

Alcockspruit to get back their land - at a price



The Alcockspruit church, built by the community before their removal in 1969.

A MEETING of about 200 former residents of the Alcockspruit community, near Newcastle, heard on December 7 1993 that their land would be restored. But landowners who were forcibly removed and who were compensated at the time, will have to repay this money to the government.

Mr Nico van Rensburg from the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, told the community that ownership of the Alcockspruit land would be restored to previous owners, who were forcibly removed in 1969. A further decision was that owners who were compensated would have to

repay this money to the government.

Mr Horatius Mabaso, chairperson of the Alcockspruit Committee, said the community was grateful that their land would be restored but he questioned the basis upon which this was to be done, in particular the government's demand for compensation to be repaid.

"It is horrifying that the government can even mention a return of this money. The compensation that was given to landowners can never be compared to the suffering endured by the people," he said.

Mr Mabaso suggested that the Commission had not properly considered the community's submission, where the issue of compensation was dealt with, and if that was the case, he said they should reread it and reconsider their decision.

In their submission to the government-appointed Commission on Land Allocation in February 1993, the community said they expected:

- their land to be returned
- restoration of all facilities which were destroyed as a result of the forced removal

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