 600 000 hectares of state land in Natal to KwaZulu administration seems to have become a bargaining chip in the game of negotiation for a winning support for the plan.

ANC march against incorporation
ABOUT 5 000 ANC supporters marched yesterday to the KwaZulu police station to protest against the planned transfer of the township to KwaZulu.

A spokesman for the Department and Regional Land Affairs said Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johann Schreppers was continuing his discussions on the planned transfer of 600 000 hectares to KwaZulu.

The government has already announced that at least 1.2 million hectares of land administered by the SA Development Trust is to be handed over to the six homeland administrations.

But Clermont, a staunch ANC stronghold for the past two decades, is likely to be the biggest flashpoint. Chairman of the Southern Natal ANC branch, Jeff Radebe, has said that if this happened, there would be blood on the streets.

"To hand over Clermont to KwaZulu is madness. It is the home to many freedom fighters. Archie Gumedz, for example, the KwaZulu deputy-minister, was shot here by the IFP. He is not going to let it happen," Radebe said.

CLERMONT, south of Durban, may soon be handed over to KwaZulu — which warns the ANC will result in the biggest bloodbath ever witnessed in Natal.

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Attack on Afra
by NOMUSA CEMBI

A DURBAN BASED Zulu newspaper has launched a stinging attack on the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) accusing the organisation of dividing the Zulu nation.

The articles are in response to Afra's objection to 1.2 million hectares being handed over to various homeland administrations by the government, including 600 000 hectares to KwaZulu.

The articles claim Afra is organising the campaign in support of the ANC, under the guise of a joint working committee comprising the ANC, COSATU and the IFP.

The articles also say the organisation is fighting for "white" towns in Makhahashini and Nongoma — which fell under King Goodwill Zwelithini — not to be transferred to KwaZulu.

Hands of we can

THE government plans to transfer 600 000 hectares of state land to KwaZulu administration. No one, outside of the government and the benefiting beneficiaries, has been consulted, let alone the inhabitants of the land.

The National Land Commission (NLC) and the African National Congress (ANC) have called on the government to abandon its plans on the grounds that it is unfair to incorporate people into its own underdevelopment.

ANC warns of bloodbath if KwaZulu gets Clermont
Graham Spence

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to land transfer plan

crecy and the land issue

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Racially Based Land Measures Act was passed, providing for the establish- ment of Acla, with the brief to advise the state president about alloca- tion of undeveloped state land.

Then in March this year government scrapped the discredited Department of Development Aid (DDA) and the South African Development Trust (SADT), and put the land formerly held by these departments under the

Again, these undertakings have not stopped further attempts to get rid of land being claimed. Recently, a gov- ernment department hurriedly sold off some 8 000 hectares of land in the northern Cape which is being claimed by the Majeng community.

Despite undertakings in the 1991 White Paper that homeland consolida- tion would end, in March this year some three million hectares of land was handed to the six homelands. This followed the dissolution of the DDA and the SADT.

memorandum calling for the "immediate termination of any intention of the South African government to transfer land to KwaZulu and other bantustans". And on September 12, about 5 000 Clermont residents marched to the local police station to protest against the planned transfer.

conflicts that enable them to further their nefarious plans for an undemocratic one-party state". In a later edition, Ilanga launched a pointed attack on other organisations who have expressed concern about the transfer. The newspaper claimed that opposition to the transfer was an ANC/SACP/COSATU plot to stop KwaZulu gaining control over land that was due to it. The newspaper further claimed that the 600 000 hectares of land was being returned to KwaZulu in terms of a 1988 ruling.

LETTERS

off the land on which to build a better future

20. 9. 1992

transfer 1.2 million hectares of land to the government states, has the inhabi- munities in the

and land into the homelands at a time when the establishment of an interim government and the disbanding of these territories is imminent. This action will not only have detri- mental consequences for the commu- nities concerned, but will pre-empt the possibility of establishing a coherent land and development policy for the future. Also, a hand-over of adminis- trative control has severe practical consequences for the people con- cerned - it could affect their access

to pensions, health and social services, as well as the land itself.

There is no doubt that the planned land transfer is calculated to prevent a new government from allocating state land. How can a government, which claims to be negotiating in good faith, continue to take unilateral deci- sions affecting the lives of thousands

under- rightheld scrapp- cess to and to

of apartheid sold. And the minister of land affairs, Dr Jacob de Villiers pledged that black communities or their land by past policies. Racially Based Land Measures Act is passed, providing for the estab- lishment of Acla, with the brief to advise the state president about alloca- tion of undeveloped state land.

