

AFRA *News*

Newsletter of the Association For Rural Advancement

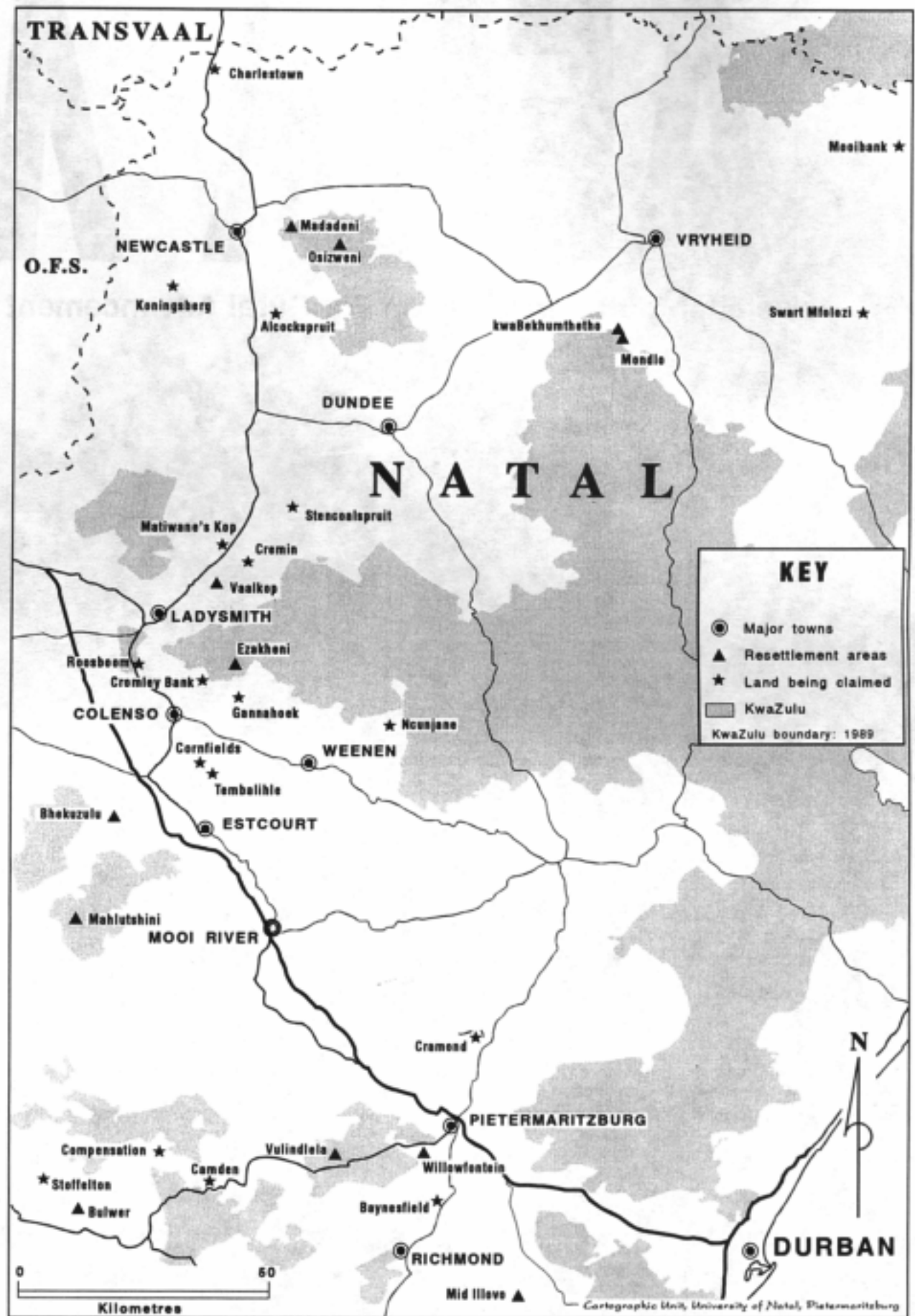
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AFRA is an independent, rural land service organisation that strives to redress the legacy of an unjust land dispensation in South Africa. We are committed to promoting the values of race and gender equality and participatory democracy.

AFRA works in partnership with groups of black rural people in the midlands and north-western KwaZulu-Natal seeking land restitution, land redistribution and secure tenure.

