

AGRICULTURE — GENERAL

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JANUARY — APRIL

Single
dept
STAR 2/11/92

plan for farmers

By George Nicholas,
Agricultural
Correspondent

A single central Department of Agriculture for the whole of the country is envisaged under the new constitutional dispensation, according to Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk. Such a central structure, he said, was expected to embrace all the existing departments of agriculture, including those of general and own affairs in Parliament and possibly those of the self-governing and independent territories.

An investigation into the feasibility of such a central department was under way, Dr van Niekerk said.

He said until a new constitution became a reality, the departments of agriculture of the independent and self-governing states would be maintained as they are at present.

Development

"I envisage that the two agricultural departments in Parliament, however, must as soon as possible be meaningfully combined under one central management structure," said Dr van Niekerk.

It is understood that the mandate of a single department will include conservation of all agricultural resources, the marketing of agricultural products, the training of all agricultural students at existing colleges of agriculture and the co-ordination of financial aid.

One of the department's responsibilities would be the eventual establishment of a five-year physical plan, a five-year financial plan, an annual financial plan, and an annual budget for the Cabinet.

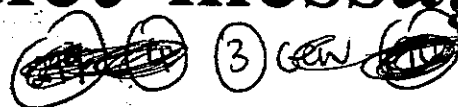
He said the advantages of the envisaged rationalisation were the maximun use of scarce manpower resources, the meaningful co-ordination of actions, and the establishment of a joint agricultural policy on the many areas in which actions and interests overlapped.

Teaching communities by role playing . . . members of the Cleto Saporetti Foundation rural nutrition education programme in Stellenbosch start work when farmhands come in from the fields.



Spicing up the diet message

STAR 2/1/92



The do's and don'ts of correct diet can be a bit dry. One way of spicing up messages on nutrition for rural communities is through the innovative use of role playing.

This is being done by members of the Cleto Saporetti Foundation, which has developed a rural nutrition education programme serving the entire Stellenbosch district, an area of 850 sq km.

"Role playing has been found to be an effective means of nutrition education," says foundation director Dr Geraldine Mitton.

Demonstrations are given at clinics and in farm packsheds to workers after a hard day in the fields. Performances are both entertaining and informative, she says.

The programme promotes healthy lifestyles and initiates self-help

projects in the community.

The operational team includes a doctor, a dietician and four nutrition educators who have completed a diploma course in nutrition organised by the House of Representatives.

The nutrition educators are members of the community in which they work. This is an essential contribution to the programme's success, says Dr Mitton.

"They understand the community's needs, and are able to identify problem areas."

The educators have earned a reputation as effective lecturers and demonstrators, and are in great demand by service organisations, schools and the Department of Agriculture.

They have been the sole nutrition lecturers for the past three years for the Stellenbosch students health ser-

vice organisation (Uskor). During 1990, more than 70 farms were visited by the educators as part of the Uskor rural farm project.

The foundation's vegetable garden competition for farm workers has become an annual event, attracting an increasing number of entries.

"Gardeners can share or sell their vegetables to neighbours," says Dr Mitton. "Weeding and watering provide exercise for older members of the family."

The Cleto Saporetti Foundation was created in 1986 and is financed from the estate of the late Cleto Saporette. Its main activities include research, data collection and the teaching of all aspects of preventive health and community nutrition education.

MARIKA SBOROS

Impounding stock 'makes farmers rich'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

STAR 3/1/92

Weenen town clerk Louis Cunha is also pound master. He provided Kockott with records showing that expenditure for the pound — including the pound master's salary — was only slightly below the income from fees and trespass claims.

Brisk business at the Weenen livestock pound has seen a total of R42 000 paid out to just eight white farmers in the last six months — and has led to bitter complaints among black stockowners that they are being robbed.

"The constant flux of African cattle from the land and into the pound has also seen the emergence of cattle speculators near to the pound," the Afra article claims.

One Muden farmer impounded 100 goats and 184 head of cattle from land he was renting for R10 a year and claimed R21 200 in trespass fees," according to a report in the newsletter of the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra).

"They can pick up impounded livestock at good prices, particularly if the owner is feeling the pinch of exorbitant trespass fees, like R200 a beast. Every day the livestock remain at the pound, the costs accumulate and so the owner needs quick cash to retain some of his livestock. If he cannot pay the fees, he loses all his animals to the auction."

Freelance journalist Fred Kockott was commissioned by Afra to investigate allegations that profiteering and abuse of human rights go hand-in-hand with the impounding of cattle which stray from the overcrowded Msinga reserve on to farms near Weenen.

Afra says the conflict around trespass and impounding is a manifestation of land hunger in the Msinga area. The organisation points out that after 1969 about 22 000 people and their livestock were removed from the white farms near Weenen where they had lived for generations as labour tenants.

He states that the Weenen pound realised a total of R93 664 in 1988 and that last year the Weenen Town Board alone claimed more than R25 000 in respect of 100 head of cattle and 180 goats that strayed on to its property.

NEWS ROUND-UP

Black farmer buried in AWB territory

WEALTHY Tembisa businessman Charlie Moloï was buried yesterday on the Delmas farm he bought in the heart of AWB territory six months ago.

Mr Moloï, 61, who began his working life as a cattle herder, caused a stir in the small conservative district when he bought the farm Witklipbank from former AWB commandant Bill Ruthven in July.

One of Mr Moloï's white neighbours, Mr Kobus Snyman, 36, who attended the funeral, said he was shocked that "the old man" had died so suddenly.

"He was a happy man and I had a very good relationship with him. I am a CP member and did not mind in the least when he bought the farm next to me.

"During the past six months I had a better relationship with him than I had with the previous owner. I'm sad he will not be here to bring in his harvest in July.

"After the last harvest he allowed me to graze my cattle on his land for nothing."

Suspect killed

Farmers

STAR 6/1/92

strike (3) GEN

back

Crime Staff

Free State farmers are fighting back against violent crime.

An intricate system of self-defence procedures adopted by the farmers after a spate of brutal attacks has led to the killing of one robbery suspect and the arrest of two others.

The arrested suspects were handed over to police yesterday. Two of them had been badly assaulted by farmers in the wake of the weekend attack on Hans Pienaar (77) and his wife Johanna (76) on their farm Grootgewag in the Verkeerdevlei district.

At the time of going to press, the SAP liaison section in Bloemfontein had not confirmed whether a murder docket had been opened to investigate the death of one of the arrested suspects.

According to one police spokesman, no arrests had been made in this regard.

The self-defence system, using citizen band radio, was introduced after the killing two weeks ago of local farmer Willie Engelbrecht (71), his wife Bettie (69), his daughter Lena Smit (39) and granddaughter Michelle Smit (11) in the same district.

Earlier, Captain Johlene van der Merwe said Mr Pienaar was attacked by four men yesterday.

Mr Pienaar and a worker Jacob Monga were busy

milking when four men attacked him. He fought back as they tried to tie him up. They demanded money and dragged him towards the farmhouse.

One of the four, armed with a gun, went to the house ahead of the others. Mrs Pienaar saw the robber approaching and fetched her revolver but was shot in the arm before she could open fire.

As she ran to the telephone, one of the men pulled the cord from the wall.

The robbers then fled. Two of the gang escaped in Mr Pienaar's bakkie while two others fled on foot in the direction of a neighbouring farm.

Neighbouring farmer Manie Bornman and his son Dries managed to stop the bakkie and arrest the two men in it.

The town's mayor, J L Vivier, alerted on the citizen band radio, was responsible for arresting a third suspect.

All three suspects were taken into police custody and two of them received medical attention, but one of them later died from injuries received during his arrest.

Senior police officers, including Major-General Tertius Calitz, went to the scene yesterday.

General Calitz said two of the three suspects were handed over at the local police station by farmers. They had been badly beaten. One of them later died as a result of his injuries, he said.

R17-m help scheme for drought city

PORT ELIZABETH. — A R17 million emergency water scheme to supply water from the Orange River to Port Elizabeth comes into operation today. (3) 11/4/92 HRC

Restrictions on water usage will not be relaxed, however, as there will be a corresponding cut in supply from the Paul Sauer Dam, the city's main supply dam which is now 14 percent below capacity.

The temporary emergency scheme is already in operation in Uitenhage and Despatch.

Assistant city engineer Mr Tom Proudlock said the two towns had received water from the project from early March.

He said there had been some mechanical problems as well as complaints about the high chlorine levels in the water, but this was necessary as the water "had to be properly disinfected".

The scheme was completed after continuing drought reduced the city's main supply dam levels considerably. Ecna.

Africa must increase food production, says World Bank

Technology can avert a nightmare

STAR 9/1/91



A senior World Bank official has called for a doubling of food production in Africa to avert a "nightmare scenario" brought about by population pressure, environmental destruction and the stagnation of agriculture.

At a meeting of the Special Programme for African Agricultural Research (Spaar) held in Rome, Edward Jaycox, regional vice-president for Africa, said food production must increase by an average of 4 percent a year to meet the region's needs.

Production is currently increasing at only 2 percent a year.

Something has to be done about population growth in Africa, he

said, "but the rate of change in agricultural technology has also to be speeded up enormously".

To meet these goals, Spaar representatives agreed to move ahead with a comprehensive plan of agricultural research and environmental protection in the countries of the Sahel region.

Research efforts are to be concentrated in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal to help boost production of sorghum.

A similar plan has been drawn up to assist war-torn Mozambique and Angola work out their agricultural research priorities. Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swazi-

land and Zimbabwe will collaborate on the research.

Over the last 30 years, agricultural growth in sub-Saharan Africa has averaged only 2 percent annually, while the population has grown at about 3.1 percent a year.

Most of the growth in agricultural production has come from expanding cultivable areas. But cultivable land is increasingly limited, and future growth will depend on increasing production on available land, requiring improved farming techniques and modern technology.

According to a Spaar statement, Africa's technological base is in-

adequate to meet the region's needs.

Some progress has been made in the last decade, but Africa needs to develop new crops and farming systems which reduce deforestation and reverse the declining fertility on croplands.

Representatives of 20 multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, 12 African countries and 18 regional organisations participated in the Rome meeting.

Spaar was established in 1985 by a group of aid donors concerned about the failure of African agricultural production to keep pace with the region's rapid population growth. □

Goedgevonden waits in limbo

The black farmers of

Goedgevonden are being made to feel like intruders as they wait for an appeal against their eviction from land they used to farm.

By **LINDA RULASHE**

THE black farming community of Goedgevonden near Ventersdorp in the Western Transvaal is being denied a new lease on life.

The land from which they were removed in 1978 has been leased to white farmers for as little as 17c a hectare by the Department of Agricultural Development and the community's claim to it is now being contested in court.

However, until the Appellate Division decides whether to uphold a supreme court decision to have them evicted, the black community will be made to feel as if they are intruders.

The area in which they have set up their zinc shacks has been cordoned off with barbed wire and a roadblock, only open between 8am and 6pm, has been set up. Access is allowed only to residents whose names are checked off a list, which has resulted in a few scuffles with department guards.

The department will not extend opening hours and this has made it nearly impossible for some community members to get to and from work or for relatives and friends to visit.

So far no serious incidents have occurred since last May's attack when 1 000 farmers destroyed 13 shacks, vandalised and looted the returnees' property and injured a number of them. An interdict against the AWB, whose headquarters are in the town, has been granted.

The attack came one month after the community moved back to the land from Bophuthatswana, where they had been removed to farmland at Vrischgewaagd and Gannapan.

In Goedgevonden, the agriculture department has refused to allow the community to plough or to improve their houses. To do so would be to create a "permanent situation". The department says it will "maintain the status quo" by forbidding any



Future in the balance ... Goedgevonden community members contemplate their fate

Photo: GUY ADAMS

improvements to living conditions or homes.

While the department has provided running water and medical services, Geoff Budlender of the Pretoria Legal Resources Centre said of the government's obstinacy over the other issues: "This is a reflection of how government wants to freeze the situation."

Field workers from the International Red Cross and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) are the only relief organisations that have been granted permission to assist the community.

The South African Red Cross Society was originally not allowed access to the farm and medical aid or food had to be passed through the fence where the roadblock is situated.

"At least they treated us better in Bophuthatswana," said William Mgcina, whose grandparents, buried in the old graveyard, once owned grazing fields in the area. "In Bophuthatswana my three children could go to school and my cattle were able to graze but now that is impossible."

Mgcina — a miner in Rustenburg —

has had to pay people in Bophuthatswana to look after his livestock and poultry.

Fields on which the Goedgevonden community originally planted their crops is now being farmed by seven white farmers.

"Where they have planted is our land," said Roselina Mokwena (64) bitterly as she remembered her days as a young wife who often ploughed the fields.

Lettie Jacob (66) said: "I wanted to fix my house the other day because when it rained, it got flooded and the furniture was being destroyed. But they refused. We want our land back."

The Goedgevonden community dates back to 1947 when black people settled and started ploughing there. The land was owned by the South African Development Trust and, as was common in such areas, the people regarded the land as their own although they may not have been the formal owners.

Negotiations are taking place among lawyers from the Pretoria Legal Resources Centre — which represents the community — officials from the

Department of Agricultural Development and Development Aid, church people and community representatives.

However, these discussions are not proceeding smoothly.

According to a Trac report, the last negotiations were characterised by a degree of "unreasonableness" on the part of the government in its persistence not to improve conditions at Goedgevonden.

Chairman of the state's negotiating team Gillis de Waal said only that there were still quite a number of hurdles which had to be crossed.

Representatives of the families have had to deal with officials who have a history of opposing the community's interests.

Even though these officials may be talking a new language, their decisions reflect their old prejudice.

This became clear in the fundamentally different starting points that the two negotiating teams have adopted.

The Goedgevonden people believe that any solution must begin from Goedgevonden. It must be a political decision in principle to allow the people's return, and thereafter the agricultural viability and support for off-farm activities could be considered.

The government, by contrast, began by wanting to remove the people again to Bophuthatswana. Thereafter, they felt a solution based on principles of "agricultural productivity" could be found: people who knew only white farming would decide what was productive and they would select those who would be allowed back.

The government has rejected any proposals regarding a mixed form of farming in which part of the members of the community would be involved in communal grazing and share cropping while another is involved in off-farm employment.

The report concludes the rest of the community will either have to remain in the homeland, or move on to "site and service schemes" in urban areas, which means they would effectively become urban squatters.

There is also the question of the rest of the community — who tried to follow but were turned away at the roadblock. They are still waiting in Bophuthatswana.

The next set of discussions are scheduled for January 15.

STAR 10/11/92
School bombed, but learning goes on

By Mckeed Kotlolo
Pretoria Bureau

Monday night's bombing of Marong Farm School, near Warmbaths, will not affect the education of the children, says the Department of Education and Training.

The school, situated between Vaalwater and Ellisras, is one of several empty white schools to be occupied by black pupils under the DET.

A spokesman for the northern Transvaal region of the DET,

Thomas Kekana, said extensive damage had been caused to the buildings, but the department would soon start with repairs.

Mr Kekana said the incident would not affect learning in the area since the children would continue with classes at their old mud school until Marong was ready for reoccupation.

Although a number of explosives were placed at the school, including the principal's residence, only those placed at the main building exploded.

Farmers stick to their guns

Flashpoint as warning goes out: 'We'll shoot to kill'

THREE days before Christmas, something went horribly wrong in the tiny Free State town of Verkeerdevlei. One of the placid community's best-loved residents, his wife, daughter and grand-daughter were gunned down in a farmhouse close to town.

That was shocking enough. But the alleged killer's claim in court a few days later that he had done it to "kill apartheid" was enough to ignite a mood of anger among farmers and the 70 or so residents of the town.

The bitterness reached flashpoint this week when police launched an investigation into the actions of the town's leading farmers — including the head of the local agricultural association — who came to the rescue of an elderly couple who were attacked on their farm on Sunday.

Police opened a murder docket in connection with the death of one of the suspects. With talk of farmers taking the law into their own hands, a police general was brought in from Bloemfontein on Friday to address a packed meeting in the Verkeerdevlei town hall.

The president of the Free State Agricultural Union, Dr Pieter Gous, warned this week that Verkeerdevlei was a microcosm of what was happening throughout the province.

Bitter

Describing the attacks on farmers as "the beginning of anarchy", he said more farmers were being killed in South Africa than were lost during the bush war in Zimbabwe.

He said farmers were frustrated and bitter.

"They want to get on with their work, but are prevented from doing so by criminals who act as if they know nothing much can happen to them."