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Despite these measure appeared to be moving away apartheid policies of the past movement to genuine settle the land issue. Establishing a not stop government attempts all off land being claimed by rased communities. The govern- led on two occasions to sell of a farms in the Eastcourt de- allubi tribe. On both occa- sions protest over the intended a- aged to halt them.

Following the halting of the sa- chairman of Acla, Judge van I called on the government sales of all land that was the subject of dispute. In May this year the minister of agriculture, Kraai was also undertook that land

and commu- the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra). Jean du Plessis is land programme co-ordinator

Land for KwaZulu starts row

15. 9. 92

A CAMPAIGN to prevent the transfer of 600 000 hectares of land to the KwaZulu government is gaining momentum as fears grow that violent confronta- tion could result from such a move.

This week the African National Congress said in a memorandum presented to the Depart- ment of Home Affairs that such a move was provocative and was interpreted "as a man- oeuvre by the South African authorities to consolidate support for its war against the ANC".

At least eight areas in Natal could fall into KwaZulu hands if the transfer is affected. The land in dispute was previously under the now disbanded South African Development Trust.

The ANC described the move as "further evidence of complicity" between the Inkatha Free- dom Party and the government.

Last month the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) said that in Natal particularly, communities had negative expe- riences of KwaZulu.

Deputy Minister of Land Af- fairs, Mr Johan Schreper said the Government had not taken a decision on the future of the land. He said the Department of Regional and Land Affairs had considered numerous possibili- ties.

The Human Rights Commis- sion also signalled a warning that the possibility of land being transferred to KwaZulu could lead to an escalation of violence in this region, repeating Afra's concerns that the communities under threat would resist such a move.

Over land

1992

winning back their land like in Cornfields, Tembhalib, Mat- wane's Kop, Stoffelton and Siren- kowspruit. Others are putting their land claims before the gov- ernment's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation. Among the latter communities are Roosboom, Char- lestown and Amahlubi," says the

ADA said the articles confirm its worst fears - "The issue of land is now being given a potentially explosive political character".

The government has denied it intends to hand over land to self- governing territories.

"No decision has been taken by government regarding this matter and media speculation that this will be handed over to the governing territories in own- ship or that it will be totally handed under their administrative control is untrue," said deputy minister for land affairs Johan

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and tot re a- y

Reports from OXFAM, a British-based development organisation with whom AFRA has fraternal relations, indicate that the British government seems to be concerned about the transfer plan. In a letter to OXFAM, Baroness Linda Chalker, Minister responsible for sub-Saharan Africa, said she had raised the issue with the South African Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Renier Schoeman on her recent visit to South Africa. She had been led to believe that no firm decisions had been taken. She added that the British embassy in South Africa was monitoring developments closely.

Opposition to the planned transfer drew sharp response from the IFP-owned Ilanga newspaper. In an article entitled "Watch out for the land wolf", the newspaper warned that: "people must beware of those who merely wish to use the sacred issue of land as an instrument to divide people and create

Drought relief gets off the ground

A National Consultative Forum On Drought Relief was formed in June this year to coordinate drought relief work among non-government organisations, government departments and a range of other organisations. A Natal regional forum has also been set up, as a local offshoot of the national initiative.

The June meeting which decided to set up a national structure concluded that the whole issue of development was tied to the problem of drought. Attention is being given to enabling communities to develop the means to survive droughts and floods.

The Consultative Forum has put out a manual, detailing the types of drought relief for which people can apply. The manual also offers advice on how to fill in forms for drought relief. It is intended to be updated on a regular basis.

In addition to the drought relief manual, the Consultative Forum has set up an Employment Task Force. This aims to encourage programmes of emergency job creation to help poor people in areas badly affected by drought. Communities who want to apply for



assistance under this Task Force should identify projects which could benefit the whole community. The projects should be based on:

- community involvement
- providing jobs for the poorest
- involvement of lots of labour

- supporting local enterprise

Projects could involve help with household subsistence, such as setting up vegetable gardens; soil conservation; water supply and sanitation and income generating projects.