AFRA is affiliated to the National Land Committee (NLC), an independent umbrella body which coordinates the activities of nine regional land and development organisations.

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A new role for AFRA

from resistance to reconstruction

WHEN AFRA was formed in 1979, it was positioned in an opposition role to the former government and its policy of forced removals. AFRA's main role then was to assist communities in rural Natal to resist removals, and to draw public attention to the nature and extent of forced removals. AFRA developed a range of services which included monitoring, research, publicity and lobbying, legal support, community mobilisation and organisation to carry out this work.

After 1990, the organisation began to re-define its role and started to transform itself from a short-term crisis and resistance organisation to a long-term advocacy and development NGO, in preparation for post-apartheid land reform and rural reconstruction.

From 1992 to 1994, AFRA's work was divided into land claims, labour tenancy rights and freehold community development and planning. All three elements were linked to the macro strategy of national policy advocacy and lobbying on land and rural development issues. AFRA's operational area was narrowed from the

whole of rural Natal to the midlands and north-western regions of the province.

With several land claiming communities and the National Land Committee (of which it is an affiliate), AFRA played an important role in advancing the struggle for land claims. After at first explicitly refusing to restore land to victims of forced removals, the former government was forced to address the issue partially. After the former government established the Commission on Land Allocation, AFRA worked intensively with six communities to advance their claims through the Commission. Of the six communities, three were successful and one was partially successful in getting their land back. The others are pending. One community which fell outside of the provisions of the Commission took the matter to court, but failed.

At the same time AFRA assisted communities with a regionally and nationally coordinated campaign to put land claims visibly on the national agenda, to expose the limitations of the former government's policies and institutions dealing with land claims, and to shape

and influence policy formulation on land claims.

The soon to be passed Restitution of Land Rights Act brings the era of forced removals to a final close. Although the Act has limitations, it nevertheless marks the first tangible step to compensate victims of apartheid forced removal policy and as such will be an important facet of the reconstruction and development programme.

AFRA's rich past experience and its carefully designed future goals, strategies and structures provide a solid basis for positioning the organisation as an implementing partner with the new government and rural community institutions to meet the land reform component of the RDP in KwaZulu-Natal.

At the same time, as an independent rural service organisation, we reserve for ourselves the right to monitor and critique the policies and practices of the government's land reform programme when the interests of marginal rural people are threatened.

Historic bill paves way for restitution

THE Restitution of Land Rights Bill was the first piece of legislation passed by the new cabinet. The Bill formally marks the end of the process of apartheid land dispossession which was started by the 1913 Land Act. It brings hope of redress for some of the estimated 3,5 million people who were forcibly removed through apartheid land laws.

AFRA News asked the Minister of Land Affairs to explain what the Bill will mean and to review progress around land reform since he assumed office.

What would you say are the main things you have achieved since being in office.

The single biggest thing must be the draft Restitution of Land Rights Bill. Also my visits to several rural communities and setting in motion the processes of finding negotiated solutions, with the active assistance of department officials.

Another was in providing the department with direction and a policy framework, which is now in the process of being converted into legislation and forms the basis of a substantial proposal presented to the RDP.

A very important step was establishing good working relationships with NGOs working in the sector and with the affected

communities. It is part of an ongoing process that has further to be nurtured and developed.

Your office has said that up to 100 rural claims could be eligible for the restitution process. Are these mainly or only "black spot" removals? What about people who may claim on the basis of lengthy occupancy and use (such as farm tenants) - would they be eligible to make claims?

These are in the main black spot removals and forcible removals enacted under apartheid laws. They may include some categories of labour tenants who were removed in the 1970s as a result of intervention by the state by means of discriminatory laws (not people affected by mechanisation or by the

ending of contractual relationships).

The department will facilitate discussion between land owners and labour tenants and attempt to reach some sort of arrangement to benefit people that occupied land for some time. One of the department's chief aims is tenure reform by strengthening security of tenure. Generally, joint agreements might be reached to redress an absence of tenure security.

How will your department meet the challenge of restitution and redistribution?

The plans for restructuring the department have been presented to the Public Service Commission for

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approval. The restructuring is intended to organise the department in such a way that it is able to effectively meet the needs of the land reform programme. This was not the primary focus of the previous department, so a major restructuring of the department was necessary.