Dr Gous said he did not approve of people taking the law into their own hands, but at the same time, "I don't expect anyone to put his life on the line for the sake of arresting someone".

Speaking at Friday's meeting, the regional commissioner of police, Major-General Tertius Calitz, announced increased patrols of access roads to farms and a new, secret safety

Reports: PETER MALHERBE Pictures: COBUS BODENSTEIN

plan. He warned farmers of their rights to self-defence and said firearms had to kept in a locked safe.

Calm

General Calitz said the meeting had been "in a good spirit", but one farmer stormed out saying: "They keep the farmers out of work and then they talk rubbish."

The chairman of the Verkeerdevlei Agricultural Association, Mr Manie Bornman, refused to discuss his involvement in the death of the suspect.

However, he added that farmers in the area were not "panic-stricken".

"We are completely calm, but we are prepared," he said.



NO TRESPASSERS... farmer Jan Viljoen says he has lost more than 200 sheep to Lesotho stock thieves



TOLERANCE: Headmaster Blackle Swart surrounded by a group of his pupils

done to correct this perception, things will get worse. The farmers are jittery. When they were soldiers on the border, they knew who to fight. Now they don't know who the enemy is."

Dr Gous said farmers should receive protection in the form of radio access to the armed forces, security fences around farmhouses and daily police calls on farms.

While the situation in Verkeerdevlei shows little sign of settling down, far-

Mr Bornman said the community had been shocked by the recent attacks, but "our hearts and homes are in Verkeerdevlei and we are here to stay".

He said he had received calls from all over the country offering help.

Farmers in the town were tight-lipped this week, claiming that the media had shown more interest in the death of an attacker than the killing of helpless farmers.

Dr Gous said he did not

believe economic conditions were behind the crime wave against farmers.

"If someone is hungry, he might steal a sheep — but there's no economic reason to brutally attack people. That's barbaric and inhuman," said Dr Gous.

"The farmers are starting to think they are pawns in a political game. They have a perception that they are considered small fry, and that very little is being done to protect them.

"Unless something is

farmers in the Ladybrand/Clocolan area nearby have declared war on thieves they say are crossing the Caledon River from Lesotho and stripping their farms of stock and equipment.

They said this week that they would "shoot to kill" any trespassers on their properties.

Dogs

A farmer on the border, Mr Jan Viljoen, estimated he had lost more than 200 sheep to thieves from Lesotho.

Matters had improved since the border fence was erected a few years back, but criminals still found it easy to slip into South Africa.

"If I catch someone on my property, I'll shoot him stone dead. They can't touch me," Mr Viljoen said.

Like his neighbours, he is fortifying his homestead and plans to erect high security fences with trained killer dogs on 24-hour patrol. He will also install a two-way radio.



WORRIED ... Mr David Nel, 40, and his mother, Mrs Tina Nel, 70, outside their house



ROAD TO NOWHERE ... The main road through the troubled village of Prince Alfred Hamlet Pictures: AMBROSE PETERS

Victim of the new SA

By ZUBEIDA JAFFER
 THE scrapping of the Group Areas Act has left the tiny village of Prince Alfred Hamlet defenceless.
 Villagers fear that now the act is gone, they will finally have to abandon hopes of owning their homes, near the rural town of Ceres in the Kouebokkeveld north-east of Cape Town.
 For years they have sought ways to secure their rights to land and housing — with the scrapping of the act, the gains they have made have all been rolled back.
 All 88 houses are presently owned by the villagers'

employers — the biggest being two major farming companies — Du Toits and Ceres Aartappels. But the land on which the houses stand was historically crown land and 58 houses still stand on crown land.
 With the act gone, the way is open for the land to be purchased by the highest bidder and the workers just cannot compete.
 When local priest Reverend Jan Groenewald arrived in the village nine years ago, he found an action committee fighting for the village to be declared a Coloured area.
 This was not in order to entrench a coloured nationalism but to prevent the white farming companies from purchasing the land. It was the only way they believed they could secure their rights to land.
 "We trusted the House of Representatives and worked with them," said Rev Groenewald. "They promised that once the area was proclaimed coloured, they would buy over the houses, renovate them and sell or rent them to the people. This is what we wanted," he said.
 In November 1988 the area was finally proclaimed — they sighed with relief — certain that this would be the first step towards eventually winning the right to purchase the land and own their houses.
 They continued to negotiate with the House of Representatives and the local municipality to work out practical ways to solve their problem. "While the negotiations were going on in 1990, there was a kind of moratorium on evictions,"



CHILDREN IN WAITING ... Mrs Rachel Oliphant and her children, from left, Reginald and Harold, both 7, and one-year-old Randal outside their house



UNCERTAIN HARVEST ... Mr Stoffel Miller working in his garden

said Rev Groenewald "But last February, we were informed that the House of Representatives did not have the money to assist us and negotiations broke down," he said.
 In desperation, they met with the ANC which joined their march to the local municipality at the end of April last year.
 They marched to demand that the land be sold to the occupiers of the houses, that new plots be made available for purchase, that the existing houses be valued by an independent institution.
 Since their protest action, new plots have been made available and more than 56 have so far been bought at prices ranging from R250 to R3 000.
 But the future of those who occupy the existing houses in Prince Alfred remains uncertain. They may be destined to live in houses owned by the farmers who employ them, on land which they may never own.
 This, says the civic leader of the neighbouring settlement of Belle Vista, Mr John Schuurman, will reinforce the weakened bargaining position these workers find themselves in.
 "They are in a difficult position when it comes to bargaining for better working conditions since they depend on the farmer for their housing," he said.
 "The people want housing to be separated from employment," he said.
 "They want protection but they are not sure how to get it," he said.
 Local Town Clerk, Mr Swanepoel whose council administers Prince Alfred Hamlet, has denied that houses and land will be sold to big companies. He says that his council divided the land into erf's in order to make it possible for the present residents to purchase.
 "I do not see any problem with this," he said. "The problem is that the state promised these people loans and now at the last moment they have come and said they have no money." The only way out for these people was to fight with the ministers responsible for help with loans, he said.
 The Personnel Manager of Du Toit's Fruit, Mr Jacobus van Dyk, says his company is willing to sell the houses to the workers.
 "We are currently working with the Independent Development Trust to see if they cannot help with development of the town. It is easy for a company to build a group of houses but if this is to be divided up then roads have to be provided and other standards have to be met," he said.
 Confirmation by both the town clerk and one of the major employer bodies owning the houses that they are committed to selling the houses to the occupants will go a long way to allaying the fears of these villagers.



FAMILY FEARS ... William and Jacoba Gors with their child in the kitchen of their home

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Row over torture claim

2/press 12/1/92 (3) Gen

By ELIAS MALULEKE

A WAR of words has broken out in the eastern Transvaal over a claim by 17-year-old Vusumuzi Phungwayo that he was assaulted and tortured by two farmers at Driefontein near Piet Retief on Monday last week.

The row surrounds a difference over the day and time of Phungwayo's arrest and alleged assault.

Phungwayo - a Std 6 pupil in Rooikop, a trust area in Driefontein - claims he was abducted around 10 pm on Monday December 30 while he was walking home.

He alleged he was subsequently accused of stock theft and tortured for nine hours by farmer Tienaar Botha and his son-in-law, Jan Martiens, on the farm Langverwacht.

He maintains he was handed to police around 9 am the next day.

However, police said the two farmers alleged the youth sustained his injuries on Tuesday afternoon when a dog bit him as he tried to escape when found near their sheep.

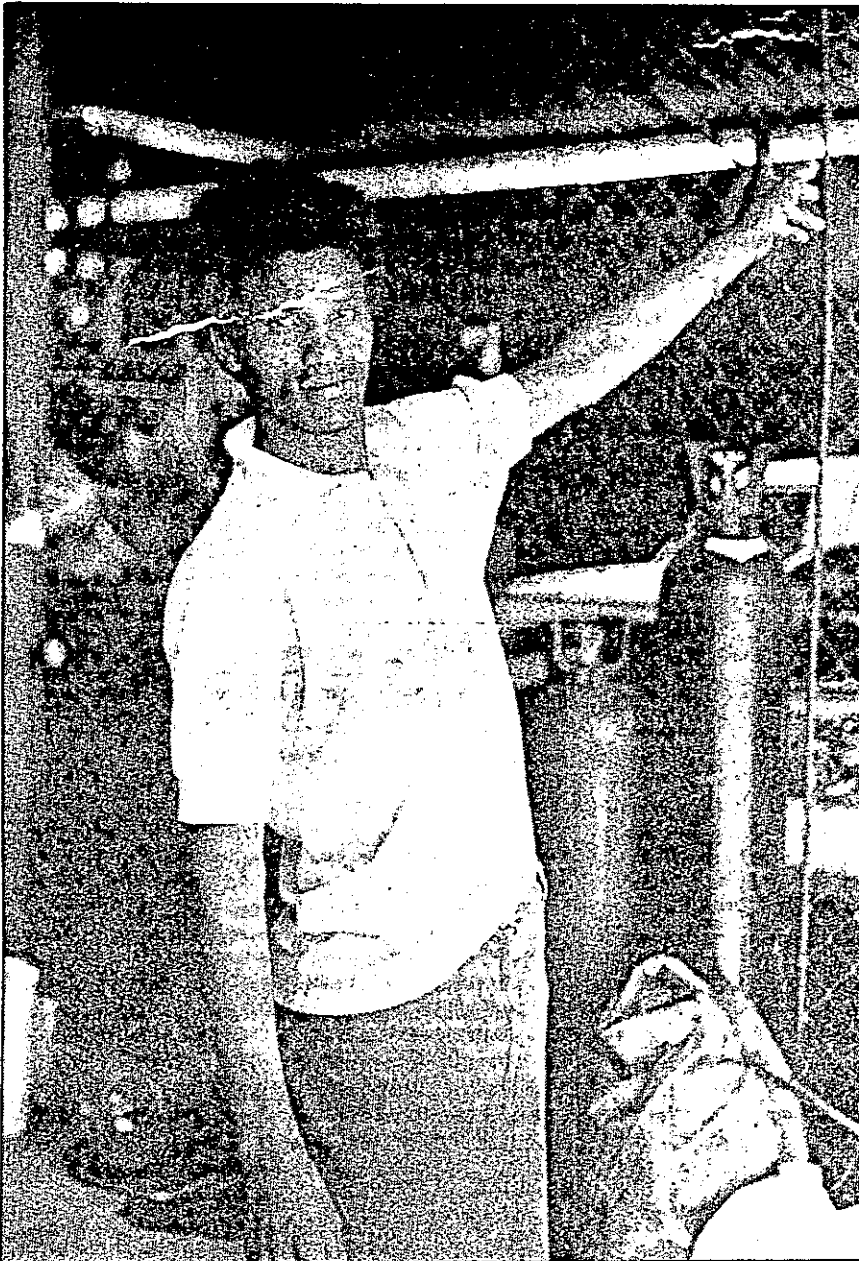
The police said he was only handed to them after 4 pm.

Phungwayo said the police locked him up without giving any reasons.

He alleged to City Press that he was repeatedly assaulted by the two farmers on Monday night before he was taken to a workshop on their farm.

He claimed that when he insisted he was innocent the two farmers sjambokked him and hung him by the neck from a rafter. He fainted.

"When I regained consciousness, water was



DIFFERENT VERSIONS ... Vusumuzi Phungwayo points to the farm workshop where he alleges he was tortured. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

poured over me and Botha said I would die if I didn't tell the truth. He then left and came back with a dog, which bit me," he said.

He was then dangled from the rafter by his

hands and sjambokked again.

He said after 2 am on Tuesday, he was put into a plastic bag filled with water, manacled to a tractor and left for the night.

He alleged Botha

fetches him in the morning, made him wash under a tap, and guarded him until two policemen arrived at 9 am.

"I took the police to the spot where I was picked up, and they then brought

me back to the farm. The white policeman left his black colleague guarding me in the van and spent a long time in the farmhouse before I was taken to a doctor in Wakkerstroom."

The doctor did not check him, but gave him tablets and cream. He was then taken to the Diriesdorp Police Station and locked up.

He spent New Year's Day in the cells, and was taken to court the next day without being charged. He was released on R300 bail.

Rooikop businessman Eunice Kajee, who employs Phungwayo, said when he heard that the youth had been arrested he went to the police station.

"The police could not tell me what Phungwayo had been charged with, and would not let me see him. They refused my bail offer. I then engaged a lawyer because I was concerned after hearing he had been assaulted," Kajee said.

Kajee added that when Phungwayo appeared in court on Thursday he was injured and was taken to a doctor in Piet Retief.

Doctor RA Goolam's report noted that apart from several bruises, Phungwayo's right eye was injured, and a mark on his neck was consistent with having been hung. He noted other injuries to his right wrist, knee, penis, chest and back.

Police said they were investigating charges laid by Phungwayo against the two farmers.

Phungwayo has since been charged with trespassing, and will appear in court on Thursday.

Only 50km away, pupils of all races flock to join school

^{(3) GEN}
⁽²⁾
^{S/Times 12/1/92}

AS FARMERS threaten war in Verkeerdelei, the Free State's first non-racial school — at Tweespruit, 50km to the south-east — is enrolling pupils of all races.

A former whites-only agricultural school, the "Model D" Tweespruit High School officially opens on Wednesday.

History was made this week when an excited crowd of prospective pupils wrote their entrance examinations. It was "standing-room only" in the school hall.

Ironically, farmers in the eastern Free State were directly responsible for the opening of the non-racial school.

The chairman of the Ladybrand Farmers Association, Mr Jan van der

Berg, said he had written to the education authorities saying there was a dire need for the school as farm schools only went to Std 5 and then children were forced to move to the cities to continue their education.

"I think all the farmers will support the move as the school would have closed down otherwise. We must use our common sense. The greatest need is a school."

Headmaster Blackie Swart described the school's opening as exciting and said there had been no threats from right-wingers.

Mr Kippie van Vuuren, the father of twin boys who will be attending the school, said he did not mind his children studying alongside black pupils.

"We must learn to live together," he said.

There is hope yet for deserted small towns

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PAUL ASH

MASS migration from the platteland to the cities has left small towns like Wolmaransstad and Swartruggens with empty schools and closed shops, and uneasy townspeople who see the death of their communities in every departing white face.

Ontvolking (depopulation) is an oft-used word in these towns, especially among older people.

"There is nothing for the young — no work, no opportunities," says Wolmaransstad shop owner Piet Venter.

However, the situation may not always be as bad as it seems. The inhabitants of mining town Stilfontein thought their town would die with the closing of the Stilfontein gold mine. But while the town is quiet, it is far from dead. Rents and real estate prices are low, but there are few houses for sale.

"Business is quiet but that's just the recession," one shopkeeper said, adding that although about 5 000 workers had been dismissed from the mine, there were other mines in the area.

When people fret over dwindling numbers, they think of whites, not blacks, says Groot Marico's Santa van Bart. With backing from the Manpower Department and some local farmers, she has started upliftment programmes for farmworkers and their families.

The region is totally dependent on farmers, and the locals have suffered as a result of the tough times, Van Bart says.

Farmer Koos Swart says about 32 000 black people depend on the survival of the farming community.

The local primary school has only 54 pupils. There is no high school and

children must go to boarding school in Rustenburg or Zeerust.

Opportunities for black children in the Marico region are even more limited. Most attend farm schools, but the highest grade they can achieve is Std 4. A few make it to the school at Swartruggens, which teaches up to Std 7.

"Most of the population in the region are illiterate and backward as a result," says Van Bart.

While she received "a bit of a cold shoulder at first", Van Bart's programme has been fairly successful. A number of farmers have provided facilities for various training courses, including needlework and first aid.

The courses are open to everyone. A racially mixed group is learning needlework, showing that integration is starting to happen, she says.

There are four training centres spread out among the farms and Van Bart is considering refurbishing the town's Saamwerk Hall for use as a large training facility.

Van Bart hopes to generate income to support upliftment projects and she has linked a tourist initiative to the development programme.

Van Bart and husband Egbert have started Marico Bosveld Tours, which operates every second Saturday. Visitors can tour the tobacco route or the Mampoer Trail. Both routes take visitors into the community, where they meet the locals. Farmers provide accommodation and food, and so benefit directly from the tourism.

Farm dwellers to protest quit order

Sowetan

15/1/92



3 GEN

THOUSANDS of "squatters" at Majakaneng in the Brits district plan to stay away from work today in protest against an ultimatum to evacuate the area or face forced removal.

