

They said it...

Quotable quotes on land and development issues in 1992

State Land Transfers

"We are not concerned 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."

KwaZulu Minister of Interior, Stephen Sithebe.

"The state has ample land available for restitution purposes. We believe this should not be disposed of before the legal claims have been answered."

the South African Agricultural Union's Hans van der Merwe.

"The transfers amount to nothing more than a crude and very transparent attempt to purchase or reward political support for the National Party Government's attempts to retain its hold on power via its 'regional/federal' programme. These transfers do not, as is implied by the government, resolve the issue of landlessness and redistribution. The ANC firmly calls for an immediate and comprehensive moratorium on the sale and transfer of all public land until an interim government is in place. The ANC wishes to place on record that it will not consider itself bound to honour any of these transactions."

ANC National Office.

Department of Development Aid (DDA) Corruption Revelations



One the DDA's development projects - thousands of unused toilets.

"I wish to place on record my appreciation to thousands of officials who, with compassion and understanding, also towards the public, fulfilled this task diligently and effectively to the enhancement of development and growth." Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Jacob de Villiers, after publication of the Pickard Commission's damning report of the DDA.

"Removals of black people from certain areas designated to be white, to areas designated to be black, became almost its primary function... True enough, the policy was sold on the basis that such removals (forced or voluntary) would be for the benefit and general betterment of the persons so moved. History has, however, shown that this was not always achieved... at the end of the day, the credibility of and respect for the Department had diminished to where the very community for which it was purported to exist and for whose interest it was supposed to care, had for the most part turned against it in rebellion."

Judge B Pickard, of the Pickard Commission of Inquiry into the DDA.

Removals And Evictions

"I do not understand why we were taken away from Crimen. For many years after the removal nothing happened on the farm. In 1988 it was sold to a white farmer. But even now there is very little happening. Our houses, our schools and our church have been destroyed. I have never seen the grass grow so tall..."

Andries Radebe, 87 year old former resident of Crimen, speaking to AFRA fieldworkers. Radebe has taken his land claim to court.

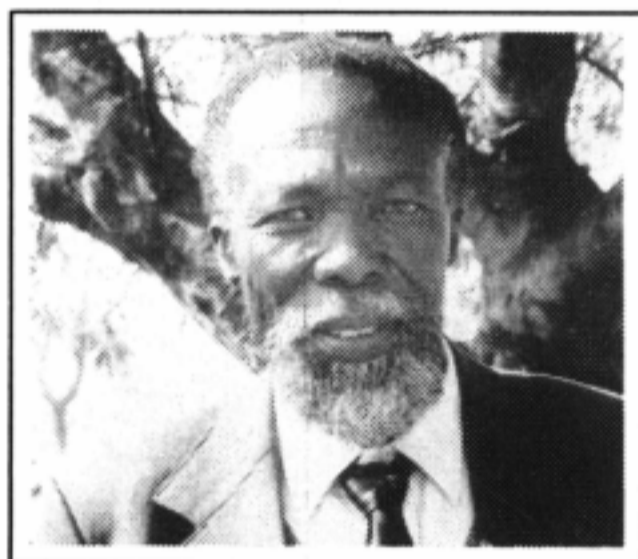
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1992

"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."

A rural tenant from the Colenso District, after participating in a protest march by tenants in the area to protest evictions from farms.



"When I tried to explain that the land was mine and that I didn't want to move, the reply was: 'Put that land on wheels and go with it'. We want restoration of our land - the land that was bought by our forefathers and for which we have title deeds."

Solomon Makhubu, 75 year old former resident of Charlestown, to ACLA at the Charlestown land claim hearing this year.

"When we were removed from Roosboom we thought the government was going to develop the land there. Instead, we saw livestock grazing on our land. Some of our land was even leased to white farmers."

Former resident of Roosboom, Agnes Sokhulu, at the ACLA hearing on the Roosboom community's land claim.

Homeland Government Corruption And Financial Mismanagement

"To say I am totally blameless would be wrong. But it is impossible for anyone to have full knowledge of everything happening in the ambit of his portfolio. I can see no blame that could rest on any of the South African ministers that delivered a service before me, neither can I be held to blame for the findings of the commission."

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Jacob de Villiers after Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg, Oelof Meyer, recommended legal action against officials responsible for the Lebowa corruption.

"It is too much to expect clean administration to flow from the inherently corrupt and undemocratic system of the homeland, spawned by apartheid. It is also not surprising that the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, is 'not confident' that the same level of corruption is not rampant in other self-governing territories.

As in the Department of Development Aid financial debacle earlier this year, millions, if not billions, of taxpayers' money was squandered by government officials, consultants and contractors and little action

has been taken by the government to make amends. Instead, Mr de Villiers still heads the Department of Regional and Land Affairs and some officials who ran the DDA have been seconded to homelands like Lebowa...We demand:

- That the 380 000 hectares of land handed to the Lebowa administration last month be reincorporated into South Africa immediately. We believe this land belongs to all South Africans and should be returned to South African administration - not corrupt, self-interested homeland officials who have already shown themselves to be unfit for office.
- That the South African minister responsible for administering the homelands, Mr Jacob de Villiers and his deputy minister, Johan Scheepers, resign immediately. We believe he holds ultimate responsibility for the offenses committed by officials in Lebowa. His government has created the bantustan system, set up the Lebowa administration and continued to fund its activities."

National Land Committee.

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