Your main focus so far has been on restitution and pilot models for redistribution. The RDP also talks about security of tenure. What plans do you have to address this?

Workshops will be held within the department on tenure policy and will involve people with an interest in this issue. New legislation is also being prepared to provide for communal land ownership.

What portion of money allocated for the RDP will come to your department to implement land reform?

For the 1994/95 budget, the department has requested 20% of the RDP funds for restitution and redistribution projects, including one pilot project in each province.

What do you anticipate will be the main challenges facing you in the coming period?

Preparing a White Paper that goes far beyond restitution. In the short term, to provide the structures necessary to give content to the other legs of land reform, that is, security of tenure, redistribution, support services, structural and institutional capacity building and to consolidate and maintain some of the processes already initiated.

You have been a very "hands-on" minister so far. How many communities have you visited since assuming office? Who are the other major groups you have met with over this period? Do you see yourself continuing with such meetings or will you be delegating most of this work to others in your department? What has been the benefit of this hands-on approach?

Some 20 communities including Kosi Bay, Makhatini Flats (Pongola Flood Plain), Mboza, Impendle and Estcourt (the AmaHlubi) in Natal; Botshabelo in the OFS; Rust der Winter, Mogopa, Welverdiend and representatives of 11 communities in the Transvaal; as well as Riemvasmaak, Witbank and the Majeng in the Cape. This excludes various meetings with labour tenants.

I will continue to maintain contact with communities. There are many benefits arising out of this, not least the fact that I am kept up to date on specific issues and the needs of communities. As the department restructures and new staff members are brought into the department, much of this work will be taken on by regional offices of the department. However, it is my intention to visit every part of the country and to go wherever I am needed.

Land reform and the RDP

THE Department of Land Affairs has a budget of R429,85 million to spend on land reform for the next three years, said Helmuth Schlenter, press officer for the ministry. He said this included money allocated to the department from the RDP (R365,33 million) and donor funds (R45 million). Of the total, R315,81 million will be spent on land reform pilots, R64,65 will go towards restitution cases and R49,39 will be used for redistribution.

Some of the money will be used for the Presidential Projects announced in August. For land reform these projects involve nine pilot redistribution projects (one in each province) and 10 restitution cases.

The land reform pilot districts are expected to be identified by September 1994. Pilots in each province to are meant to start in October 1994.

The 10 restitution communities are Roosboom, Alcockspruit, Charlestown (KwaZulu-Natal), Zwelidinga, Zulukama, Thornhill (Eastern Cape), Riemvasmaak, Smitsdrift (Northern Cape), Goedgevonden, Bakubung, Zwartsrand (North West) and Doornkop (Eastern Transvaal). These communities, who have already had their land returned, will get support with settlement planning and infrastructure development to ensure sustainable development processes.

The Restitution of Land Rights Bill

THE Bill provides for a Commission and a Land Claims Court to deal with restitution of land rights lost as a result of racial laws. All land claims must be lodged with the Commission within three years of the Bill becoming law. The Commission will help land claimants to document their claim. It will also help to settle land claims through mediation and negotiation. If the Commission cannot settle claims, these will go to the Land Claims Court, which will also ratify agreements reached at Commission level.

The Court will be able to order the transfer of state land and expropriation or purchase of land in private ownership. If privately-owned land is expropriated, the state will have to compensate current owners, taking into account the history of the property's acquisition, its market value and the interests of the parties involved, among other factors.

Depending on the claim, the Court could award claimants alternative land, just compensation or alternative remedies, if it does not restore land to claimants.

Awards will take into account compensation claimants received at the time of their dispossession and this compensation will be deducted from the award. Awards will also take into account whether parties refused to negotiate or tried to obstruct settlement.



Labour tenants are specifically mentioned in the Bill. In its definition of what constitutes a "right in land", the Bill says this means any right in land whether registered or unregistered and shall include the interest of a labour tenant and sharecropper, a customary law interest, the interest of a beneficiary under a trust arrangement and beneficial occupation for a continuous period of not less than 10 years before the dispossession.

Attempts to evict claimants or to sell land in dispute will result in contempt of court orders.

The Court will be a specialised court of law, which will be able to receive any evidence which it considers relevant, even if such evidence would not be admissible in another court. Appeals on Land Claims Court decisions will go to the Constitutional Court.