Pamphlets issued in the name of the Transvaal Provincial Administration have warned the estimated 1 400 families occupying the farm - owned by a group of black farmers - to leave

Sowetan Correspondent

the area by today or their "illegal structures" would be removed without further notice.

The pamphlets say: "The land is good for agriculture and not suitable for future establishment of towns."

But yesterday the TPA denied knowledge of the eviction order.

The occupants of the farm claimed their presence was legal. Some pro-

duced receipts reflecting the amounts they had paid to the landowners as deposits to stay there.

The amounts range between R40 and R240.

"We are paying monthly rentals to the landowners even if we do not have basic facilities such as water supplies and schools for our children," one tenant said.

They claimed they were also made to pay R15 for water, a R5 burial fee and R10 for school buildings before they could move in.

Local civic association chairman Mr Shadrack Mathunsi said the landowners had assured the tenants at a meeting on September 2 last year that they would be regarded as permanent residents. The assurance followed attempts by some owners to evict them.

A Department of Development Aid official confirmed the ultimatum. He said the squatters should apply for sites at Letlhabile and Hartebeesfontein townships.

Farmers face disaster over poor rainfall

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Farmers are facing their biggest disaster in years as a freak drought turns some areas into arid dustlands during what is normally the wettest month of the season.

The extended drought, with a heat wave which shows no sign of abating, has already devastated hectares of crops in the Transvaal and Free State — and if good rains do not set in within the next week, hardly any crops will survive.

It is understood that some farmers have already begun applying to the Government's disaster fund to bail them out.

The National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) has warned that a widespread failure of the maize crop could result in a serious shortage of maize meal — a staple food for the poor and underprivileged.

Nampo acting manager Giel van Zyl said: "If we don't have good rain in the next few days, there will be extensive devastation to crops and grazing pasture which will result in dozens of insolvencies."

The farmers worst hit are those in the northern and north-eastern Transvaal, where only 19 percent of the normal rainfall count for the season has fallen.

However, the whole Transvaal, north and north-eastern Free State, north-eastern Natal and far Northern Cape have all had below average rainfall — and are suffering excessive, moisture draining heat.

"Farmers are fearing great losses. The situation is critical. The heat wave meant that the wheat crop was harvested two weeks early and the yield was below average," said manager of the Free State Agricultural Union, Lullu de Jager.

Farmers in several areas gathered for church services yesterday to pray for rain.

● Midway through this month, the PWV has only had 27 mm of rain which is well down on the 132 mm long-term average for the month.

Dams in the Vaal system which supply the PWV region are slightly down from 72,9 percent last week to 72,6 percent, which is still above the 67 percent level for the Vaal, Sterkfontein, Bloemhof and Woodstock dams this time last year.

PROPERTY

Trust is to acquire land for the poor



JOLYON NUTTAL

Sowetan 16/1/92

THE Independent Development Trust will this year concentrate on acquiring land to help poor black communities build homes.

Of the R1,5 billion in the kitty, nearly 61 percent has gone to housing. The IDT has decided on a tight focus, choosing to spend its money in three main ways:

- R750 million on setting up a capital subsidy scheme, the IDT's biggest programme, for the development of nearly 100 000 new serviced sites that will accommodate about 700 000 people;
- R102,1 million to the promotion of ongoing development in informal settlements; and

3 Gen

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

● R46,6 million on the setting up of the IDT Finance Corporation, through which the trust is developing new forms of housing finance for the poor.

IDT's director of community affairs, Mr Jolyon Nuttal, said the capital subsidy scheme accounts for just half of all IDT funds set aside so far. It covers 108 projects, of which nearly two-thirds will be new settlements.

The money will pay for the development of serviced sites for a total of 100 000 of South Africa's poorest families. An average of R7 500 a site has been set.

With building cost high and incomes low, the scheme would be able to help many poor people build homes.

The scheme had brought many new actors into the business of providing homes and there would clearly be a lot of activity this year because of the chance to use IDT funds.

He added that the scheme would increase the country's ability to provide suitable and affordable homes, especially among the poor communities.

"We are serving the poor - some of them earning less than R1 000 - and hope that the scheme will stimulate a lot of interest in the home building market," he said.

SOFT OVERNIGHT rain yesterday brought scant relief to the parched Springbok Flats in the northern Transvaal, as farmers in the area continue to live out a precarious existence.

Johannes Murphy, a sprightly 78-year-old cattle farmer, has made his living since 1958 on a small 159 ha plot, 20 km outside Naboomspruit.

During that time he has watched the area become progressively more arid.

"When I first came here the harvests were so good we stood

Man v elements: the oldest battle of all

A tough farmer battles it out in the northern Transvaal. Report by PETER DAVIES.

STAR 17/1/92

Murphy's grandfather emigrated to South Africa in the mid-19th century. But despite his lineage, he speaks only Afrikaans.

"There were lots of good farmers here, but when things got tough some of them took

chances. They took out one bank loan, then another. But there were no more good harvests, so they were finished."

The prolonged drought has put paid to Mr Murphy's lucrative lucerne crop.

(3) Gen

"I used to sell 1 000 bales a month. At R5 a bale that was good money. But lucerne needs lots of rain and the drought has destroyed the last few years' harvest. Every year that there's a bad harvest my cows have to

carry me through. I'll hopefully sell my 30 young bulls this year. The speculators buy them and if I'm lucky I'll get R1 000 a head."

Mr Murphy tends his 80 head of cattle singlehandedly, rising at five in the morning for milking — also done by hand.

The hardened farmer is proud of his existence, despite its hardships.

"I've learnt to do everything for myself. It's better that way. After all, if you're sure you can shoot a lion you mustn't take another man along because when you look over your shoulder, he won't be there. Farming teaches you to be tough. It's sometimes good to struggle."

Mr Murphy sighs and strokes the tip of his battered felt hat with the leopard-skin band. "We've had three rains this season, but it's nowhere near enough. I'll survive, but it's going to be tough." □

Ill wind wreaks dry havoc

STAR 17/1/92

(3) Gen

HIGHVELD FARMERS are no strangers to drought. They know it's a question of time before the January showers begin, often at the eleventh hour. This year, however, the dry season is critically stretched and farmers are panicking.

If good rains do not fall within the next few days, widespread crop failure will be the tragic result. The repercussions for the economy and the rest of Africa will be severe at a time a destructive card in the economic pack is least needed.

The most important crop at risk is maize, grown expansively in the Transvaal and Free State — the areas worst hit by the current drought.

The plants are now at the stage when they need the most water — and though many are still holding out, maize fields have already begun to wither.

Continued drought could mean a maize yield of less than 6,2 million tons this year — well below even the local need.

In this case, South Africa will have to import maize, and countries which import from South Africa, like Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, will suffer serious shortages of maize-meal.

Groundnuts, grain sorghum, citrus fruit, trees and livestock are also in jeopardy. Many tree farmers have still not planted — anxiously awaiting the first rains.

The drought has already necessitated an early harvesting of the wheat crop — leaving a below average yield this year, according to Free State Agriculture Union manager Lullu de Jager.

The veld in northern and north-eastern Transvaal and the northern Free State is deteriorating rapidly, meaning that grazing pastures will provide little fodder for livestock

Disaster is looming for farmers in the Transvaal and Orange Free State as their prayers for rain remain unanswered. If we are experiencing an El Nino weather phenomenon, we are in for several more weeks of devastating drought, reports HELEN GRANGE.

during the critical winter months.

The fact that the summer season began this year with insufficient groundwater in most areas — because of dry periods in the past year — has exacerbated the situation.

Some farmers are already resigned to disaster. It is understood a number have applied to the agriculture disaster fund for assistance.

Said Buller Bruwer, a citrus farmer in the Tzaneen area: "We have big problems. The under-soil is dry and we urgently need water for the trees. We're at a dead end. The farm dams are drying up and the authorities are talking about cutting our water limit by half."

Farms in the northern Transvaal have suffered the worst droughts in the country over the years. The natural dryness, when coupled with unseasonal drought, has put many farmers out of business in the area.

This year, the region has had only 19 percent of its normal seasonal rainfall.

In the western Transvaal, lucerne crops are shrivelling up under the burning sun. Thunderstorms in the region have just "wet the dust", as one farmer put it.

If weather experts prove to



Parched landscape... Naboomspruit farmer Johannes Murphy (78) surveys his land as a prolonged drought slowly robs his farm of its productiveness. Picture: Stephen Davimes

be right, there is little hope of a last-minute reprieve, despite the prayers for rain in many platteland churches.

Dr Janette Lindsay, deputy director of the Climatology Research Group at the University of the Witwatersrand, is sure we are suffering the effects of an El Nino — a weather phe-

nomenon which develops as a result of a huge moving pool of warm water in the Pacific Ocean and causes below-average rainfall patterns.

"We are suffering all the characteristics of an El Nino, which typically causes low rainfall from December to March in South Africa," she says.

Dr Lindsay has estimated that the El Nino is a moderate one — and will not wreak as much havoc as the El Nino of 1982/83, the strongest in a century.

A weak to moderate El Nino struck South Africa in 1986/87, causing drier spells than usual in the northern Transvaal.

There is no way of knowing when an El Nino will strike. Its pattern is totally unpredictable and therefore it cannot be anticipated, says Dr Lindsay.

Other weather specialists are not as certain that the current drought is symptomatic of an El Nino. "At this stage there is no evidence to show the El Nino

weather phenomenon is a factor," says a spokesman for the Pretoria Weather Bureau.

Whatever the cause of the hot, arid days, however, they show no sign of abating for a while at least — and farmers look certain to again have to shoulder the brunt of the hostile weather. □

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weekend Argus, January 18 1992

Khayelitsha: ^③ New hope for the starving

ARG 18/1/92

Self-help scheme
— a response by
residents to their
immediate needs

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

ALTERNATIVE farming techniques — and a good dose of dedication and determination — have resulted in an oasis in the Khayelitsha "desert" designed to give hope to the township's people.

Abalimi Bezekhaya (Planters of the Home), a community-based greening and food gardening project, has proved by example that it is not only possible to "green" an arid environment, but also to provide sustenance against poverty.

The Khayelitsha oasis is one of two well-stocked people's garden centres — the other is in Nyanga — with the dual purpose of being both training centres and low-cost nurseries.

Project co-ordinator Mr Dave Golding said the major aim of the project was to help people grow some of their own household fruit and vegetables, as well as to see them "greening" the environment.

He said the project encouraged self-help and the "fantastic" community response clearly disproved claims that township residents did not care about their environment.

Inaccessible water supplies, usually a major problem in the townships, are overcome by alternative techniques of deep trenching and mulching. Although water is often difficult to obtain in squatter areas, it is, however, free of charge.

To develop further skills and knowledge, project workers will soon attend permaculture (permanent agriculture) design courses:

"Permaculture aims at reducing consumerism and promoting 'producerism'. We are very much behind creating that kind of culture which is why we believe permaculture has relevance for the desperate situation in the townships today," Mr Golding said.

Abalimi Bezekhaya workers believe their efforts have had a significant effect on the township residents:

"Since we started in Khayelitsha in April 1989, we have seen sales of resources increase by 80 per cent," project developer Mr Rob Small said.

The workers don't wait for the people to come to them, and their other efforts include:

- Regular "manure runs" which take the centre's resources to more distant areas;
- On-site demonstrations, workshops and follow-ups for individuals, community workers and township projects;
- An annual Arbor Day focus which provides free trees and shrubs from the centres and in selected township areas; and
- A Cape Flats townships' greening project which aims to plant one million trees in co-operation with community structures and residents.

The project was funded by a Catholic agency in Germany. Mr Small said it was important that they "vigorously develop a local donor base".

"The garden centres are run like businesses but, because of the low mark-up on products, they will never be totally self-sufficient," he said.

● Non-profit permaculture design courses to be run at Camphill Village Alpha in Malmesbury from March 1 to 14 and March 20 to April 2. For further information call Julia Wilson or Lori Lake at (0226) 22345 before the end of January.



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, Weekend Argus.

□ **GARDEN GRANNY:** Khayelitsha resident Mrs Minah Nonkonyana proudly shows off her private garden into which she has put hours and hours of work. With her are her husband Fraser and granddaughter Ivy.



□ **"DESERT FRUITS":** Ms Christina Kaba, above, garden manager of the Khayelitsha people's garden centre, shows off the spoils of the Abalimi Bezekhaya demonstration garden.

□□□□



□ **PLANT POWER:** Ms Christina Kaba, with her "baby", the greenhouse of low-cost indoor plants for sale to township residents.

Ex-minister's farmworkers face switch-on

3 Gen

STAR 18/1/92

MORE than 1 000 houses used by workers on the farm of former transport minister Hendrik Schoeman are to be electrified by Eskom, at an average cost to the ex-minister of R1 600 a house.

Danie du Plessis, a spokesman for Eskom, said he wanted to stress this was not a "favour for an ex-politician" but part of Eskom's normal procedure in the rural areas.

"Mr Schoeman's farm is one of a few dozen examples of where Eskom rewires or electrifies houses. We have carried out similar procedures in Elandskraal and other black communities," he said.

Homework

The farm in the central Transvaal is reputedly the largest privately owned citrus estate in the world.

The electrification was expected to be completed by June, said Eskom senior manager Johan du Plessis.

In a statement yesterday Mr Schoeman said he became determined to upgrade the living conditions of his workers after witnessing a farmworker's child doing



UPGRADE: Ex-Minister Hendrik Schoeman.

homework by the feeble light of an oil-lamp.

His son, Kallie Schoeman, who manages Schoeman Farms, said farmers could not afford to ignore the living standards of their workers.

"Agriculture is now highly competitive, and only well-trained and motivated workers with good living standards can make their companies profitable."

Schoeman Farms also recently installed schools, clinics and other facilities for its workers.

— Sapa.

"Dress formal" I am never quite
dress or whether

Squatters conned out of R32 000

By MARTIN
NTSOELENQOE

MORE than 500 homeless Elandsfontein families in the Western Transvaal have been conned into paying Joseph Matshitse R32 000 for land reserved for farming.

Now Chief John Mathope wants them out before the end of the month.

Some of the squatters have already left and are being accommodated at Phatsima near Rustenburg, and the government is providing transport for those who want to leave.

But a few squatters, led by Julius Molawa, have vowed to fight until they are compensated. Most of them are confused because, although chief Mathope has ordered them off his land, Matshitse, the chief's cousin, has told them to ignore the order.

The squatters claimed that Matshitse told them the land was bought by his clan from Reuben Magano in 1936. They also claimed Matshitse did not come to see them after they had been ordered off the land, although each family had paid him R450.



NOWHERE TO GO .. Villagers pack up their belongings.
Pics: SIPHIWE MHLAMBI.

They said no one knew where he was.

Julius Molawa told City Press Mathope had made life hell for the squatters for four years, and more than 4 000 children at the settlement were not attending school.

Molawa claimed his six children were not allowed to go to school in Mathopestad although he had paid school fees.

He said he paid Mathope R10 to be accepted as a clan member, R25 for graves, and R50 for school buildings. Math-

ope denied the claim.

Molawa said after Mathope allowed him to live in Elandsfontein he built an R8 000 house and bought cattle.

Most of the affected families said all they wanted was to get their money back and get out of Elandsfontein.

Mathope was calm when he spoke to City Press, but became agitated when Molawa's name was mentioned.

"He is the one who is causing all the trouble," he said.



JULIUS MOLAWA

He claimed Molawa told farm labourers that land was for sale, and brought in people from different tribes.

When asked about Matshitse he asked:

Chief
wants
them out
by end
of month

"Who is Matshitse? Who are you talking about?"

Mathope's account was supported by the commanding officer of the Boons police station, W/O Du Preez, who said that what Matshitse did was totally wrong and contrary to the spirit of an agreement reached in 1912, when the farm was bought from J H Coetzee.

He said 22 people bought the land from Coetzee, and the agreement was that the Mathopes would be the controlling clan because they had paid more than the Matshitse.

The title deed stipulated that the land on which the families were squatting be reserved for grazing and ploughing.



The sleepy town of Verkeerdevlei has now become a site of racial tension. Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

Elsie mourns death of boss, 'friend and father'

Scwelen 20/1/92

ABOUT a month after the anger sweeping Verkeerdevlei after the death of farmer Bennie Engelbrecht last December, Elsie Mogotu is left baffled and helpless.

By IKE MOTSAPI

Friend

Domestic worker Mrs Mogotu mourns because "they have killed my friend, boss and father".

Mogotu's boss, his wife and two daughters were victims of a man who said he did it because he was "killing apartheid".