People who want to apply for assistance under the Employment task Force or who need more information may contact:

**The Employment Task Force
Emergency Jobs**

National Consultative Forum On Drought

PO Box 23

Auckland Park 2006

Tel: (011) 4822180

Or :

**Natal/KwaZulu Consultative Forum On Drought and
Development**

ICL House

480 Smith Street

Durban 4001

Tel: (031) 3062441/3062591/2

Rural Community Development School for 'Maritzburg

BASED at the University of Natal's Pietermaritzburg campus, the School of Rural Community Development will provide training to facilitate rural development initiatives. It will operate at two levels - in the university and in the community. "What is clear is that there is a need for training and that there are already a lot of non-government organisations doing some training in communities. It is important that the school does not duplicate what is already taking place. Instead, it should try to build on what already exists," says Professor Sangweni. He is currently carrying out a survey of existing training activities. "There is a wide range of community based organisations and we need to find out where they operate and at what levels they work," he says.

The School will draw on several faculties at the university, in particular the Agriculture and Social Science Faculties. Discussions have been held with the Agriculture Faculty about a bachelor's degree which focusing on agriculture and rural development. Such a degree would involve course work on project identification and management, extension methods and leadership skills. It is hoped that this degree course will be offered by 1994.



Professor Stan Sangweni, head of the Rural Community Development School at the University of Natal's Pietermaritzburg campus.

Similar discussions have occurred with the Social Science Faculty. It is hoped a degree course will be formulated with courses such as rural sociology, geography, regional development and rural development.

Discussions are also underway about the possibility of offering post-graduate degrees within the Sociology Department with an emphasis on rural development.

Sangweni believes it will be important to emphasise training in management of people and material resources.

What non-degree courses the school offers will depend on the results of the survey currently being undertaken. These results are expected to be ready within the next two months. It is hoped that these courses will start in 1993. They will involve training at local level (community members and leaders) and technical training for service organisation staff.

Wide exposure to development issues

PROFESSOR Stan Sangweni, head of the University of Natal's School of Rural Community Development, has had the benefit of exposure to development issues in several parts of the world. As a young boy, he grew up in Jobstown, a freehold area near Madadeni in Natal. His secondary schooling took him to Marianhill, near Pinetown. His tertiary study took him to Lesotho's Roma University. Further tertiary study, around rural development issues, took him to Canada, the United States, Holland and back to Africa (Lesotho and Swaziland).

In 1974 he joined the United Nations Economic Commission For Africa. Based in Lusaka, Zambia, his work brought him in touch with the problems facing Africa. Among others, the Commission tried to promote regional cooperation.

In 1982, while based in Nairobi, Kenya, he left the UN Economic Commission to join the UN Environmental Programme, where he worked until his return to South Africa in December 1991.

While he was out of South Africa, he also became active in the ANC's Education Council and was among the people who set up the Solomon Mahlangu Training Centre in Tanzania. The school became a model training institute.

Agrarian Reform :

This is a summary of a paper delivered by Henry Bernstein at the Ruth First Memorial lecture held at the University of the Western Cape in August 1992.

Henry Bernstein is a rural sociologist attached to the Institute For Development Policy And Management at the University of Manchester. He is currently doing research in South Africa on agrarian reform and is attached to the Centre For Social And Development Studies at the University of Natal in Durban.

IN South Africa, there is, on the one hand, a long history of contestation of racist land policies and practices. These have been mostly local and vary between open and hidden struggle. On the other hand, political organisation and representation of rural oppressed classes and groups beyond local level is almost non-existent.

This has potentially serious effects for perceptions and theorisation of land and agrarian reform by the national democratic movement, which in turn affect the formulation and practice of any agrarian strategy. In fact, at present, there is no political strategy on the agrarian question. By contrast, debate of urban and industrial strategies draws on the accumulated experience, weight and perspectives of trade unions, especially those in COSATU, civics and ANC urban structures.

The development of a viable strategy is inseparable from identifying potential social forces and then, in a political-organisational sense, constituting them as social forces whose mobilisation, engagement and representation are necessary conditions of any democratic resolution of the land question.

The organisational forms for articulating demands, channelling political

energies and developing political capacity in the countryside cannot be determined by any simple "model". The formation of ANC rural branches in itself would not satisfy the kinds of political tasks indicated. Much would be gained from assessing the experience of rural action committees, formed as support organisations for struggles against forced removal from white farming areas and now grouped in the National Land Committee.