Where rural communities do get back their land, they will

get government assistance to resettle there. The Department of Land Affairs says that for each of the 100 rural communities it has identified as potential beneficiaries of restitution, it would cost between R1 million and R2 million to effect restitution. This includes support services such as access to water, financial help and agricultural extension services.

"Land invasion is not the answer," says new NLC chair

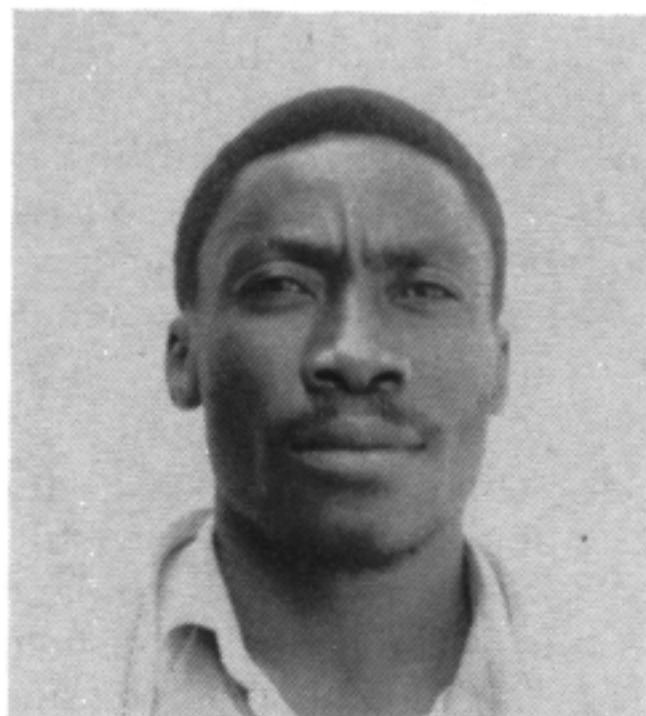
NEW chairperson of the NLC, Mdu Shabane, comes from a background which could stand him in good stead in his new role. He's personally lived through an attempted forced removal and the triumph of reprieve. Before he arrived at AFRA, and then the chairpersonship of NLC, he did voluntary work on various development projects in the area where he lived.

He was born in St Wendolin's, a peri-urban township 14 kilometres outside the industrial heartland of Pinetown in KwaZulu-Natal.

In 1968, the people of St Wendolin's, among them Shabane's parents, were removed to make way for a power station. "They were removed under the Expropriation Act," he says, "but my father wasn't compensated, so maybe we could bring a claim?" he speculates. "All he got was two wooden temporary shelters. I was five years old at the time."

Shabane recalls that the family faced a further attempt at removal, in the 1970s. "This was under the Group Areas Act. But the community resisted this and we were reprieved in 1986.

In August the National Land Committee (NLC) elected a new chairperson. He is Mdu Shabane, AFRA's Redistribution Unit's head. Shabane has worked for AFRA for three years in a fieldwork capacity and has been involved in national task teams of the NLC.



After the reprieve, the community got involved in development of the area - building roads, putting in electricity, water and a clinic."

Shabane became involved in these projects through the local civic organisation, where he served on the management committee. He was also the chairperson of the St Wendolin's Youth Organisation. The work, although almost full-time, was voluntary. "My first paid job was as a clerk at a bank in Pinetown," he says. He worked there for four years, after which he realised the bank wasn't where his future lay. "It was too bureaucratic and didn't allow for any creativity," he recalls. "Because of my involvement in St Wendolin's, I wanted to work on development issues full-time."

AFRA came to his rescue, with a vacancy for a fieldworker in 1992. Although taking the job meant living in Pietermaritzburg, he says he hasn't regretted making the move. His recent election as NLC chair will mean less work in the field and more time in meetings. It could also spell frustration as the

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network restructures itself to meet the challenges of land reform within the context of the reconstruction and development programme.

Reflecting on the NLC's achievements before the watershed of the April election, Shabane points out that in its earlier days, the NLC and its predecessor the NCAR (National Committee Against Removals) was able to challenge the former government's policies on behalf of people who were voiceless. "The eventual removal of the racist land legislation was a terrain of struggle led by the NLC," he says. "Then there was the introduction of Advisory Commission on Land Allocation. Although the Commission was not what people wanted, it was some indication that the former government recognised the struggles of the NLC. There were also smaller issues, such as the campaigns, various marches and the protest at the World Trade Centre before the election," he says.