Engelbrecht, his wife Betty, daughters Lizelle and Mrs Lena Smit were gunned down in their Grootvlei farm in what is described in the area as the "senseless killing of an innocent family".

He was loved and respected not only by whites but also by the local black community of Tshepong in Verkeerdevlei.

Mogotu said on Decem-

ber 22 last year she and her husband asked Engelbrecht to help them with transport in order to attend a church service in Tshepong.

She said: "He did not hesitate and he said we should use his panel van.

Soldiers

"We left about 9am and returned at 2pm only to be greeted by a lot of people, police and the soldiers.

"This baffled us because we did not expect any problems at the farm.

"When the police told us Bennie, his wife and two daughters had been killed I collapsed with shock.

"I could not believe what I was being told. I only believed the story when I was later shown their bodies."

Mrs Jeannette Moroane, who teaches at a farm school built by Engelbrecht said: "They have killed a Mosotho who was a peace-loving person.

"This is really bad and I will not forsake the person who did this horrible thing."

3 Gen

Black township folk living in fear

Sowetan 20/1/92

3 ger



NEO BANYANA

THE 300 black families of Tshepong, at Verkeerdevlei in the Free State, are living in fear of their lives following threats from the neighbouring white community.

On January 10 the white community of Verkeerdevlei met in their town hall to plan an attack, according to the chairman of the Tshepong ANC branch, Mr Neo Banyana.

The threats follow the harassment and killing of white farmers in the area since December last year.

About six black families have fled to relatives in neighbouring towns.

Tension started to build up after the December killing of farmer Mr Bennie Engelbrecht, his wife, daughter and two grandchildren by

IKE MOTSAPI

a man who claimed he was "killing apartheid".

Engelbrecht was known among blacks who described him as a "white Sotho" for his kindness and association with the black community.

Two weeks after his death, another farmer was attacked but a suspect was allegedly killed by the white community before the police arrived on the scene.

Banyana said the Tshepong black community had been warned that it would be attacked at any time.

"We now fear for our lives. What worries us is that we are not responsible for what is happening.

"We do not even know the man who was shown on television pro-

claiming that he killed Engelbrecht because he was killing apartheid.

"Here in Tshepong we know each other very well and I want to state that we are not responsible for what is happening to the white community.

"What angers us most is that we are being subjected to bad treatment and assaults whenever we go to town."

Free State police spokesman Captain J van der Merwe said residents of Tshepong need not fear anything.

She said police were doing their utmost to restore the good relationship between the two communities.

"Free State regional commissioner of police, Major-General Tertius Calitz, will be addressing both communities tomorrow in an attempt to solve the problem," she said.

C

Farmers desperate as drought tightens grip

By Helen Grange
and Dirk Nel

(3) Gen

The drought in the maize-producing northern Transvaal and Free State has reached crisis point — with some northern Transvaal farms literally having only a few days' water supply left and Free State farmers in the process of having the region declared a disaster area.

STAR 21/1/92.
And in the Eastern Cape, a small swarm of locusts has attacked crops.

But no threat exists for the Free State or Transvaal. A Department of Agriculture spokesman said the swarm was small and was not migrating.

There had also been veld fires in parts of the Free State because of the drought.

No success with Stals for agricultural union

GERALD REILLY (3) Gen

PRETORIA — A top-level SA Agricultural Union delegation came away empty handed from a meeting yesterday with Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals, sources said.

The delegation, led by SAAU president Boet Fourie, was told there was little hope of additional aid for the industry or of a softening in interest rates on agriculture's debt, which would exceed R17bn by the year's end, sources said. *Blouay 22/1/92*

Stals indicated, it is understood, that even if a 2% or 3% concession was made it would have little effect on farmers' debt problems.

However, he indicated the signs were that the economy was growing healthier and the door had not been closed on possible relief later in the year, a source said.

Farmers' interest payments amount to about R2,7bn a year. An SAAU spokesman said the interest burden constituted 36% of net farming income compared with 18% in 1980/81. About half the industry's debt is in short-term loans from commercial banks and co-operatives.

Last year government agreed to subsidise Land Bank long-term loans by 5% to 12%. It is believed this concession will be extended into the new financial year.

Sapa reports the Free State Agricultural Union's disaster and emergency relief committee has asked the SAAU to carry out a comprehensive investigation into the financial position of farmers.

MP warns of flare-up over squatter row

STAR 23/1/92

By Shirley Woodgate

North Rand MP Louis de Waal has appealed for calm in the face of threats by the Chartwell North Action Group to call in the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging to remove the 650 "squatter" families living illegally in Zevenfontein.

He warned yesterday: "Any hasty action will have far-reaching implications which could spark an incident that would make the Ventersdorp clash between police and the AWB look like a picnic.

"A flare-up in that region could also seriously damage the Codesa talks."

In a reference to the possible development of an east/west arc of 13 low-cost villages between Johannesburg and Pretoria, he said: "All parties involved in the squatter row in the north-western PWV must accept the principle that low-cost housing must be provided for people who work and live in the area."

He said the only solution to the problem was a compromise. It was now necessary to put the strongest possible pressure on Randburg and Sandton — neither of which had townships where workers employed in the two towns could live — to take responsibility for developing housing schemes in areas accessible to their industrial regions, he said.

They would have to act in co-operation with the Government, as the agent for land which fell outside the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Mr de Waal said the TPA should be given every opportunity with Randburg and Sandton, together with interested pressure groups and political parties, to establish a workable short-term solution to the Zevenfontein issue.

This group was not typical of all "squatters" since for the past 10 to 20 years about 500 of the people had illegally paid rent of R30 a head to an individual to live on the land.

"The Red Cross estimated that between 65 and 80 percent of the people were employed in nearby Randburg and

Sandton. It was a viable community until it was evicted," he said.

After their eviction three months ago, the Zevenfontein "squatters" have been allowed to live on land belonging to a local farmer, but the deadline to move is at the end of this month and the TPA has promised a decision by today on a move to Diepsloot.

Mr de Waal warned that if the TPA dragged its heels over a long-term strategy for informal housing, the north-western PWV could be over-run by an Orange Farm-type situation.

He suggested the TPA contribution to a future settlement could be by way of changing the title deeds of owners, after expropriation for informal settlements had taken place and surrounding land values had been detrimentally affected.

"They could allow rezoning of the agricultural holdings to allow industrial developments to offset the losses incurred by landowners."

It was vital that an acceptable solution be found by keeping all avenues of debate open, he added.

3 Gen

Natal farmers, tenants agree on secure tenure

RECENT negotiations in Natal show that shaky labour-for-land agreements can be transformed to meet the requirement of secure tenure for which land rights groups clamour.

In the Muden area, 15 labour tenant families and a land-owning farmer reached an out-of-court settlement founded on the mutual rights and obligations of landlord and tenant.

And a land-owning company has reached a verbal agreement with labour tenants on the Colenso-district farm Ganna-hoek, in terms of which they can buy shares in the company to secure their rights to part of the farm.

The Muden agreement was concluded late last year after months of conflict in which farmer Peter Channing attempted to evict the families and they defied his orders.

Mr Channing "inherited" the farm when he leased and later bought the land.

The settlement converts the farm dwellers into regular tenants, paying a set rent and grazing fee per head of livestock. In return, they have a two-year leasehold, with an option to renew and an option to purchase. Both parties agreed to effect certain improvements on the farm and tenants will limit the number of livestock and the extent of land under cultivation.

The Ganna-hoek settlement is based on partitioning the farm for different uses and allowing those who live there to buy shares in the company which has obtained the property.

Performance Farming Enterprises (PFE) purchased the farm in early 1990 from the McFie family. The tenants on Ganna-hoek were descendants of the people who had lived on the land prior to the McFie family's arrival in 1854.

At first PFE wanted to evict the tenants. "But as I got to know the people the position changed," says PFE director David Albers.

In the second half of last year an in-principle agreement was reached regarding the sale of shares to each of 15 households. Their shares will entitle them to security of tenure and to use of one third of the farm. The shares can be traded and passed down to future generations.

According to Sithembiso Gumbi of the Association for Rural Advancement, the tenants have already raised two-thirds of the R105 000 they are required to contribute. PFE is discounting their shares and an additional amount will be contributed in the form of a soft loan which tenants will be able to service. □

Land reform a searing issue

STAR 24/1/92

(3) GEN

Tension is building up as some of the most vulnerable land claimants are being pushed off the farms, reports JO-ANNE COLLINGE. Land rights groups claim these are forced removals which are put into effect by the private sector as farmers give notice to tenants who live on their land in exchange for labour.

THE Government's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation faces yet another daunting demand: Convert the feudal system of labour tenancy into a form of tenure fit for the new South Africa.

The call emanates from lawyers representing labour tenants — that is, subsistence farmers who exchange the labour of some members of the family for the use of a corner of land.

It comes as labour tenants in the south-eastern Transvaal are being pushed off the land at an increasing rate. Land rights groups insist these are forced removals in an age of reform, effected by the private sector.

And, as Boy Nzimande's story shows, it will be no easy task balancing the interests of owners who have all the legal rights against those of tenants who have "softer" claims of tradition.

Mr Nzimande, a burly father of five, is a tenant on the Piet Retief farm Moddervlei. "From what I understand, when the farms were surveyed my grandfather was already living there."

The grandfather of the present owner of Moddervlei, H G Paul, was apparently the first registered owner. Over the years, the Nzimandes "gave" the Pauls the labour of one or two members of their family in return for some land to plough and the right to raise livestock.

In this manner three generations of Nzimandes and Pauls shared the land.

But a simple "trekpass", giving Mr Nzimande three months' notice to quit the farm, will put paid to this history. By the end of this month, Mr Nzimande, his wife and children must be off Moddervlei.

Nor is Mr Paul acting illegally. Three months' notice is all the courts would be likely to require.

Mr Nzimande's mother, brother and sister have not been evicted. It appears that Mr Nzimande's hawking of vegetables has come between him and Mr Paul. "He said he doesn't want me on the farm — I'm a businessman."

Unable to contact Moddervlei's owner, The Star spoke to his brother, WR Paul, who said that the problem was that men from the labour tenant families were no longer prepared to work on the farms. "And the Government has a law that people on your farm must work for you — or else they are souatters."



Widow Christina Hlatswayo . . . puzzled at the change in the "good relationship" with the farmer, she suspects her family's straying cattle prompted their eviction order. Picture: Gill de Vlieg.

unit. They need labourers on the farm to secure the home and land; cash income from members working off the farm; and produce and livestock to close the gap between wage income and survival needs.

The Legal Resources Centre, which runs a rural legal clinic in the Piet Retief area, says

the 18 months to July 1991, the LRC assisted 70 labour tenant families. In January this year, at a single session of the clinic, legal advisors were faced with about 80 people who had either received "trekpasses" or who believed they were under threat of eviction.

"The current escalation of at-

fundamental structural changes. The 'New South Africa' is sans the Land Act, the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act. The Government has also recently appointed the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation," an LRC press release notes.

"These changes and various

appear to have created fears among the present farm owners about their own futures."

Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Bruwer agrees with the proposition that evictions are, in part, pre-emptive action against possible future land claims by tenants. He also says that security concerns have motivated farmers to

their farms.

But the mood among farmers, Mr Bruwer insists, is not one of fear. "There's aggression building up — not nervousness — among farmers."

Amsterdam farmer Chris Vorster says evictions arise from particular conflicts. Recently he issued and then withdrew the "trekpass" of Amos

came to the farm Sterkfontein as a boy.

It appears that the conflict between Mr Hlophe and Mr Vorster arose when the farmer sought to increase the quota of labour required. Mr Hlophe said he refused "because I do not see my daughter as a worker". Mr Vorster merely confirmed that "there were problems but they've been sorted out".

In the case of widow Christina Hlatswayo, the straying of her family's cattle into a neighbour's field appears to have provoked the issuing of notice. For the family of Thomas Magagula (25) the crisis came when he laid a charge of assault against the farmer who allegedly tortured and accused Mr Magagula of theft when he visited his family on the farm.

In about four year's work, the most the LRC has been able to secure for labour tenants is the right to an adequate period of notice. "One thing we have not been able to win for you through the courts is the right for you to live on your land forever — although we know that is what you want," LRC attorney Odette Geldenhuys told labour tenants this week.

She said the LRC had concluded that the only solution was a political one. "We believe that your particular plight must be put on the agenda of all political parties. We believe that the Land Commission must now start doing its work. It must find an urgent solution to your problem in particular."

Martha Mlangeni, who has to quit her home of 20 years this month, says: "We don't want to own the farm. Actually, we want to stay there and cultivate land and be allowed to have livestock."

It is a point that Ken Margo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee takes up. Security of tenure is more important to many poor rural people than land ownership. For labour tenants, he argues, "the constitutional right to security of tenure would be far easier and less contentious to ensure than the right to title".

The old people gathered at the LRC clinic have centred their lives on one patch of soil. They do not see land as something without character; as an interchangeable entity. They talk not in terms of seizure of the land; nor surrender — but sharing.

In the words of Mr Hlophe, who has seen "about nine" owners on Sterkfontein in his 80 years there: "Some farmers spend quite a while on the farm. Others come and go. But."

Drought devastating crops

By Helen Grange, ^{(3) Gen}
Pretoria Bureau

The drought has already devastated between 60 and 70 percent of crops in some areas of the Transvaal, Transvaal Agricultural Union chief executive Johan Hartman said yesterday.

Mr Hartman said that despite the hardness of the maize plant, many maize fields were dying in the heat of each day without rain. STAR 24/1/92

Some farmers in the highveld were trying to save the situation by re-planting or changing over to other crops.

"In the lowveld, farmers of vegetables, sub-tropical fruit and trees are having all sorts of problems. Irrigation farmers are extremely worried, because all the farm dams are drying up," Mr Hartman said.

National Maize Producers

Organisation spokesman Giel van Zyl agreed that "tremendous" damage had already been done to crops.

"We won't be able to assess the extent of damage until the maize is literally burnt white.

The Department of Agriculture is monitoring the situation and keeping Government informed, Mr van Zyl said.

The Free State Agricultural Union has asked the SA Agricultural Union to investigate the financial position of farmers — and to moot the changing of laws so financial assistance can be more readily available.

Farmers in the Frankfort district are applying for financial assistance from the Government, it is understood.

This year's erratic rainfall is said by some weather analysts to be a result of El Nino, an unpredictable weather phenomenon.

Farmer blasts youth

City Press 26/1/92

(3) Gen

By DAN DHLAMINI

A PUPIL in Std 7 at Jouberton's Metebong High School was peppered with shotgun pellets last Saturday night when a Klerksdorp farmer shot at fleeing youths, two of whom had been fighting.

The boy's alleged assailant has not been arrested or charged.

This was confirmed by western Transvaal police spokesman Lt Petrus Ramatsoele, who said an attempted murder docket had been opened and police were still investigating.

Ramatsoele said the docket would be sent to the public prosecutor for a decision on whether to prosecute as soon as investigations were complete.

Victor Tshepo Mogoerane, 17, told City Press he was shot and injured by farmer Christo de Klerk without any provocation last Saturday night.

He had visited a friend who lived on De Klerk's farm, near another farm which has been converted into an entertainment centre called Oom Andries se plaas.

Mogoerane said that later that night a fight broke out between two other youngsters at De Klerk's farm shop.

De Klerk came from his home wielding a gun and everybody, including those engaged in the fight, scattered in different directions, scared they would be shot.



Victor Mogoerane, 17, shows the shotgun pellet wounds he sustained in the incident.

"As I was running I heard a shot fired and the next moment I felt a burning sensation in my left shoulder blade and right thigh.

"I continued running but I became weak," said Mogoerane.

Mogoerane said he ran to Oom Andries se plaas

entertainment centre where a black man took him back to De Klerk and asked why he had shot him.

He said De Klerk then apologised and took him to Tshepong Hospital, where he was treated and discharged the following day.

Mogoerane said that the following day De Klerk took him from hospital back to his farm where he gave him a small bottle of antiseptic liquid and tablets and pleaded with him not to lay a charge against him.

The boy's furious father, Monnapule Mogoerane, said he went to De Klerk to ask him why he had shot his son.

He said the farmer told him he was sorry and was prepared to pay for medical expenses.

Mogoerane said he then took Victor to Klerksdorp Police Station and was surprised when a Warrant Officer Oosthuizen was reluctant to take a statement.

He said Oosthuizen told him a statement had already been made on behalf of Victor and that it was not necessary to make another one.

