



### Land redistribution could create millions of jobs

REDISTRIBUTING 30% of South Africa's commercial farm land over five years could create 1,9 million jobs in agriculture and related activities, says the World Bank in its latest report. Called "Reducing Poverty in South Africa", the report says that a five year land reform programme would cost the government R17 billion.

About general economic development of South Africa, the report says it would be a mistake for South Africa to compete internationally by producing low end products, as labour costs here are 10 times that in Indonesia and Bangladesh. Instead, South Africa should focus on manufacturing for niche export markets, where products could include high quality textiles, garments, shoes and furniture and high value metal and plastic goods.

*(Farmer's Weekly: August 12 1994)*

### Agriculture is single biggest contributor to Western Cape economy

THE Western Cape provincial government has identified 200 000 hectares of state land which is suitable for agriculture, Western Cape premier, Hernus Kriel, told the Western Cape Agricultural Union congress.

He said this meant that small farmers to be settled on state land had to be carefully selected. Kriel said there would be no interference from the government in agriculture and that the free market should be the regulator.

His provincial government would only be involved with facilitation, advice and other support, he said.

*(Farmer's Weekly: August 12 1994)*

### Plan to draw in black sugar growers

TONGAAT-HULETT is planning to divide some of its sugar cane areas into farms for black growers. Chairman, Chris Saunders said this was part of the company's black economic empowerment drive.

Tongaat-Hulett's investments for this financial year are about R250 million, mainly in the sugar, textiles, starch, glucose and aluminium divisions.

*(Farmer's Weekly: August 12 1994)*

### Dutch want trade in agriculture

HOLLAND wants to learn from South Africa and make a contribution to development of all agriculture-related industries in the country,

said the Netherlands' Agricultural Counsellor in Pretoria, Martin Olde Monnikhof.

*(Farmer's Weekly: August 12 1994)*

### Committee to investigate redistributing OFS farms

A COMMITTEE to investigate redistribution of farms in Botshabelo and Bloemfontein has been appointed. The provincial minister of agriculture and environmental affairs, Cas Human, said the committee comprised representatives from the African Farmers' Union, town councillors, civic associations and other community organisations. It would work with the Agricultural Credit Board and would also process financial application forms.

*(Sowetan: July 20 1994)*

### Mining houses to negotiate land claim

GENCOR and JCI have agreed to negotiate a claim for restoration of land owned by them near Rustenburg Platinum mines. JCI and GENCOR hold mineral rights to state land previously owned and occupied by the Baphalane tribe. The Baphalane want the land restored to them. Earlier this year, GENCOR approached the Ministry of Land Affairs when people moved onto the land in dispute. According to the ministry, the government will build a village for the community and a joint committee will resolve the land dispute through negotiation.

*(Business day: July 26 1994)*

## Water is main need in N Tvl

WATER and not housing is the main need in the Northern Transvaal. Some semi-urban areas in the province suffer water shortages, which affects sewage and health facilities. In rural areas there is also a need for clean drinking water.

Many people in these areas survive by buying water at between R2 and R3 for 20 litres. Northern Transvaal provincial premier, Ngwako Ramathlodi, said provision of drinking water to people was the province's priority and plans to make it accessible were at an advanced stage.

The national plan to make water accessible to all South Africans will cost R13 billion over five years. About 16 million South Africans do not have access to clean water and about 25,5 million do not have adequate sanitation.

Providing sanitation would cost between R300 and R350 a family a year and providing 20 litres of clean drinking water for each person would cost about R250. In 1993 more than 3 000 children died from diseases linked to poor sanitation.

*(Sowetan: July 28 1994)*

## Thousands of land claims waiting

THE new government has received 2 314 land claims - 63 from rural communities and 2 251 from urban individuals. This was announced in parliament by Minister of Land Affairs, Derek Hanekom in August.

Hanekom said his department was involved in

negotiations with 22 communities. These involved state and privately owned land.

*(Sowetan: August 11 1994)*

## Banks will give small farmers credit

A PRESIDENTIAL project to facilitate loans from commercial banks to small farmers will be set up, following negotiations between the banks, the department of Land Affairs and rural organisations. The negotiations were part of a rural finance inquiry, initiated by the Department, to investigate ways of making access to loans easier for the poorest section of rural people. The project could involve changes to the Land Bank and the methods which commercial banks use to determine credit ratings for small farmers.

*(Business Day: August 16 1994)*

## Parliament to consider nine land bills

LAND Affairs Minister, Derek Hanekom, will be submitting nine land bills to parliament. The key one is the Restitution Of Land Rights Bill, which allows for a process and mechanisms to effect restitution. Others bills, which amend existing laws are the:

- Provision Of certain Land For Settlement Amendment Bill
- Land Affairs General Amendment Bill, which deals with technical amendments to several laws
- Physical Planning Amendment Bill which designates regional

planning to provincial premiers

- Land Survey Bill which amends the Land Survey Act so that former bantustans are incorporated
- Professional And Technical Surveyors Amendment Bill
- Deeds Registries Amendment Bill
- Sectional Titles Amendment Bill
- Town And Regional Planners Amendment Bill  
*(Business Day: August 17 1994)*

## Direct line to Derek

DO you have something to tell or ask the Minister of Land Affairs? Well, you now have the chance to do so, and you could also get your letter published in a new monthly newsletter from the Department of Land Affairs, called *LAND INFO*.

The address is:  
Direct Line To Derek  
Ministry of Land Affairs  
Private Bag X844  
Pretoria 0001

The newsletter is possibly the only one of its kind so far and it will be interesting to see what its effect will be and whether other departments will follow suit.

In his editorial, the minister says the newsletter will inform people about policy and progress on land reform and also be a forum for debating land issues. Readers are asked to send their criticisms and to write about issues of concern to them. "We need you, the people of South Africa, to evaluate our performance and to tell us what we are doing right and where we need to change direction," he says.