Now the challenge for the NLC is to ensure that the promise of a just land reform programme becomes real. "Before the elections, the ANC promised to improve the quality of people's lives. It promised to either return land or to compensate victims of forced removal and it promised to redistribute 30% of land over the next five years. The main challenge now is to make sure this happens and that the landless get access to the 30% of land for redistribution."

Shabane acknowledges that the restitution process, soon to become law, is limited in terms of how many people's

land needs will be satisfied. "A lot will depend on interpretation of the legislation. It will be critical for the NLC to focus on how the procedure can be extended to include land rights for people like labour tenants, for example. We must try to broaden the interpretation and push the boundaries," he says.

Another area where the NLC should contribute is in developing a framework for land reform. "We need an integrated rural development programme. Land reform will only have meaning if it is linked to the RDP rural strategy. The government has not yet produced a White Paper on Land Reform and we need to identify potential gaps in the future policy. For example, state assisted land acquisition through the Provision of Certain Land For Settlement Act is quite expensive."

He identifies a major weakness of the NLC as being its reactive style of operating. "We haven't been proactive enough in shaping policy," he says. "Our strength is our experience and the diversity of our affiliates. We have a lot of information and experience but we haven't put this to good enough use as a network."

Having gone through a strategic planning exercise recently, the NLC is now putting in place the structures to make the new strategy work. His role will be to ensure that the new strategies get implemented.

Shabane is openly critical of recent land invasions. "There's a lot of sensitivity about this. People are still in a resistance mode but land invasion is not the answer. There are also the pressures

of ongoing farm evictions, violence against rural tenants and impounding of livestock. These things make people desperate and frustrated but there are processes being put in place now to deal with land claims and general land needs. It won't be long before there is a legitimate mechanism through which to address land claims. People need to be patient. NGOs in the NLC, such as AFRA, should be talking to rural people with land needs about these new processes," he says.

He believes the new government and Ministry of Land Affairs should be commended for the work they've done, especially around restitution. "Whereas the former government's policy was to dispossess people, the new government has gone out of its way to address the needs of the dispossessed. There has been a clear shift to try to redress the imbalances in land ownership."

But he is critical of the overtures that are being made to assuage the fears of white property owners. "Perhaps the government is too apologetic to white property owners, assuring white farmers all the time, saying their land rights won't be tampered with."

The NLC should work with the new government as a supportive, but critical partner, he believes. "We share many views on land reform and how this, should be addressed. This is a good enough basis for us to be supportive of the government. For example, there are Presidential Pilot Projects around redistribution. We should ensure that these are properly implemented."

Rural tenants and land rights



A RECENT research project by AFRA indicates that there are between 190 000 and 250 000 rural tenants closely associated with elements of feudalistic labour tenancy living on white owned farms in KwaZulu-Natal.

This grouping represents the most marginalised and vulnerable sector in rural society. In KwaZulu-Natal more than 400 000 people have been evicted from white farms in the past 40 years. This pattern continues unabated in the new South Africa.

The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act and the Trespass Act, as well as civil ejectment procedures are instruments at the disposal of landowners to enforce evictions. No protective tenure legislation exists, and

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although specific consideration has been given to this sector in the new land dispensation, their claim for rights is likely to be strongly contested by current property owners.

The major causes of eviction are the rapid expansion of commercial forestry, game farm operations and other changes in farming operations. When farms change hand, long established customary tenure contracts are normally terminated. More recently fears of land claims have prompted farmers to evict tenants in large numbers, particularly in the traditionally more conservative rural areas.

Evictions are often characterised by high degrees of conflict and violence, damage to property, extortionist cattle impounding and costly ejection procedures. The evictions are a major contributor to impoverishment and deteriorating human relations. The present situation is clearly an obstacle to the objectives of the reconstruction and development programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal.

For those already evicted, relief through the Restitution of Land Rights Act seems slight, despite most tenants' belief that they have a claim to the land on the basis of birth and generations of customary rights.

Some criteria of the restitution process could either exclude tenant claims or prove difficult to meet.