Mogoerane said that after Oosthuizen had refused to read to him the statement which he alleged had been made on behalf of his son, he insisted that Oosthuizen take another statement from Victor in his presence.

"Oosthuizen took the statement reluctantly and I will not rest until the matter has been brought before a court of law," he said.

Ramatsoele denied the officer was reluctant to take a statement and gave City Press a crime report number as proof that the statement was taken.

City Press could not contact De Klerk.

Eskom lights up rural towns

Sowetan 27/11/72
ESKOM has taken over the electrification of two towns previously under the jurisdiction of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The electrification of Esizameleni near Wakkerstroom started on January 15 while the Ezamakuhle (near Amersfoort) project is scheduled to start on April 15.

Eskom spokesman Mr Robin Larsen said. "Most of the consumers will receive

3 Gen
electricity in terms of S1 tariff, which requires no deposit," he said.

While a minimum connection fee is charged there are no reconnection fees and customers will not pay fixed monthly charges. The S1 tariff provides electricity in the home by using a dispensing unit for R30. Customers can convert to the new system at no extra cost. - *Sowetan Reporter*.

Racial tension mounts in rural area

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Police have opened a murder docket on a black youth who died on Christmas Eve, hours after being apprehended by two civilians in Elandsfontein, about 30 km south of Johannesburg.

The civilian arrest took place less than one kilometre from the Elandsfontein plot where an old man, Lawaai Lebeta, was fatally injured on Christmas Day by white residents after a row over the mating of a white dog and a "kaffir" bitch.

Police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said Samuel Sonnyboy Letsoalo (20) "was arrested by a white man and a black man for allegedly stealing a radio and was handed over to police".

"When police received him from these people, he was already injured. An ambulance was called and he was taken to Sebokeng Hospital where he died the same night."

One of the last people to see Mr Letsoalo alive and well said he was one of a group standing by the roadside in the afternoon of December 24 when a vehicle pulled up, with Louis Perie and a worker inside.

They indicated that they wanted to see Mr Letsoalo, and as he approached the vehicle, he was ordered to get in. He objected and the worker allegedly gave him "a few clouts with his hands". Mr Letsoalo then got in and was driven towards Mr Perie's plot.

Later that day Mr Letsoalo was handed over to police.

The dead man's stepfather, Josiah Mohlanga, said he heard that his son had been taken to Mr Perie's farm, and on December 25 went to see Mr Perie.

"He said he wanted the radio and the gun from Sonnyboy and he didn't get them. He told us that he left Sonnyboy with the police at Orange Farm."

Mr Perie confirmed this was

so - Mr Letsoalo had been wanted for "attempted armed robbery". As regards the police statement that Mr Letsoalo was already injured when they received him, Mr Perie said: "I can't put any light on that."

Julia Letsoalo said the family was told by hospital staff that their son was dead on arrival. She echoed the feelings expressed by black people in the area: "I'm scared so much."

Rumours of assault on black residents at the hands of whites abound, as do white allegations of rampant crime. Though blacks tend to blame the neighbourhood watch, some watch members have distanced themselves from abusive action.

Eveline Mthethwa, a domestic worker, has laid charges of assault against two members of the De Deur police and her ex-employers at Walkerville.

When The Star interviewed Miss Mthethwa, she said her former employer, Chris Badenhorst of Walkerville, and his wife had assaulted her when she persisted in attempts to claim her December wages.

Mr Badenhorst reportedly claimed Miss Mthethwa smoked dagga and had assaulted his wife, breaking a rib. He claimed there was nothing wrong with Miss Mthethwa when "I threw her out of my gate".

According to Miss Mthethwa, the day after her confrontation with the Badenhorsts, two white policemen traced her. "They started hitting me - one had a long gun and he used the back of it and the other had a stick."

They allegedly took her to the Badenhorst home and waited while she was made to clean the house. "Then they took me to the police station and locked me up till next morning."

Captain van Deventer encouraged Miss Mthethwa to make a statement, adding that, if members of the police had broken the law, this would not be tolerated. He said there was no record of Miss Mthethwa's alleged overnight detention.



Eveline Mthethwa . . . has laid charges of assault against two members of the De Deur police and her former employers at Walkerville.
Picture: Stephen Davimes

Training plan for black farmers

GOVERNMENT would step up training of black farmers in an attempt to redress the land reclamation issue, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk told a media briefing in Cape Town yesterday. (S) GEN

Handing over white-owned land to people who couldn't manage it was not economically feasible, he said. 8/0ay 28/1/92 (S) GEN

"We must create equal ability, so we are stepping up training. After training we have to look at financial access and special measures to help people."

Reports: Political Staff, Sapa.

'Land restitution won't wipe out apartheid legacy in agriculture'

STAR 28/1/92

(3) Gen
By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

CAPE TOWN — There was no quick fix to the disparities created by apartheid in the agricultural field, and the restitution of land would not undo the tangle, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

Briefing journalists in Cape Town, Dr van Niekerk said the matter should be solved by developing existing areas and enabling people to improve themselves by their own abilities.

The normalisation of agriculture in the "new environment" was one of the Department of Agriculture's top priorities and the training of all South Africans in the field would become an important feature in the future, he said.

Dr van Niekerk said equal opportunities could

be utilised only if equal abilities existed.

Referring to the fact that 87 percent of the land was owned by whites, he noted that the 13 percent in the possession of blacks fell in higher rainfall areas. When one then considered the production potential of the land, the ratio became 75 percent to 25 percent.

Training

Redressing apartheid-created disparities by taking from some and giving to others amounted merely to a redistribution of wealth. This process should be accompanied by upgraded training of all South Africans in the agricultural field, he said.

In addition to training, disparities were also being addressed by giving blacks access to credit extensions offered

by financial institutions.

It was estimated that there were 1 700 black farmers in the country and 50 000 subsistence farmers in the homelands and trust areas.

Asked whether the Government was assisting inefficient white farmers, Dr van Niekerk said Land Bank loans were given on one strict basis: the debt must be serviced by the income of the farmer and if the income was insufficient, the farmer was not given additional aid.

He said 15 percent of the 60 000 white commercial farmers in the country received Government subsidies.

The department was restructuring and reorganising itself, and the 14 departments of agriculture were trying to consolidate their activities so as to avoid duplication, he added.

A one-way ticket to the city

STAR 28/1/92.

② Gen

South Africa's population shift from rural to urban areas benefits neither region, reports Agricultural Correspondent GEORGE NICHOLAS.

TEN years ago, about 72 000 people lived in the rural area of the Rustenburg district. Since then the number has dropped to 50 000.

In the same 10-year period, the rural areas of Witbank lost about 22 000 inhabitants, and the four districts of Ventersdorp, Phalaborwa, Pilgrim's Rest and Harrismith each lost 11 000 people.

These are just a few districts taken at random to indicate the alarming continuing drain of manpower from the Transvaal and Free State farming areas to the towns and cities — a problem that is causing increasing concern, not only to the farming community, but also to many urban authorities.

People are simply leaving the countryside in droves as the traditional farming practices, wages and way of life falter under the weight of competition from the rest of the economy.

Attracted

So many are deserting the land that depopulation is no longer a threat, but a chilling reality.

Those leaving the farms are almost exclusively black workers and their families. They are attracted to the bright lights and entertainment facilities of the urban areas, and by the exciting prospect of job opportunities with wages far higher than those farmers can afford.

Many are disillusioned, when it is too late, by the reality.

Huge numbers fail to find work or suitable accommodation and, when all their efforts come to naught, they do not return to the farm but tend to congregate in squatter camps

on land in the urban and peri-urban areas, where many of them sink deep into poverty and want.

Those fortunate enough to find work are also often similarly disillusioned by unforeseen costs, such as expensive food, clothing, schooling, accommodation, medical and other services that reduce their effective income to levels lower than they had earned or received free on the farm.

Squatter camps, those troublesome informal settlements that sometimes arise literally overnight, are already a feature of many towns and cities. Thus what in the past has been largely a rural problem has now also turned into a serious urban one.

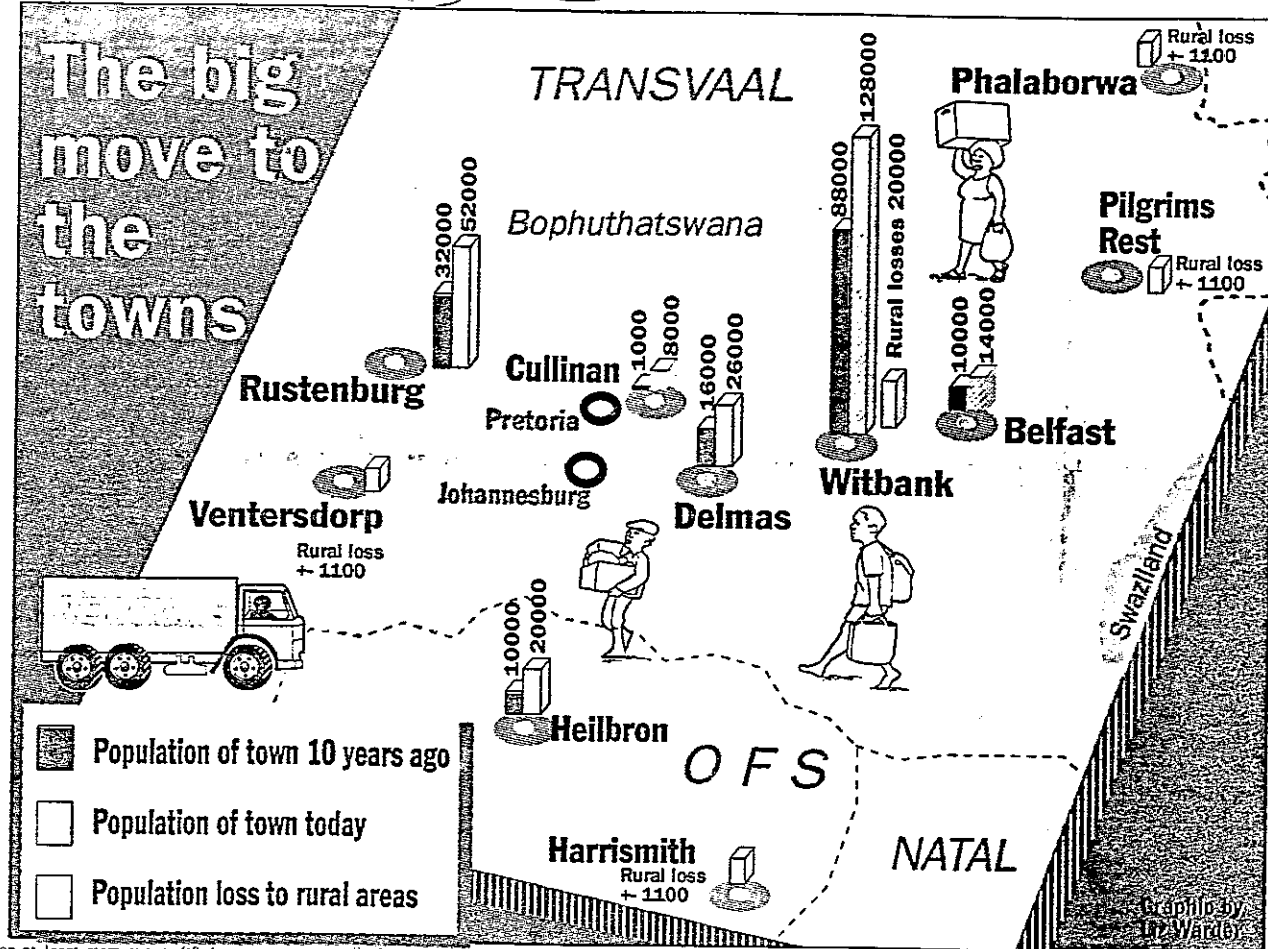
In the past 10 years, for instance, the urban population of Rustenburg increased in round numbers from 32 000 to 52 000, Belfast from 10 000 to 14 000, Heilbron from 10 000 to 20 000, Witbank from 88 000 to 128 000, Cullinan from 1 000 to 8 000 and Delmas from 16 000 to 26 000.

About 10 percent of South Africa's whites and 60 percent of blacks still live and work in the rural towns and districts. The experts estimate, however, that by the turn of the century more than half of the country's black population will be urbanised.

The concern of the farming community is understandable. In the depopulation process, schools on farms and in country towns are emptying. State transport services by rail and bus are reduced, roads are becoming neglected, doctors are leaving and country hospitals and maternity homes are closing.

What can be done to reverse

The big move to the towns



or at least stem the drift? Apparently nothing.

The abolition some years ago of the final impediment, urban influx control, has opened the

gates especially for the younger generation on farms, who are not only better educated than their parents, but are determined to seek more remunerative and satisfying livelihoods elsewhere.

Almost as serious as the loss of these people is the difficulty experienced by many farmers

in retaining the services of their trained and skilled workers. Organised agriculture appears to have accepted with resignation that farmers have

no option but to mechanise to a greater extent than ever before, especially for the production of commodities that are labour intensive but financially reward-

ing, and that lend themselves to mechanisation.

According to South African Agricultural Coion training manager Machile van Niekerk, effective mechanisation in most cases requires expertise and skills, which, he adds, means that both the farmer and his worker will have to undergo specialised training.

It is generally recognised that the farming industry is more important to the country's population and economy than most other sectors. It cannot on its own finance extensive and costly mechanisation. It needs help. Much as the world rebels against subsidisation today, this may become one way of coping with the vacuum that is being created by the migration from the platteland.

Emphasised

In representations it has made on the subject to the Government, the SAAU has emphasised that this migration could be attributed to the fact that the rural infrastructure is underdeveloped and that it shows an alarming degree of deterioration.

It has pointed out that in the process the rural areas are becoming increasingly isolated and unattractive to work and live in.

The SAAU considers it essential that a strategy for rural development should be formulated and implemented without delay to make it more attractive to live and work in, and it feels strongly that the State must accept responsibility for maintaining a basic infrastructure in the rural areas.

Be that as it may, no country, least of all South Africa, can permit the survival of its agricultural industry to be imperilled. Either a solution to the depopulation problem must be found or effective measures must be taken to counter its disruptive aftermath. □

Graphic by WARDY

CAPE TOWN — Land issues should be solved through negotiation and consensus rather than costly court proceedings which might take years to resolve, Regional and Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers said yesterday.

He told a news briefing that the advisory commission on land affairs would advise President F W de Klerk on the identification

^{3 Gen}
Bi Day 29/1/92
Negotiate land issues — Minister

and use and ownership of land affected through previous discriminatory legislation.

Asked if government had ruled out establishing a land claims court, he said all alternatives had been discussed in Parliament and committees in 1991,

and the advisory commission on land allocation was the result.

"To speculate on others would not serve any purpose," he added.

The commission, under chairmanship of Mr Justice T H van Reenen, was set up in November 1991 in

terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act of 1991.

"Government has, through this mechanism, made a real attempt to come to grips with the past and to deal with land claims effectively and expeditiously."

He invited all interested parties to give their full cooperation and support to the proceedings of the commission.

"In my opinion, consensus through negotiation is a more viable method to solve the intricate land issues rather than reverting to costly court proceedings which might take years to resolve," he told the briefing. — Sapa.

Call on white workers to unite or 'be buried'

29/11/92
BIP ay
IF WHITE workers and farmers don't form a united front to reject the government, "We might as well get a grave for the white working class in Westpark cemetery," CP MP and Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

Bruwer was speaking at the official opening of the annual congress of the white Mine Workers' Union (MWU) in Johannesburg.

Under banners proclaiming "Unite for One White Union" and "White Worker Wake Up," Bruwer said white workers had to unite to form one white "super" union.

He called on white union leaders, on the 70th anniversary of the white miners' strike on the PWV, to put aside their differences and unite this year.

Bruwer said the whites' feeling of national pride was being battered because the country's humanists wanted to prove there is no difference between white and non-white workers.

MWU's general secretary Peet Ungerer said the union started a campaign last year to form one union for all white workers. He said the union now had 40 000 members in

3 Gen
DIRK HARTFORD

key positions in the economy, including the mining, steel, chemical, electrical, municipal, postal and retail sectors. "Talks with the leaders of other white unions are currently under way and we hope to make an announcement soon," said Ungerer.

Although MWU president Cor de Jager said the MWU was not affiliated to any political organisation, Bruwer said it was no longer possible to avoid political choices.

He said white workers were "productive" while black workers went on strike whenever their "poor productivity was exposed".

He cited high unemployment, discrimination against white workers through US affirmative action programmes, scandalous workmens' compensation, intimidation of whites, mixed schools and Codesa as the biggest threats facing white workers.

