

No surprises in ministerial appointments

OTHER land related ministerial appointments have brought no major surprises. The Minister of Agriculture remains the same, as does the Deputy Minister of Land Affairs.



Tobie Meyer, Deputy Minister of Land Affairs.

Tobie Meyer

Anthon Tobias Meyer, the Deputy Minister of Land Affairs, started his political career as branch secretary for the National Party in Cradock and then became its chairperson. During 1987 he became the Cradock MP. His involvement in parliament included being secretary of the study group on agriculture, a member of the Select Committee for Public Accounts and vice-chairman of the Commission for Cooperation and Development. In 1991 the National Party government appointed him Deputy Minister of Agriculture and, later that year, added land affairs to his portfolio. Under the Government of National Unity, he was

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appointed as deputy Minister of Land Affairs on May 11 1994.

Meyer has also been a farmer since 1956 - in the Ficksburg and Humansdorp districts. He also has farming interests in the Tsitsikamma area.

He served on the Control Board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, before it was revamped last year and was also a director of Volkskas Bank.



Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture.

Kraai van Niekerk

Andre Isak van Niekerk was also born in Natal, in Eshowe. He matriculated at Grey College in Bloemfontein and then studied agriculture at the University of Stellenbosch, where he completed a Phd in 1977. His working career includes teaching science and agriculture at the Eshowe Bantu Training College in 1962, a research job at the University of Stellenbosch from 1964 to

1967 and a scholarship from the British Council in 1968 to carry out research at the Rowett Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland. He entered farming in 1971 and then became involved in several branches of organised agriculture, including the Cape Agricultural Union.

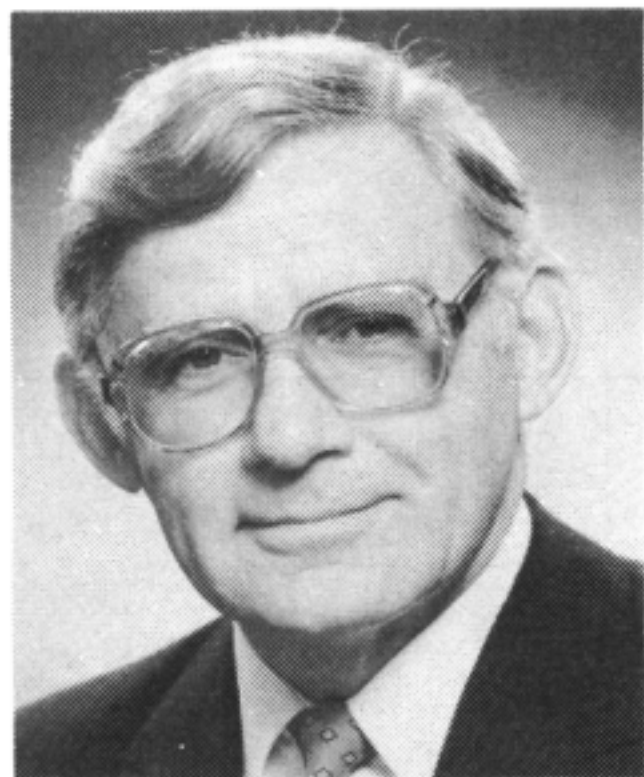
In 1981 he became an NP member of parliament for Prieska, in the Cape. During that time he served on a select subcommittee on the Mixed Marriages Act, on a standing committee on agricultural economy and water affairs and represented the Cape NP on the Federal Information Service as director of information.

The NP government appointed him Deputy Minister of Agriculture in 1986 and then as Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs in 1989. He became Minister of Agriculture in 1991, a post he has retained in the new Government of National Unity.

George Bartlett

George Shepstone Bartlett was born in Port Shepstone, on the Natal south coast and turned 63 on March 14 this year. Bartlett went to school in Pietermaritzburg and then completed bachelors degrees in Science of Agriculture and Applied Science at Toronto University in 1955 and 1957.

He worked in Canada for a large tractor company and for the Ontario Department of Planning and Development before



George Bartlett, KwaZulu/Natal's Minister of Agriculture.

returning to South Africa. In South Africa he worked for the South African Sugar Association and Illovo Sugar Estates. He became a sugar cane farmer in 1964. He also became a member of the Durban Club, the Durban Country Club and the Lions Club.

Bartlett's political career started in the United Party. In 1974, as member of the United Party, he became a member of parliament for Amanzimtoti.

When the United Party disbanded, he became a member of the New Republic Party (NRP) where he moved a motion in 1984 that it merge with the National Party.

When the motion for merger was defeated, Bartlett left the NRP to join the NP. In the NP he held the positions of Natal treasurer, Natal vice-chairman and, in 1989, became the NP's Natal leader.

As the NP's Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Bartlett was often the centre of controversy.

Frequent petrol hikes sparked calls for his resignation, there was strong

opposition to his defence of the NP government's Mossgas project and he came under fire from an environmental pressure group, the Campaign For St Lucia, for his apparent support for titanium mining in the ecologically sensitive St Lucia area.

Bartlett has been quoted as saying that his current agriculture portfolio in the KwaZulu/Natal provincial cabinet is close to his heart.

He has said his priorities are to make sure food supplies are adequate for domestic use and export, to address soil conservation and subsistence and small farmer agriculture in KwaZulu.

He said that he would be looking at increasing the number of black people involved in agriculture and that this meant addressing land issues.

ANC wants changes to government departments

THESE are proposals from the ANC about how the new government departments should function. We focus specifically on those departments related to land.

The national structure

The ANC says it wants to flatten the structure of the bureaucracy from five executive levels to three - eliminating the positions of Chief Director and Deputy Director. There would then be three levels of management - Director General, Deputy Director General and Director.

Principles for provincial government

There should be a maximum of 10 portfolios in regional government. Provincial departments and ministries must be guided by uniformity of structure across provinces for ease of coordination of national programmes and policies. Each provincial ministry should have a structure responsible for support functions to all departments in the ministry.

Principles of reconstruction and development must permeate all institutions of provincial and national government. Government departments must recognise the contribution of

organisations of civil society to good governance. Government must be structured to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of services at provincial level.

There are separate ministries and departments of agriculture, environment, land affairs at national level. At provincial level agriculture, environmental conservation, water and sanitation and land reform fall under the ministry of agriculture and environmental conservation.

The Ministry of Housing will have separate directorates for rural and urban housing.