It is also not clear to what extent farm tenants could benefit from the proposed state-assisted land

redistribution programme, which will be limited to a pilot phase over the next few years, and is likely to look at disposable state land first.

For these reasons AFRA has specifically targeted farm tenants as a sector as part of our mission to give special emphasis to marginalised rural groups in the reconstruction and development programme.

A specific unit dealing with farm tenants has been developed within the organisation.

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Several options may form part of the solution towards tenure security for farm tenants, including:

- land claims
- negotiated leasehold agreements
- protective tenant legislation
- use rights (usufruct)
- state assisted land transfers
- share equity schemes
- long term share cropping contracts

Secure tenure is linked to long-term sustainable development, as access to land currently plays a crucial role for farm tenants in their household economy.

Land provides a source for securing household food self-sufficiency and a base from which risk spreading economic options are pursued, such as migrant labour and informal sector activities.

The keeping of livestock constitutes an important form of security and a basis for social and cultural identity.

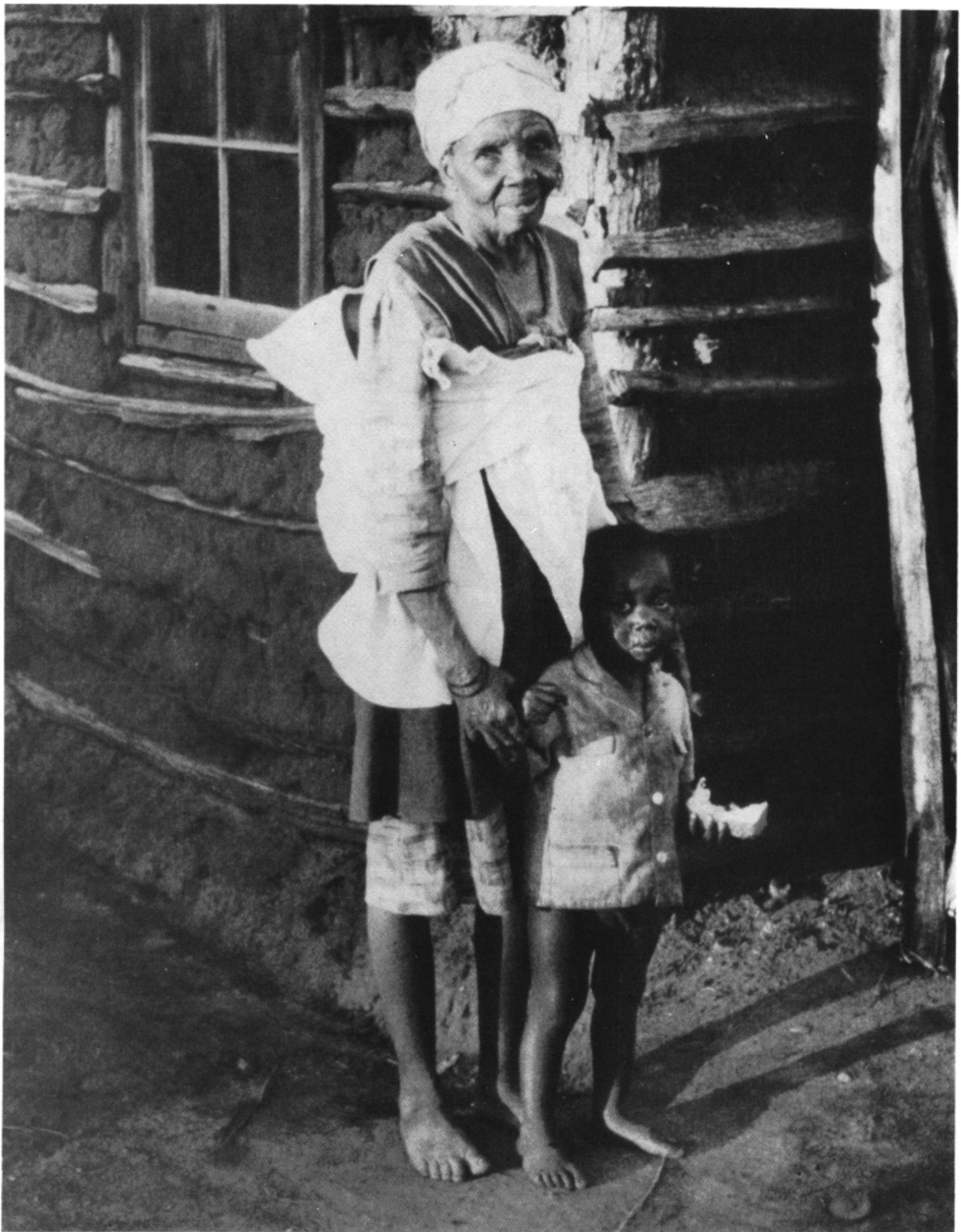
AFRA's work with rural tenants aimed to establish a precedent of rights for tenants, to carry out policy research on the problem of land access and secure tenure and to campaign for a moratorium on the evictions of labour tenants.