De Jager said the MWU wanted ANC president Nelson Mandela, as the de facto president of SA, to note that white workers would fight for self-determination.

③ Gen (A)
Unisa land
STAR
ownership
29/1/92
course plan

Pretoria Bureau (A)

The University of South Africa (Unisa) is planning to train students in the legalities of land ownership and rights — in view of critical developments surrounding the land issue and the current lack of expertise in this field.

Three courses in Property Law are to be restructured to make them relevant to current land issues.

One of the papers is to focus exclusively on ownership of land and related issues. Special reference will be made to aspects such as sectional title, property timesharing, shareblock schemes, retirement schemes, planning and control of land use.

Part of the course will focus on the history of ownership, comparative law and theories of and criticism against ownership in the capitalist and socialist traditions.

A similar restructuring is envisaged for the existing optional LLB paper in Advanced Law of Property.

'Negotiate land issues'

STAR 29/11/92

19/3/92
2 Gen

CAPE TOWN — Land issues should be solved through negotiation and consensus rather than costly court proceedings which might take years to resolve, Jacob de Villiers, Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, said yesterday.

He told a press briefing that the Advisory Commission on Land Affairs would advise President de Klerk on the identification, use and ownership of land affected through previous discriminatory legislation.

Asked if the Government had ruled out establishing a land claims court, he said all alternatives had been discussed in Parliament and committees in 1991, and the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation was the result.

"To speculate on others would not serve any pur-

pose," he added.

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"The Government has, through this mechanism, made a real attempt to come to grips with the past and to deal with land claims effectively and expeditiously."

He invited all interested parties to give their full cooperation, and support the proceedings of the Commission.

"In my opinion, consensus through negotiation is a more viable method to solve the intricate land issues rather than reverting to costly court proceedings which might take years to resolve," he told the briefing. — Sapa.

Getting rid of dirt to feed the poor

NATIONAL Sorghum Breweries has come up with a novel idea of how to deal with the scourge of littering in black residential areas.

The company is soon to embark on a unique project that will see tons of garbage lying in the black townships turned into high-quality compost ideal for agriculture and horticulture.

This, in turn, will introduce blacks into the world of farming.

Bio-conversion

The multi-million rand project, the first of its kind in South Africa, was unveiled by the executive chairman of NSB, Mr Mohale Mahanyele, at a media conference in Johannesburg this week.

Mahanyele said the project would take between three and six months to get off the ground.

The first bio-conversion site, which will cost about R20 million, will be located at the Pelindaba Brewers, formerly called Kwaggakop, near Atteridgeville.

Training

This is where rubbish that would have been collected in the townships will be dumped and recycled into compost.

According to Mahanyele, once the massive venture is in progress, it will be a major industry in the black community.

It will initially be managed by NSB engineers, who will soon undergo training in the United States.

The environmentally friendly technique is the most advanced that has been developed to date. It has been in operation in Texas and Arizona and will be the first time the technology is used outside the United States.

"We are aware that the black community is the worst affected by littering. Garbage is not collected regularly in the townships and as a result it has become a health hazard in the streets.

Environment

"The situation has been aggravated by local authorities being unable to handle garbage in their respective areas.

"We are the biggest consumers of sorghum beer in the world and we have an

Sowetan 30/11/12 3:00 PM

A unique project to introduce blacks to the world of agriculture

By **NKOPANE MAKOBANE**

image to take care of. We have been painfully aware that our product is said to litter the environment and we have now gone out to seek a solution.

"Although we constitute a small percentage, and there are people who contribute more in littering, we could not ignore the fact that we had an important role to play," Mahanyele said.

In line with black economic empowerment, the NSB saw this as another opportunity for the creation of jobs and economic advancement.

"As a company that derives its profits from the poor, many of whom live in squalor, we believe we are

the ones who should be in the forefront in this scheme.

"While we are addressing the waste problem, we are also going to empower our people.

"Local people will collect garbage and by this we would be creating jobs that are desperately needed. We are not going to purchase trucks, but encourage people to do it.

Benefit

"Garbage is not dirty if handled with the right engineering skills. We shall be engaging the know-how from the United States, while the equipment will come from South Africa.

"We also believe that this project is going to involve us in farming. It is definitely going to benefit

black farmers as we would be supplying them with first-class compost.

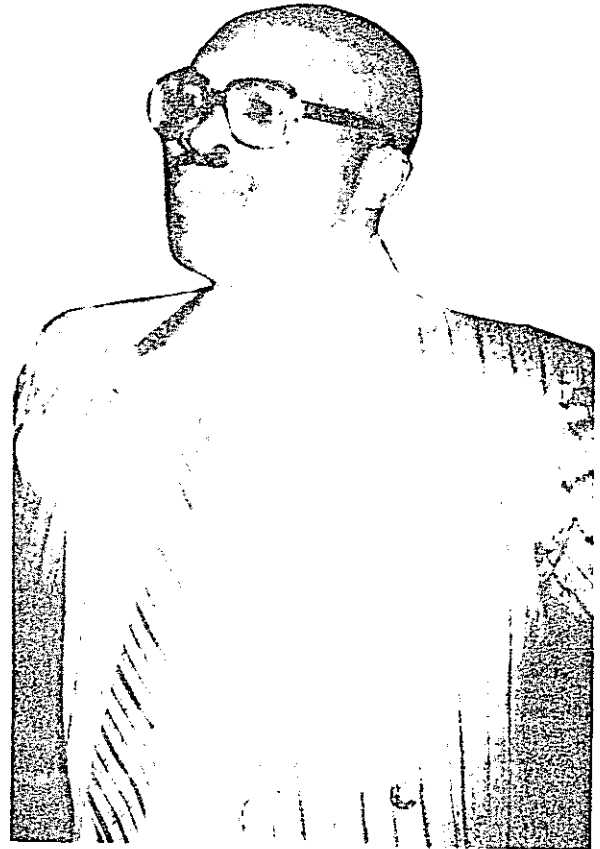
"Another good thing with this project is that it will engage universities, especially the University of the North. Our students will have an opportunity to engage in real-life research," he said.

Objective

Mahanyele said it was their long-term objective that such plants be established all over South Africa.

He said for starters, the operation would be run by the NSB and, once viable, would have its own identity.

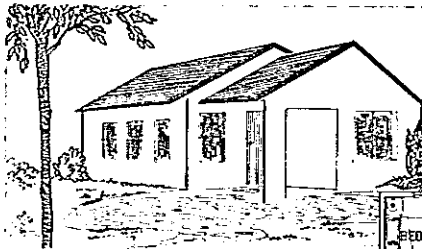
He believed that the PWV area would need about 10 plants to work sufficiently.



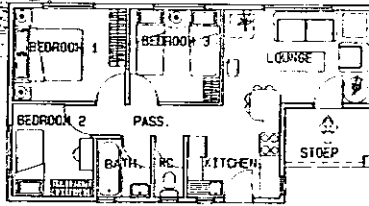
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maize. "Fortunately," Cownie says, "we held back about 1,1Mt from last year's crop (of which 700 000 t is white maize for human consumption) as a carry-over stock. And we have shelved all exports, apart from the balance of the 100 000 t contracted to Zimbabwe."

Good rains in the next week could salvage some of the late-planted maize now going into the crucial tasselling stage but, if the drought and heat wave go on, imports may be needed to meet annual requirement for about 6,5Mt.

Damage is irreparable in some areas.

In the Free State, not only maize but also sunflower, sorghum and bean crops are withering and grazing is rapidly losing its value. The Free State Agricultural Union's Lulu de Jager says it has already applied to government for emergency relief.

The far north-eastern Transvaal is having its driest, hottest summer in recorded history. Grazing is non-existent, rivers and dams are baked dry by the searing heat and boreholes are drying up. Farmers across the Bushveld and Lowveld areas are already slaughtering cattle and even game.

Tropical and subtropical fruit and vegetables are at risk. The Letaba and adjoining Lowveld districts near the Mozambican border produce a major part of the citrus crop and almost all the avocados and mangoes for export.

The normally lush Tzaneen is described as grey by a Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman who fears that, as water runs out, daily temperatures of 35°C-40°C will begin to kill fruit trees. "This would mean a major setback for four to five years."

The eastern Cape is another area in jeopardy after four years of worsening drought. The main irrigation and water supply dams are running dry.

Fortunately, the wheat crop is well above last year's 1,65Mt, with about 2,12Mt expected from Cape, Free State and Transvaal farmers. As a winter crop it escaped some of the damage inflicted on later crops.

Wheat Board manager Piet Vermeulen says: "Free State farmers especially benefited from a 1,16Mt crop, well above last year's 693 000 t. With carry-over stocks of 320 000 t in our silos, we should easily meet this year's local demand of about 2,1Mt."

Sunflowers could still be planted in western areas of the Transvaal and Free State if rains return but the crop will probably be below last year's 580 000 t, says Oilseeds Board GM Jan du Preez.

Groundnuts benefited from early rains in some areas and may exceed last year's 85 000 t, while soya should be well below last year's 125 000 t. The cotton crop may drop to 180 000 bales, from last year's 248 000, while grain sorghum faces a sharp fall from last year's 260 000 t to about 220 000 t.

Natal has not had enough rain for sugar producers though the crop is not in danger now, says Cane Growers' Association's Brian Sugden. Last year the sugar crop grossed R2,46bn with exports earning R530m.

Other export crops looking good are deciduous fruit and citrus. Unifruco GM Louis Kriel expects a record deciduous crop and higher export receipts than last year's R1,46bn.



Drought damage ... river beds baked dry

Citrus Exchange CE Doug Stanton says there is enough irrigation water for this year's crop, which should at least equal last year's exports of 31,5m cartons, earning R1,1bn in forex.

Red meat consumers may benefit from the drought as farmers are forced to unload stock on the markets. If the Meat Board allows the market to operate normally, the increased supply will drive down prices later this year. Which means that prices will shoot up again as soon as the rains return and farmers rebuild stocks.

Wool Board GM Jan Kievit says that while enforced slaughtering of wool sheep could sharply reduce the seasonal clip to 85m kg, higher wool prices could push up export earnings from last year's R697m to an expected R788m this year.

Weather Bureau forecasting director Gert Schultz says: "Normal summer rains are brought about by Atlantic highs feeding in cool, moist air from the south, coupled with moist tropical air moving in from the north."

This year, however, the highs are over the land mass and are cutting off the moist air flows from north and south. Cold fronts, which normally sweep by south of the continent in summer, have left an unseasonal mark on the Cape, while the normal south-easterlies over the western Cape, which blow the moist air to the north, are absent.

Climatologists say local conditions may have been caused by the El Nino in the Pacific Ocean, a massive band of warmer-than-normal water which distorts global climatic patterns and creates droughts in the southern hemisphere. ■

'Bomb' at Moloi farm

City Press 2/2/92

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~~SA~~

By **MONWABISI NOMADLO**

A FAKE time-bomb was recently discovered on the Witklipbank farm bought by late Thembisa millionaire Charles Moloi, police said.

Moloi caused a sensation when he bought two farms from rightwing owners in CP territory, and as the cherry on top, employed a white manager.

East Rand police liaison officer Lieutenant Wikus Weber said police received a tip-off about the bomb from an anonymous caller.

Weber said police experts were sent to the area and the bomb, which had a timer, was removed.

No explosives

He said there were no explosives in the bomb, but added that it must have been assembled by a professional. The bomb was placed a short distance from the main house, Weber said.

He added that police were investigating the matter and the motive was still unknown.

Police could not rule out that it was a racially motivated act, he said.

However the Moloi family denied any knowledge of a bomb on their farm.

Charlie, Moloi's younger son who is managing the farm, said the family was disturbed by the news of the bomb and the fact that the police did not inform

them about it.

The Moloi family first learnt about the bomb when they were contacted by City Press for comment.

Moloi, a diabetic, died in December.

His former white farm manager, Bruce Ivy, was dismissed in October because he was "unproductive", a family member said.

Ivy, now a fugitive from the Delmas police, is wanted in connection with a charge of attempted murder after he allegedly went berserk and raided the home of his black lover, Sophie, for whom he had already started paying lobola.

He fired several shots at her father, David Mahlangu, with his rifle. Ivy has not been seen since. A warrant for his arrest has been issued.

In another development Charlie told City Press that the farmhouse was badly damaged after police raided the house in search of Ivy.

Charlie said the doors of the house (inside and outside) were kicked to pieces, the ceiling was damaged and the carpet was torn.

"But how could they look for a man under a carpet?" he asked.

However, Weber said the family should lay a complaint against the police, who were allegedly led by a Captain Venter.

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Drought-hit far north farmers hope for new livelihood in towns

ARC 13 | 2/92
(3)

The Argus Correspondent

PIETERSBURG. — With temperatures soaring beyond 40deg C and little hope of rain in sight, many drought-stricken far northern Transvaal farmers have decided to abandon the land.

Strict water restrictions are in force in several towns. Louis Trichardt residents are not allowed to water gardens, as dwindling water supplies from the Albasini Dam and a few boreholes were being conserved for domestic use.

Residents blamed the drastic drop in underground supplies on uncon-

trolled usage by private owners, who used expensive drilling and pumping equipment.

The town engineer of Louis Trichardt was not available for comment.

In the Soutpansberg district drought devastation is evident. Pitifully thin cattle search listlessly for forage in the desert-like bushveld. Parched hollows are the only evidence left of once full farm dams. In places where grazing was once plentiful, only stones remain.

Transvaal Agriculture Union president Dries Bruwer recently predicted

that many farmers would leave their land this year if it did not rain.

An attorney said the number of pending insolvencies in the far north was disturbing. The chances of selling drought-stricken farms were remote and several farmers were simply riding out the crisis in low-paid town jobs, optimistic that they could take up farming again when the rains came.

The worst hit drought areas in the north are the Ellisras and Koedoesrand districts near the Botswana border, Alldays, Messina and Tshipise, as well as most of Gazankulu and large parts of northern Lebowa.

For the record ^{Star} 3/2/92

A report in The Star Friday, stating that a merger between Sentraal Wes Co-op and Kroonstad Wes Co-op was on the cards because of financial difficulties being experienced by Sentraal Wes, was incorrect. In fact, the proposed merger arises out of Kroonstad Wes's financial difficulties. Sentraal Wes is one of South Africa's most financially healthy co-ops.

(30) (3) gen

N Tvl farmers quit land as drought bites

By Dirk Nel (3) Gen
Northern Transvaal Bureau

STAR 3/2/92

PIETERSBURG — With temperatures soaring beyond 40 deg C. and little hope for relief in sight, many drought-stricken far northern Transvaal farmers have decided to abandon the land and seek a livelihood in towns.

Strict water restrictions are in force in several towns.

Louis Trichardt residents are not allowed to water their gardens because dwindling water supplies from the Albasini Dam and a few boreholes are being conserved for domestic use. The Star was told.

A resident blamed the drastic drop in underground water supplies on the uncontrolled water usage of private landowners, who could afford expensive drilling and pumping equipment.

