



The dispossession of the Fingo people of Humansdorp-Tsitsikamma which took place more than five years ago over Christmas of 1977, is deeply engraved in the minds of the people and deeply resented.

Insult has now been added to injury by the state-aided sale to wealthy white farmers of land set aside in perpetuity for the Fingo people to be held in trust for them by the State.

Among those who have benefitted are.....

Hardship and hunger prevail at Elukhanyweni, the "place of light" or "civilised place" to which 426 families were moved against their will (Figures supplied by Dr Koornhof, Hansard Friday 11th June 1982, pages 9491 and 1992)

Average payments for dwellings of R429.33 (ranging from R30 to R2,945 and paid by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure) evaporated long ago. No compensation was paid for land since this was supposed to be held in trust by the state for the Fingos and their descendants.

From allotments of at least 4 1/2 morgen of high-rainfall, fertile land, each resettled family now occupies a plot of 36 metres by 18 metres (120 feet by 60 feet)

Migrant workers who built their lives on the dream of retirement to a small farm in the country, now see their hopes dashed. One such man I know of - a decent, God-fearing, hard-working family man - says he cannot face the prospect of spending his retirement in a location in Ciskei, for that is what the "closer settlement" of Elukhanyweni is - a "location."

No compensation was paid for lost crops, for the forced sale of cattle or those that died in transfer. ~~No compensation could ever~~ Nothing could ever recompense families of old people and children who "died like flies" during that long, hot and dry summer of that removal when people lived in tents and the water tasted like jik.

The Government initially claimed the Fingos had been settled in an area ~~set aside for their sole use~~ that was larger by 8400 hectares than that from which they had been evicted and ~~from~~ which they were ~~prevented~~ by presidential decree ~~from~~ returning. When it was pointed out that they were not the sole occupiers as had been claimed, Dr Koornhof pointed out lamely that: "The fact of the matter is that originally that land was intended for them."

The Government was not deterred by the discrepancy between intention and actuality. It was equally unconcerned by the animosity engendered by the relocation of Fingos among long-time residents who regarded the newcomers with mistrust and suspicion.

According to a local estate agent at Jeffrey's Bay, farm land in 1932 sold at about R1000 a hectare while small holdings fetched R2000 a hectare. Therefore the value of Fingo small holdings ranged in value between R5000 and R9000. It is quite sobering to realise that property which could be transferred as family heritage from father to son, valued at R9000, was simply taken away and the only compensation given was as low in one ^{or more} cases as R20. The Fingo families suffered irreparable damage and deprivation. The only people now benefiting are the white farmers who have been handed valuable property at state-subsidised prices.

Who is paying? The Fingos are paying, the taxpayers are paying and inevitably we and our children will pay for this act of rapacity that is not an isolated event but part and parcel of the homeland consolidation process.

4000
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9000

Land Exchange.

There was a "paper exchange" of 4372,7212 hectares in Namansdorp district for 11727,3125 hectares of land ^{not successful} sold by the S.A. Development Trust and destined for incorporation in Transkei.

Even Dr Koornhof admitted, in Parliament, that the exchange was a "legalism"

As far as the Tingo were concerned, this was a cynical move which did not meet the legal requirement of exchange of land of equal pastoral and agricultural value.

It was a sleight of hand, a fact on paper, a mirage.

LOSS
OF GRAZING

In reply to a complaint about lack of grazing, Dr F. Hartzenburg, then Deputy Minister of Development, advised through his Administrative Secretary on 04/08/1979:

"People who own or occupy property of 20 morgen or less are resettled in townships or closer settlements. In such cases provision is not made for pasturage for livestock."