In setting a precedent for land rights, a variety of strategies were used, including a long term lease agreement (Ncunjane farm in Weenen), a sectional land purchase (Gannahoek farm in Colenso), and a land apportionment from Mondi (Mooibank farm in Vryheid).

The Mooibank case provided an important national precedent.

A temporary moratorium on the eviction of labour tenants was secured through a sub-committee of the Transitional Executive Council for the period leading up to the elections.

The history of labour tenancy is one of control and dispossession. In 1864 the Natal Native Trust was formed to supervise and administer land set aside for Africans in Natal. In 1891 the



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Natal Native Code was established, setting out rules for almost all aspects of life, including access to land and tenure.

The 1913 Land Act, the 1936 Native Land and Trust Act, the 1952 Native Law Amendment Act and the 1954 Amendment to the 1936 Act were all designed to create a rural labour supply by turning African squatters into labour tenants.

When there was a viable alternative to labour tenancy, many tenants fled. But increasingly the alternative became poor and crowded land in the reserves.

Despite their intentions, the amendments of the 1950s had the effect of discouraging labour tenancy and raising rural resistance to the system.

It took 21 years for the government to impose a technical and legislative ban on labour tenancy - an indication of the role the system filled in providing labour to white farmers and access to land for Africans.

The higher wages in the cities and mines were much more attractive to rural tenants, who found that short spells of migrant work could provide enough money to subsidise life in the rural areas for a year.

By 1959 the labour tenant system was neither providing enough labour for white farmers nor land for African tenants.