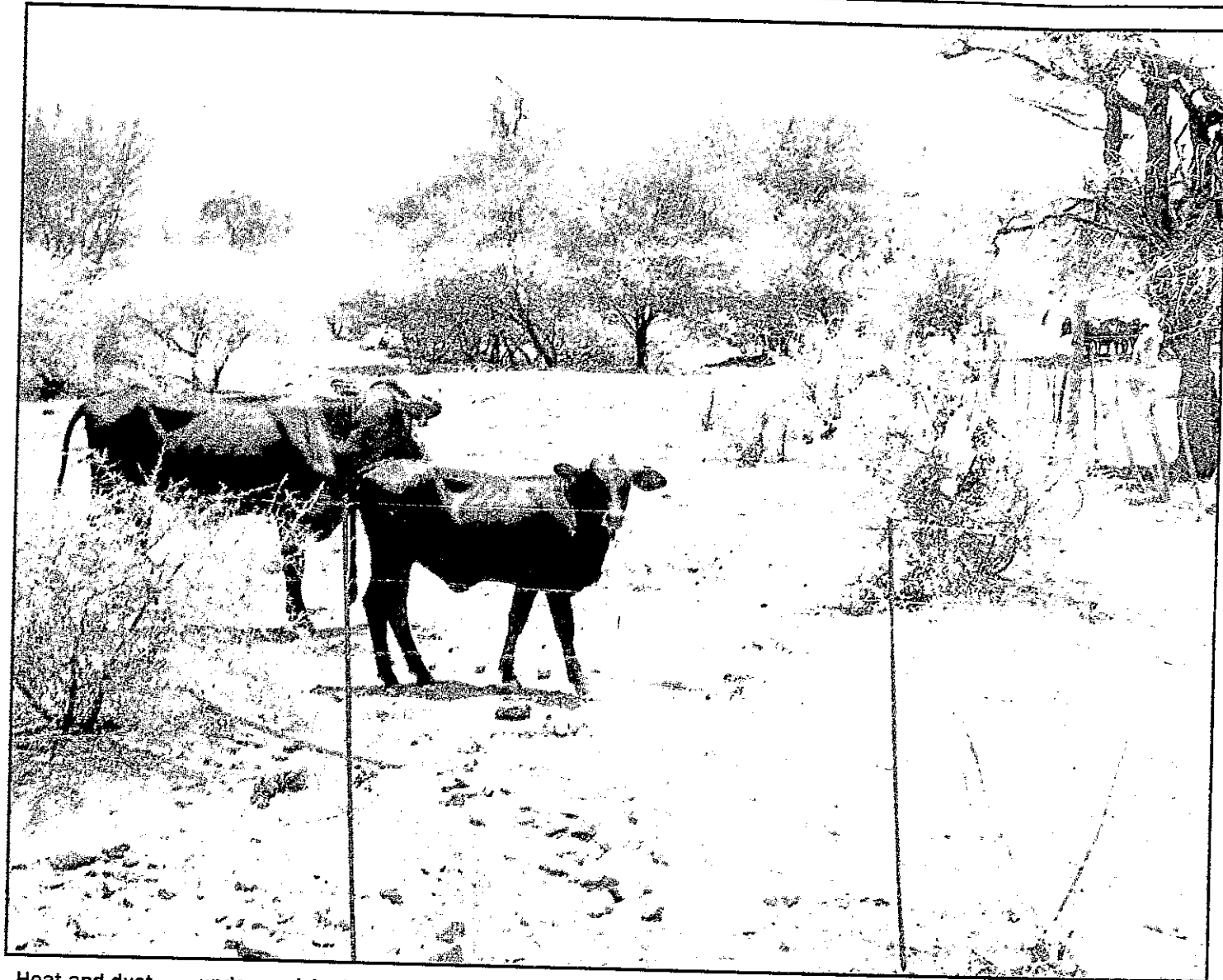
When The Star visited the Soutpansberg district, the devastation from the drought was evident everywhere.

In the Alldays area, pitifully thin cattle searched for food in the desert-like bushveld. Parched hollows were the only evidence of once-full farm dams. Where grazing was once plentiful, only stones remained.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer recently predicted that many farmers would leave their land this year if it did not rain. It is clear that the exodus has begun in the Soutpansberg area, though no statistics are available.

An attorney said the number of pending insolvencies in the far north was disturbing. The chances of selling drought-stricken farms were remote, and several farmers were simply riding out the crisis in low-paid town jobs, optimistic that they could take up farming again when the rains came.

The worst-hit drought areas in the north are the Ellisras and Koedoesrand districts near the Botswana border, Alldays, Messina and Tshipise, as well as most of Gazankulu and large parts of northern Lebowa.



Heat and dust . . . undernourished cattle in the desert-like bushveld near Alldays in the far northern Transvaal.

FOR GENERATIONS the land has been a powerful and emotive subject. It has underpinned the identities of communities and nations and, as such, has been a principal cause of intercommunity and international conflict.

Given SA's turbulent history of voluntary and involuntary population movements, the land issue is a political and economic minefield. Any resolution will entail addressing two apparently conflicting objectives: the political necessity to remedy some of the historical inequities of apartheid; and the need to enhance rural productivity and economic sustainability.

The most commonly mooted means to address the socio-political objective is land reform. In particular, it has been suggested that significant areas of productive land should be transferred rapidly to black smallholder farmers. While proponents of such a policy believe this would not jeopardise rural productivity, the reality is quite different.

The experience of developing countries which have implemented radical land reform, such as Mexico and Egypt, is not encouraging. It has proved difficult to enhance the productivity of recipient farmers through support programmes. In addition, the benefits of these programmes have tended to be captured by rich farmers at the expense of poor small farmers.

A central problem is a shortage of able entrepreneurs who are expected to run the new smallholdings. Many talented rural dwellers tend to migrate to cities where there are better economic opportunities. This problem has also been encountered in Botswana, where attempts to establish smallholder farms in Pandamatenga in the northeast have largely failed.

In 1990/91, there were reports of the apparent viability of a number of smallholder projects in Natal and the northeastern Transvaal. Considerable enthusiasm was engendered for smallholder farming as the solution to the problem of rural unemployment and the key to household food security. On closer examination, however, the viability

Cities will suffer if not built on a sound rural base

B/day 3/2/92

③ General

PAUL FOSTER and CHRISTOPHER GREGORY

of these projects was found to be questionable.

Political pressures to implement radical land reform will remain. These may be given added impetus by events in the region. After 12 years of independence in Zimbabwe, the issue is still high on the political agenda. In Namibia, last year's land conference established a presidential committee to examine ways of reforming the status quo.

Nevertheless, to safeguard the economic viability of SA's rural areas, such pressures must be held in check. Even on the basis of purely social criteria, large-scale land transfers may be undesirable. Black rural employment may be more secure under white commercial farmers than under a new system of black smallholdings. An appropriate rural sector strategy will therefore be gradualist. This would not only benefit the rural and national economies, but would also serve the interests of the rural poor.

Programmes to support smallholder farmers, such as those being run by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, are to be encouraged. However, before substantial amounts of land are transferred to new smallholders, the viability of such programmes must be unequivocally established.

The way in which smallholder programmes are developed will be critical to their chance of success. It is

crucial to avoid the growth of inefficient and unaccountable rural sector bureaucracies. The general approach should be to support independent, community-based institutions which are made accountable for their performance. In the area of housing finance, recent initiatives by the Independent Development Trust to support group-based lending schemes provide a useful precedent. Community-based institutions could

This was one of my prayers: for a parcel of land not so very large, which should have a garden and a spring of overflowing water near the house, and a bit of woodland as well as these.
— Horace, 65 BC — 8 AD.

also be used for the provision of agricultural inputs and the marketing of agricultural products.

However successful smallholder programmes become, there is a critical drawback to making them the cornerstone of a rural development strategy. This is that agriculture typically provides only a modest proportion of the total income of smallholders in SA.

This is partly because agricultural activities necessarily have a low re-

turn in the drier parts of the country. It is also due to the inherent riskiness of agriculture, which encourages people to diversify their sources of income as a risk-spreading strategy.

Low-yielding agricultural production is often the result of a deliberate and rational economic calculus. Given the risk of crop failure, or cattle death due to environmental factors, it may be rational not to invest too heavily in these activities, both in financial and labour terms.

An appropriate rural sector strategy will therefore also be diversified, to correspond with the diversified nature of rural incomes. This could include wildlife utilisation schemes, tourism, and public works programmes to rehabilitate the environment.

At national level, there is a danger that rural interests will be subordinated to urban interests under a new political dispensation. Under apartheid, agricultural policies for the white commercial farmers had much in common with those of many countries in the developed world. Agricultural product prices have been supported above market-clearing levels, while numerous other government measures have also protected the agricultural sector.

As in the developed world, these policies have been driven by the politically powerful farm lobby. In SA, this lobby has started to weaken, a process likely to continue. The re-

moval of excessive subsidies to this sector is to be welcomed, and represents a move to greater national economic efficiency. There is a danger, however, that the pendulum may be allowed to swing too far in the opposite direction.

As for most developing countries, the most important political constituencies in SA in the '90s are likely to be urban and industrial. In much of the Third World this has resulted in a litany of economic distortions which have retarded rural economies.

Food prices in urban areas are frequently depressed for the benefit of middle-class consumers, at the cost of government subsidies and lower producer prices. Depressed producer prices directly harm the rural sector, while government budgetary demands often damage the national economy through inflation and overvalued exchange rates. In turn, overvalued exchange rates penalise exports, which are often dominated by agricultural products.

Policies which discriminate against the rural sector also exacerbate urbanisation problems as rural/urban migration is accentuated.

It is critical that, as SA shifts the balance of its political constituencies, it does not follow these experiences. In reducing subsidies to the white commercial farm sector, the government should redirect these budgetary resources within the rural economy. Many Far Eastern industrial successes such as Japan and Taiwan achieved their early and rapid growth rates on the base of a healthy agricultural sector.

Given the large and fast expanding rural population in SA, substantially raised rural sector productivity is a necessary condition for successful national economic development. Insofar as a strong rural economy retards migration from the rural to the urban areas, it is also a necessary condition for the building of viable cities.

□ Foster was formerly an economist at the National Development Bank of Botswana and is now employed at Anglo American. Gregory, now a freelance writer researched the land question for Anglo. The views expressed, however, are their own.

Nelson	1 Head of Department
Mandela	1 Teacher
Oscar Mpetha	1 Head of Department
	2 Teachers
Langa	1 Head of Department
	3 Teachers
I D Mkize	1 Teacher
Fezeka	2 Teachers

Additional classroom places: Cape Peninsula

*14. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Training:

Whether any additional classroom places have been made available for the 1992 school year at primary and secondary schools in the Cape Peninsula; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many were made available at such (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and (b) what are the names of the schools involved?

B42E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Yes.

- (a) (i) 680 (as a result of the construction of new classrooms) 6 421 (due to the implementation of the platoon system)
- (ii) 420 (as a result of the construction of new classrooms) 8 240 (due to the implementation of the platoon system)
- (b) New classroom places as a result of the construction of new classrooms:

Primary	Classrooms	Places
Mkhanyiseli	3	120
Mfuleni	14	560
Secondary		
Langa	12	420

New classroom places as a result of the introduction of the platoon system:

Primary	Places
Ilifa	500
Chuma	960
Intshayelelo	960
Nkazimlo	1 040
Encotsheni	1 040
Liwa	333

Nomlingsaniselo	:	628
Linge	:	720
Hlengisa	:	240
Total	:	6 421
Secondary		
Ebutsheni	:	600
Intlanganisio	:	600
Ikamvaletu	:	370
Vuyiseka	:	250
Total	:	1 820
Grand Total	:	8 240

Note: The Department intends to build the following number of classrooms during 1992:

	Classrooms	Places
(a) Primary	: 156	6 240
(b) Secondary	: 83	2 905
Total	: 239	9 145

Transnet: hiring out of locomotives/carriages

*15. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:†

- (1) Whether Transnet Limited hires out or makes available railway locomotives and/or carriages to agencies in Africa; if so, (a) to whom and (b) for what consideration; *Hansard 4/2/92*
- (2) whether this consideration has been paid to date?

B44E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited replied as follows to the Honourable Member's question:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Malawi and Botswana.
- (b) Locomotive hire varies from R2 000 to R3 000 per day. Carriage hire amounts to R358 per day.
- (2) Yes, except in one case and arrangements in this instance have already been made.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

State Revenue Fund: amounts returned

Mr C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:†

- (1) Whether certain amounts for which provision was made in the estimates of his Department for the 1989-90 financial year were returned to the State Revenue Fund; if so, why;
- (2) whether he foresees such an eventuality again occurring in the 1991-92 financial year?

B112E.INT

*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the reply to the question of whether money from the Department of Agricultural Development's budget for the 1989-90 financial year was returned to the State Revenue Fund, is yes.

What actually happened is that unspent funds in the amount of R81,5 million were redeposited in the Revenue Account: House of Assembly by the Department of Agricultural Development in terms of the Exchequer Act, 1975. Included in this was an amount of R41,7 million voted for emergency relief in terms of section 8(1) of the Exchequer Act, 1975. It was held over for appropriation in the next financial year. The reason for this was that farmers could not timeously submit their claims for approved repairs after flood damage during the 1989-90 financial year. Owing to delays in the submission and disposal of claims in respect of floods in Natal and the Orange Free State, and particularly as a result of further rains and further floods, high river levels and a shortage of earth-moving contractors, farmers could not complete the planned repairs in the financial year concerned. Consequently this amount was redeposited in the appropriation for additional expenditure for the financial year ending 31 March 1991. It was voted for the same purpose in the 1990-91 financial year and spent. This is normal State accounting.

The lion's share of the balance of R39,8 million was originally voted for stock farmers' disaster

drought relief scheme but, in the 1989-90 financial year, the department received claims for only R15,91 million in respect of this scheme, and this was paid because it had rained and the drought did not persist.

In consequence, it is difficult to budget exactly for this disaster scheme. In the 1987-88 financial year, for instance, R76,01 million was budgeted and all of it paid. The next year the amount was also R76,17 million. In 1989-90 it was only R15,91 million. The next year we budgeted for R60 million but only R9,94 million was paid. This year we budgeted for only R30 million and we have already paid R45 million. This is as a result of the unpredictable nature of droughts for which we have to budget. Consequently when there are surplus funds they are carried over to the next year, as has happened now.

With regard to funds this year, the funds which were budgeted for drought last year were therefore rolled over, appear in this year's budget and are being spent. To the question of whether funds will be redeposited this year, the reply is also yes. On the basis of statistics in our possession, it appears that we are approximately 2% within the 2% limit of the total amount voted, which is normal.

*Mr C H PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, this question was put *inter alia* as a result of the most cynical comment which appeared in the Auditor-General's report on the appropriation in miscellaneous accounts of the Administration: House of Assembly for 1989-90 where the reason for this repayment is given, and this reason came from that hon Minister's department. I shall quote from page 32 of that report:

... the demand for financial assistance was less than expected, owing to improved agricultural conditions.

Does that hon Minister want to tell us now that his department furnished the Auditor-General with these statistics? From what other source could the Auditor-General have obtained them? Did his department say that agricultural conditions had improved during that period? I want to allege that this is an extremely cynical attitude which is characteristic of this Government and specifically that department's attitude toward farmers who are caught up in an unprecedented crisis.

I want to add that the hon the Minister of the National Intelligence Service contributes to this cynicism by the actions of his department and the local area committees which have now been formed to deal with the disaster. The Free State Agricultural Union says now that the problem is that not all magistrates in the Free State are aware of this and have not yet been instructed by the Department of Justice to act in accordance with it.

While our people are in the process of going under, the hon the Minister is spying on the former State President and the CP instead of instructing its magistrates to support farmers.

There is mention here of improved agricultural conditions. If one should take a look at the SAAU survey of agriculture which has just been published, one would see that the total farming profit, the net income after the payment of interest, for 1990-91 was almost R1,7 billion, or 25,4% lower than in 1989-90. These are improved agricultural conditions according to the NP Government.

The farmers' burden of debt has increased. And these are improved agricultural conditions! The fact that increases in the prices of farming requisites were 10,6% and surpassed those of products by a huge 5,3% indicates that the farmers' exchange ratio deteriorated further. According to that department, however, agricultural conditions in South Africa had improved.

The ever-increasing costs per unit produced thwart the export effort of agriculture. All that saves us is a negative thing, that is the decline of the rand. This is all that saves farming on that basis. That department says that agricultural conditions in South Africa have improved. To judge by any norm . . . [Time expired.]

*Mr W U NEL: Mr Speaker, it is clear that for some years a crisis has been developing in agriculture. The Government should have had a long-term strategy in this regard long ago. I am afraid it does not exist. In the coming year drastic relief measures will be required to assist farmers to survive a national disaster. This is clear.

I want to suggest that it is the immediate priority to make available a direct cash subsidy for the payment of cash wages to farm workers. This will obviously have to take place with the necessary control. I am saying this because, although there are tens of thousands of farmers who are in a

state of crisis and who could be helped successfully to survive it, we should remember that there are hundreds of thousands who would go under in a rationalisation programme and whose job opportunities would simply disappear.

We are talking about the future of farm workers. We spent billions of rands on decentralisation programmes to establish industries in the wrong places. Now there is suddenly an opportunity which the Government can use to save the future of hundreds of thousands of people in a relatively inexpensive manner and to keep them in employment where they will in any case be required again in the future as soon as climatic conditions improve.

It is the moral duty of this Government to react to this immediately before it is too late. It is also economically justifiable. Lastly, it is essential to do this to avert a tidal wave which would otherwise descend on our already chaotic and rapidly growing urban areas where we cannot easily accommodate them.

The people will never forgive this Government and this Parliament if we wake up too late.

*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, I am repeatedly amazed at the way in which the CP work with normal good budgeting procedures and then try to exploit the ignorance of farmers and the public for political gain.

*Mr C H PIENAAR: You are insulting farmers now.