There is scope for a diversity of organisational forms, in relation to the diversity of emphasis, interests and demands that would emerge. Mobilising the ideas and political energies of the oppressed groups in the countryside is the indispensable condition of carrying struggle forward, a process the national democratic movement can do much to stimulate, support and inform. In turn, this requires greater commitment of intellectual, material and political resources to struggle on the land question.

It is in the interests of all those subject to national oppression in South Africa that the de facto and de jure control of land by the white minority is broken.

Different classes and groups experience national oppression in different ways, which affects how social forces

Which Way?

might be constituted around agrarian reform.

One grouping that provides an immediate basis for political-organisational work comprises those with claims to particular lands in white farming areas. It would be most useful to investigate what types of white farms now occupying those lands would have to be expropriated to satisfy the historic claims of those removed from them.

Another immediate basis for political work is unionisation of farmworkers and organisation of their struggles, actual and potential, over conditions of work and pay and legal rights.

The single most strategic objective of democratic transition remains to break the de facto and de jure white domination of land ownership and farming. At the same time, the immediate and comprehensive expropriation of white farms is neither politically feasible nor necessary to the tasks of the current phase of struggle. Accordingly, targeting the weakest and least efficient sectors of white farming for land redistribution provides terrain on which there is apparent partial convergence of conservative and liberal reform proposals with national democratic objectives. Conservative reform can accommodate the "sacrifice" of the least




efficient (and most indebted) white farmers, and the allocation of state land to black farmers, in its strategic objective of saving the greater part of white commercial agriculture. Liberal reform is prepared to go further to realise its strategic conception of a "deracialised" agriculture balanced between efficiency and equity, in which the "freedom of the market" is available to all viable farmers regardless of colour or type of commercial enterprise (both capitalist and petty commodity production).

Contradictions within apartheid institutions provide opportunities to national democratic initiatives on the agrarian question and present dangers to them. The

dangers are that such initiatives are limited to state sponsored reform, not least the promotion of selective "market-based options" which disregard popular aspirations and block popular actions on land.

Discourses that centre on "market" and "state", constituting farmers as individual economic actors on the one hand, and possibly as political "interest groups" (farmers' lobbies) on the other hand, implicitly dissolve the concept of social forces and collective action.

Land Briefs



1. Drought
2. Majeng

More privatisation of basic services

NEWCASTLE hospital and Empangeni Hospital will be privatised in the near future. These plans are in terms of broad cutbacks in health services proposed by the Natal Provincial Administration (NPA).

The NPA Staff Association condemned the plan to sell off the Newcastle Hospital to private investors. "The Association totally objects to this recent development as we believe the public are entitled to the provision of state health services," they said. Among other organisations opposing the health services cuts are SAHSSO, MASA, SANA, the ANC and Diakonia.

Besides the privatisation of state hospitals, cutbacks proposed by the NPA include ending all free testing for AIDS, cancer services and hospitalisation of tuberculosis sufferers and retrenchment of at least 5 000 health workers. None of the job cuts will affect the existing health services bureaucracy.

Ladysmith Local Affairs Discussion Forum

A LOCAL Affairs Discussion Forum, made up of the ANC, CP, NP and DP has been set up in Ladysmith. The forum will be discussing:

- finding common ground about Ladysmith's municipal political structures
- the Interim Measures Bill
- how to accommodate representatives of all citizens at council level

Other interested groups will be invited to future discussions of the forum. The IFP was invited to the first meeting, but was unable to attend.

(Ladysmith Gazette: October 9 1992)

Mogopa community to get back their farm

ONE of two Ventersdorp farms from which the Mogopa community were forcibly removed in 1984 will be returned to them. This was said by Mr Pine Pienaar, Director of Land Affairs.

(Institute Of Race Relations: Fast Facts No. 10 1992)

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Drought leads to job loss

ABOUT 70 000 people in agriculture and related sectors would lose their jobs as a result of the current drought, estimates the South African Reserve Bank.

(Institute Of Race Relations: Fast Facts No. 10 1992)

Majeng challenge rushed sale of land

THE Majeng community of the northern Cape will contest in the Supreme Court the hurried sale of land being claimed by them. More than 6 000 hectares of land in Barkley East was sold to white farmers in June 1992, despite assurances from the Minister of Agriculture, Kraai van Niekerk, that agricultural land expropriated in terms of apartheid by the government would not be sold. The Majeng community were due to put their claim to the government appointed Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) when the sale took place. The community were forcibly removed from their land between 1969 and 1974.