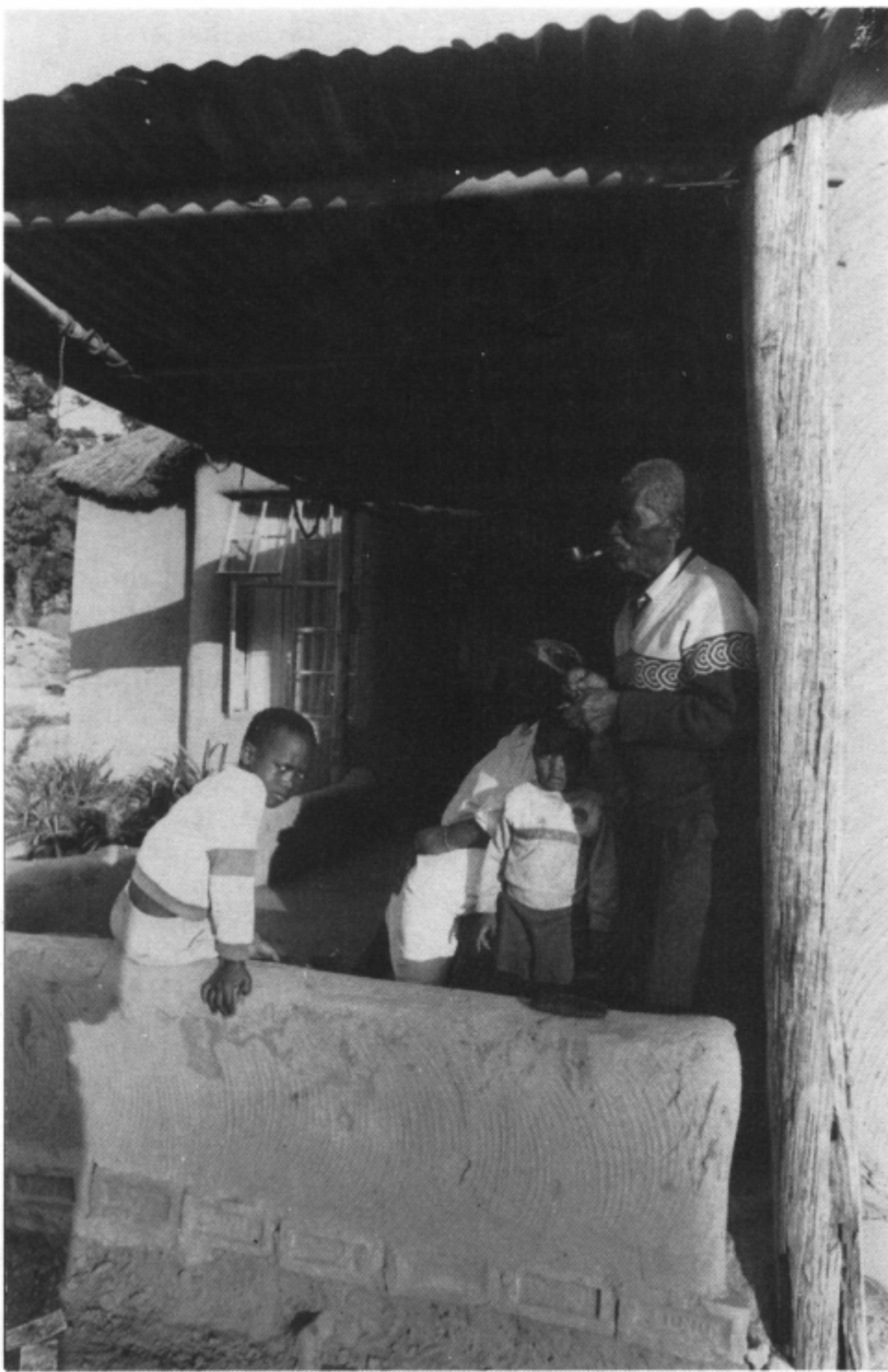
The Nel Committee was established to investigate the efficiency of labour tenancy and implications of abolishing it. The Committee recommended the complete abolition of labour tenancy by 1966. To achieve this goal, the Committee advised that appropriate legislation be passed.

The 1964 Bantu Laws Amendment Act was the result of the Committee's recommendations and included provisions to abolish labour tenancy in any area by simple proclamation. It also outlawed labour farms.

It took 21 years for the government to impose a technical and legislative ban on labour tenancy - an indication of the role the system filled in providing labour to white farmers and access to land for Africans.



Presently, it is difficult to distinguish between farmworkers, labour tenants and rural dwellers.



Addressing the loss of access to land is crucial, but it is important to start focusing on the factors which give rise to this loss and to examine how these can be addressed so that rural tenants are not increasingly marginalised.

As labour tenancy was discouraged and as commercial agriculture expanded, so labour tenancy adapted. The terms and conditions of waged agricultural labour and labour tenancy are often not significantly different.

In commercial agriculture the farmer pays a wage, provides food, housing, clothing and, in many cases, access to arable and grazing land.

Deductions are made from workers' wages for these services, so that at the end, the cash component which the worker gets is very small.

In terms of a common variant of labour tenancy, tenants would work on the farm for six months for a nominal amount of money, varying from 50c a month to R50 a month.

Some food was also provided and in some cases, protective clothing and overalls. Deductions were

made for these. Sometimes, the tenant paid nominal rent for a site on the farm or a stock grazing fee.

While the traditional exchange of labour for certain land rights still exists as a form of social relationship, it has become difficult to distinguish between farmworkers, labour tenants and rural dwellers.

Possibly, it is more useful to say that what we are talking about are rural dwellers without title to land, with precarious tenure, who are associated with agriculture and who have limited income, education and skills.

Rural tenants do not necessarily want title to land. They want secure tenure and land rights such as access to arable or grazing land or land for residential purposes and are often more concerned about infrastructure than they are with title or tenure to land.

From AFRA's own experience in working with rural tenant communities, "labour tenant" issues come into focus when tenants are evicted or lose access to land. This happens when land ownership changes or when the economic use of the land changes.

While addressing the loss of access to land is crucial, it is important to start focusing on the factors which give rise to this loss and to examine how these can be addressed so that rural tenants are not increasingly marginalised.



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.

