

African squatters to be moved from Klipfontein farm...

By BEN MACLENNAN

THE removal of unemployed African squatters from the Klipfontein settlement near Kenton-on-Sea is to be given first priority in the general move of East Cape squatters to Glenmore, 40 kilometres from Grahamstown.

This was announced this week by the Cape Midlands Administration Board's Deputy Director of Community Services and Labour, Mr Ivan Peter, at the monthly meeting of the Belton-Salem Farmers' Association.

Disease

Mr Peter said the move was intended to "reduce the Bantu population in the area to the barest minimum necessary for the labour needs of Kenton and Bushmans River".

The squatters live on a portion of the 860 hectare Klipfontein farm, which is held in trust for four coloured men who have lifelong use of it.

There were an estimated 500 people in Klipfontein in August last year.

By March this year

there were 1 200 and concern was voiced about possible outbreaks of infectious disease in the settlement.

According to Mr Peter the four coloured usufruct-holders of Klipfontein were eventually charged and convicted for allowing the squatters on their property.

They were given a suspended sentence on condition that they assist police in controlling the squatters.

Mr Peter said that if any of the squatters refused to go to Glenmore, charges would be pressed against them.

It was planned to remove only the unproductive and unemployed squatters to Glenmore, he said. Unemployed people in the Kenton Location, also known as the Emergency Camp, would also be moved to Glenmore.

The remaining employed squatters and their families would then move to the location, which is about seven kilometres from the farm.

The location has been in existence since 1960, when a squatter settlement there was declared an emergency camp.

Survey

It is not known how many Klipfontein families will be involved in the move to Glenmore, although it has been reported that some 3 700 squatters from all over the East Cape will be moved.

The board is engaged in a survey to establish how many Klipfontein squatters will go at the moment.

Mr Peter said his department was going ahead "full steam" with preparations at Glenmore. Five hundred timber houses had been ordered and would be erected to accommodate squatters from Klipfontein and other places in the East Cape.

These people would form the nucleus of labour for the construction of the next part of Glenmore, he said.

The move was planned to begin within the next six months.

A number of squatters interviewed recently said they had strong ties with Klipfontein.

Mr Welcome Mani, 20, who is unemployed, and therefore in line for Glenmore, said he had been living on Klipfontein since May, when his job on a farm nearby was terminated.

He said he would wish to stay with his family. His 76-year-old father, who was actually born on Klipfontein, came back to the farm when he retired.

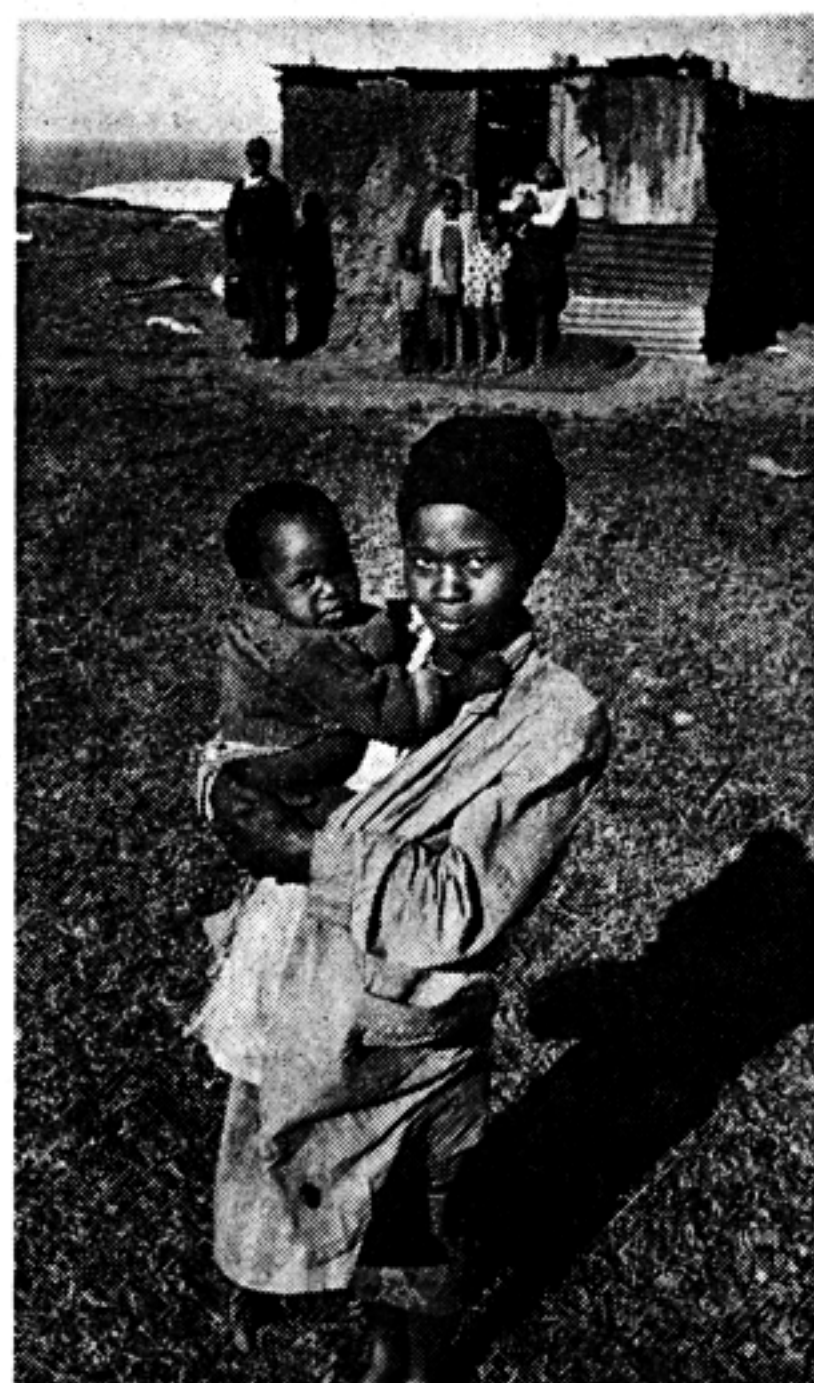
"I love this place," said Mr Pumela Fadana, 18, who was born on the farm and lives there with his parents. "I wouldn't want to move." Mr Fadana catches fish for a local farmer, and would presumably be moved to the emergency camp.

Influx

Mrs Emily Skiti, born on the farm, has been living there since "before 1975" when she married her husband, who was also born there.

Her husband, she says, is in jail, and she shares a small one-roomed timber shack with her two children, her mother and her seven brothers and sisters. She gets R3 a week hoeing chicory.

"I like living here because I was born here," she said.



"I WAS BORN on this farm, and so was my husband. I like living here." Mrs Emily Skiti, one of the Klipfontein squatters, lives in this small shack with 10 other people, all of them relatives of hers. She supports her two children with a R3 a week job hoeing chicory.