*The MINISTER: This happens time and again. The reasons have been mentioned to that hon member times without number. [Interjections.] He even takes that report out in constituencies and tells voters that they should look at the Government, because it takes money and returns it and does not want to spend it on farmers.

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: That is true.

*The MINISTER: Is this how the hon member occupies his time? Is this how he misleads farmers?

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: You have just said it.

*The MINISTER: This is what the CP does time after time. Then farmers swallow it whole because the hon member quotes from a book and tells them to take a look at the way this

Government treats farmers. [Interjections.] They conduct dialogue as if they were the farmers' champions. Actually the SA Agricultural Union is the farmers' champion. The SA Agricultural Union and this Government have a firm agreement to talk to one another to iron out these problems.

*Mr C H PIENAAR: You are no champion.

*The MINISTER: When we have solved problems on the basis of orderly plans which are feasible at grassroots level, the CP wants to tear us apart as if they were the so-called champions. I consider it foolhardy to deal with farmers' interests in this way. [Interjections.] It is irresponsible to do it like this.

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: We are not as frightened as you.

*The MINISTER: The hon member for Mooi River spoke about assistance. We shall look into this. There is a procedure, however, that we have established for assistance to farmers via the SA Agricultural Union because one cannot apply the plans that one has made unilaterally if one does not have the co-operation of organised agriculture. I have taken note of the hon member's plans and I think that we shall be able to implement them. [Time expired.]

*Dr P J GOUS: Mr Speaker, the CP accepts that in this regard officials of the Department acted according to prescribed policy, a policy which is extremely limiting in view of the way in which the relief programmes have to be implemented. We accept this. Therefore there was a prescribed policy but it was extremely limiting and the problems actually hinge on this.

Surely we in South Africa have an example which is worthy of emulation. Surely we work according to the capitalist system, just as the USA, Canada and the EEC countries do. One thing that these countries will never do, however, is to jeopardise their provision of food by supporting their farming communities with inadequate funds, not to mention the failure to use budgeted funds. One simply does not see that the departments of agriculture of these countries fail to use budgeted money.

I want to give the hon the Minister a single example, namely Canada. He can ascertain the facts for himself. Over the past three months Canada has even used a year's budgeted amount

of R7,1 billion to subsidise farmers because their incomes are low. This amounts to as much as R60 000 per annum per farmer, in other words per farm.

What are we doing here in South Africa? We are doing the exact opposite. We do not take long-term decisions in South Africa. A standpoint of principle which is wrong is at issue here. Each of these hon Ministers sitting in front of me is equally guilty of this.

Our Government is squandering billions of non-production-orientated projects and then enormous sums of money are borrowed in an effort to pay the current expenditure of the State. We then have a high State-created rate of inflation and try to curb it by keeping interest rates sky high, interest rates above a level that any agricultural producer can afford. Instead of real steps to help farmers pay their accumulated debt of R18 billion, agricultural budgets are deliberately pruned almost annually. Even budgeted money is being redeposited while farmers are wretched and impoverished. [Time expired.]

*Mr C H PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister says we are politicising the issue but, after they had received a motion of no confidence and a flea in the ear in Bloemfontein and after the hon the Minister had nearly had a hiding, they slunk off to Kroonstad in typical Broederbond manner and held a secret meeting with NP farmers.

Some of the farmers present there had meanwhile joined the CP and told us what nonsense the hon the Minister had spoken there. What he did not tell them was that the hon the Deputy Minister of Agricultural Development, who is sitting next to him, said that he would rather live next to a Black than next to a CP member. This is the type of person with whom we have to co-operate. [Interjections.] He should go and tell the farmers in the Free State that the hon the Deputy Minister said this.

I want to know from him what he has to say about the standpoint emanating from his department that agriculture is not a strategic industry. I want to know whether he agrees that we can import food more cheaply than we can produce it here. [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, I do not know whether it is always an advantage to have a

member of the CP for a neighbour, but let us leave it at that in any case. [Interjections.] I do not know whether it is always an advantage. [Interjections.] (3) *ben*

With regard to assistance to agriculture, I want to say that in the past this Government has never turned its back on agriculture when there has been a problem.

*An HON MEMBER: That is not true.

*The MINISTER: Hon members can argue whether it was sufficient or too little and whether it was too early or too late, but the fact remains that every time the Government has come to the assistance of agriculture on the basis of merit and after a good evaluation, otherwise agriculture would have gone under by now. We have always done this in difficult times and we shall do it again now that agriculture is experiencing great difficulties. [Interjections.] That is why hon members need not fear that the Government will turn its back on agriculture; on the contrary, we are already engaged in an evaluation of it as hon members will hear later.

With regard to the fact that the budget for agriculture is deliberately cut every year, my reply is that this is devoid of all truth.

*Mr C H PIENAAR: But why do you cut it?

*The MINISTER: It is not true that we cut it. The need is identified on the basis of budgetary procedures and then we budget for that need. We do deal with subsidies in this direct way in the agriculture budget. We deal with them in different ways and not necessarily in the same way as in the past.

Secondly, I want to reply to the question in connection with agriculture as a strategic industry. Of course, the production of food is of paramount importance and that is why agriculture receives high priority in terms of the budget and we take a good look at agriculture because it provides us with food in this country, because it is important to the infrastructure of rural areas, and because approximately 25% to 30% of the economy of this country is related to agricultural production and agricultural activities in a certain sense. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

School models B and C: Transvaal

*1. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) Whether any cases have been brought to his attention where members of management councils have in an irregular manner persuaded parents in the Transvaal to vote in favour of school models B and C; if so, what cases;
- (2) whether he intends taking any steps in this connection; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B3E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) No, however I am aware of complaints about attempts to persuade parents.
- (2) No, because steps have already been taken.

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, if it is brought to his attention and can be proved that management council members persuaded people through positive misrepresentation—to use a better word, fraud—to vote for Model B or Model C, is he prepared to take steps to set aside the system which he implemented as a result of a referendum based on such fraud?

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Speaker, in every case where for instance I also received complaints about attempts at persuasion, I thoroughly examined, on the merits of the case, all sides to the matter, tried to obtain all the information possible and took decisions accordingly. If then in future I receive such duly motivated, founded allegations, I shall investigate them in the same manner.

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I wish to say, with respect, that he is not answering my question. The question is whether he is prepared, in cases where fraud has been committed

upon parent communities by management councils or management council members, to set aside the system which he implemented on the basis of a referendum result.

(2) yes,

- (a) Laerskool Dr Havinga and Hoërskool Florida,
- (b) on the grounds of the well motivated recommendations submitted by the respective chairmen of the management councils and because there are other schools in the immediate vicinity to which parents who are not in favour of the conversion, can send their children. The deviation (a shortfall of 1,48% in both cases) from the required percentages in the above instances was very small and acceptable reasons were given;

(3) no, because adequate provision exists.

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to know what margin, in percentage, he allows on the required percentages for implementing a model before he says it is too great a margin, and in spite of the requests, he is not going to implement the model.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have not set any standards whereby I allow deviations. Deviations are allowed on the basis of the circumstances applying in each case and after proper consideration.

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to say that from his original reply we know that percentages laid down in the circulars from his Department were not complied with. In this particular case he said that there was a margin of 1, something which meant that the percentage was not attained. How great must that margin be before the hon the Minister does not take into account any submission or good arguments or anything and goes and implements a model?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I hoped the hon member would understand that I have already replied to that. He is referring to the circulars that were sent. In the circular it is clearly stated that the percentage vote in favour of a change would, although important, not necessarily be decisive and from the nature of the case the Minister would also take other facts into account.

It is those factors that I am taking into account in each case.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we have a system in use. I cannot undo the system because it might possibly have been contravened in a few cases. No, I cannot. In every case, as I replied in the first instance, I will—if I get well-founded complaints within the system—investigate the complaints. [Interjections.]

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising further from the hon the Minister's reply, I wonder whether he would take steps in cases in which schools did not attain the required majority as a result of the distribution of fallacies and fraudulent material to pupils, to hand to their parents, by the CP's front organisation and The Own Schools Association at the gates of schools?

An HON MEMBER: Disgraceful!

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, should I receive information regarding that, it would receive my attention in the same manner as I have already explained. [Interjections.]

West Rand: school model C

*2. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) Whether the voting percentages required for the implementation of school model C were met at two schools in the West Rand area, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (2) whether, despite the voting percentages recorded, he has granted permission for the implementation of school model C at these schools; if so, (a) what are the names of the schools and (b) on what grounds did he grant permission;
- (3) whether any steps are contemplated to protect the rights of the parents who did not vote in favour of school model C; if so, what steps?

B4E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) No,

Innovative deal by Landmark

Analysts describe current commercial and industrial property market conditions as tough. Which is a good time, believe many players, to get innovative about property broking.

Someone who definitely backs this way of thinking is Max Braude, managing director, Landmark, who has just negotiated a very creative deal between a buyer and a seller for a building in Braamfontein with what would have seemed to the average onlooker as some insurmountable problems.

"The buyer wanted extensive renovations. They wanted ownership but with a very small deposit. The building did not warrant more than an 80 percent bond and the seller was not pre-

pared to settle for a rental," says Mr Braude.

"We priced the renovations at one third again of the building's value. Then we were able to raise a bond for 80 percent of the total — ie of 130 percent of the original unrenovated value."

Problem

The next problem was that the buyer did not want to put-down even the 20 percent still required to make the sale.

Which is when Landmark got

creative. They devised an instalment deed of sale plan

which enabled the buyer to put down a 10 percent deposit and make up a 30 percent deposit over two years through three balloon payments culminating in the payment of the balance outstanding at the end of the two-year period.

"The buyer and seller signed joint liability for a bond of 30 percent.

"The seller took a separate bond of 40 percent of the renovated value of the building as cash in hand and the interest

being paid by the buyer services that bond in the hand of the seller.

"It's an intricate financial deal that took us about three months to negotiate."

Investors

Many property investors are currently advising against high gearing. Should the deal sour or lower inflation curb the expected increase in building value, some investors would certainly take the view that the lender of the finance has put too much at stake.

Is this a risky deal? Mr Braude believes not.

"Yes, the cost of money is high but the property value will increase and at the end of the day, I believe the capital cost is cheap. We have also done factory developments at close to 100 percent finance. In an inflation economy, to buy with tomorrow's money means you get the property at next to nothing at the end of the day.

"These deals are not for everyone. They're tailored for the company that has a good cash flow but low capital."

STAR 5/2/92.

③ ~~1992~~

The Star Wednesday February 5 1992

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Another innovative move by Landmark is the conclusion of another Braamfontein sale — through conversion of a building that languished on the market for months without a buyer. In this case, the buyer is Studywell College and the building is No 102 De Korte Street.

"The building was gutted and a basement floor added to create a beautiful new college campus for Studywell," says Mr Braude.

The renovation lifted the value of 102 De Korte Street by 80 percent.

"The bond was granted, with a top up overdraft facility available, on the basis of quantity surveyors' figures," said Mr Braude.

The Star COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL Property guide



This regular Commercial and Industrial property feature has been written and compiled by Susan Ramwell in co-operation with leading figures in the property industry.

Farmers face bankruptcy

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Thousands of Transvaal and Free State farmers face sequestration as a result of total crop failure in some areas, and agriculture experts predict South Africa will have to import up to R3 million tons of maize to meet demand in 1992.

The drought and heat have

devastated thousands of hectares of crops, and veld fires are destroying the only grazing land left, according to National Maize Producers Organisation spokesman Giel van Zyl.

Neighbouring states had also suffered massive crop failures and would have to import large amounts of maize through South African harbours.

Mr van Zyl warned that there could be food shortages because the transport

STAR 5/2/92 3^{pen}

Drought forces maize imports

system would be inadequate to import the amount of maize that may be needed.

He also warned of an increase in rural unemployment and failure of rural businesses because of farmers leaving the land.

"The country's entire socio-economic structure is being threatened. We are

seeing a real threat to the consumer and we need drastic measures to address this crisis," he said.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk is in daily contact with officials of his department. He plans to survey farms in the OFS and western Transvaal by helicopter next week and attend meetings in Kroonstad and

Bethel. Various political parties and agricultural authorities are due to meet him.

A national day of prayer has been organised for this Sunday.

The SA Agricultural Union has predicted that the maize crop could fall below 5 million tons this year, the smallest crop in a decade.

Sources said farmers were

abandoning farms and seeking work in the towns. Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said that at the Lichtenburg Co-operative alone, about 600 of the 1 800 member-farmers had been financially ruined.

Without the farmers and their labourers, many rural towns would turn into ghost towns, Mr van Zyl said. "This domino effect will have serious repercussions for the whole economy."

He said the drought was the worst in decades and would inflict suffering on farmers for years to come.

Another effect of the drought was the necessity for farmers to sell their cattle for immediate finance, thereby flooding the market and getting lower prices.

There was also concern that extreme drought in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Tanzania was forcing hungry subsistence farmers over the border into South Africa.

Drought driving thousands of ^③ farmers off land

ARG b/2/72

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Thousands of Transvaal and Free State farmers are facing sequestration as a result of crop failures.

And agriculture experts predict South Africa will have to import up to R3-million tons of maize to meet the demand this year.

The continuing drought and heat have devastated thousands of hectares of crops, and veld fires are destroying the only grazing land left, according to National Maize Producers' Organisation spokesman Mr Giel van Zyl.

Neighbouring states have also had huge crop failures and would have to import large amounts of maize through South African harbours.

Mr Van Zyl warned that there could be food shortages because the transport system would be inadequate to import the amount of maize which may be needed both locally and by South Africa's neighbours.

He also warned of an increase in rural unemployment and failure of rural businesses because of farmers leaving the land.

"The country's entire socio-economic structure is being threatened. We are seeing a real threat to the consumer and we need drastic measures to address this crisis," he said.

The situation has drawn the attention of parliament, and Agriculture Minister Mr Kraai van Niekerk said he was in daily contact with his department officials.

He is to survey farms in the Free State and Western Transvaal by helicopter next Monday and Tuesday and will attend meetings in Kroonstad and Bethel.

The SA Agricultural Union has predicted that the maize crop could fall below five-million tons this year, the smallest crop in a decade.

Sources said farmers were abandoning their farms and seeking work in the towns. The president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Dries Bruwer said at Lichtenburg Co-operative alone about 600 of the 1800-member farmers are financially ruined.

Mr Van Zyl said the drought was the worst in decades and would inflict suffering on the remaining farmers for years to come.

Tuks caters for top ^{3 Gen} agriculture students

STAR 6/2/92
Pretoria Correspondent

Forty students from as far afield as Zaire, Ghana and India have enrolled at the University of Pretoria's newly established Post Graduate School of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The number includes men and women of all races. They begin their studies on February 17.

According to agriculture dean Professor Johan van Zyl, the school's purpose is "to serve rural communities by facilitating agriculture and rural development through excellence in scholarship, teaching, learning and research".

Professor van Zyl said the agriculture department had up until the present trained post-graduate students to do research, but there was an urgent need for subject matter specialists

and extensionists as practical links between researchers and farmers.

The school will make use of specialists in many disciplines who are associated with the agriculture department.

Initially, Professor van Zyl will head the school but a specialist director is envisaged in the future.

The school, the only one of its kind in southern Africa, offers post-graduate degrees in agricultural economics, extension, animal production, land-use planning, plant production and plant protection.

Professor van Zyl said a year's study at similar schools overseas would cost students as much as R55 000 in England and R50 000 in the United States. A year's study at the Pretoria school would cost a mere R3 700, he said.

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Drought to be debated in Parliament

8/Day 6/2/92
CAPE TOWN — The drought in large parts of the Republic is to be debated in the House of Assembly today as a matter of public importance.

The House's Order Paper showed the debate was proposed by CP chief whip Frank le Roux.

Agriculture Minister Kraal van Niekirk is scheduled to visit the drought-stricken summer grain-producing areas early next week.

(3) Gen
He expressed concern about the critical situation in the Free State and Transvaal in particular.

The SA Agricultural Union is to discuss the gravity of the situation with the Ministry of Agriculture at a meeting scheduled for February 14.

The Red Meat Producers' Organisation warned producers could face serious problems unless it rained soon. — Sapa.

SURE Holdings Limited

Final meeting of the Company of last day to register for the 10% cumulative automatically convertible preference shares ("convertible")

mitted is authorised to announce that the Company to proceed with the will lead to a strategic alliance with ited ("Inhold") were approved at the etings of the Company, Inhold and Investec") held on 31 January 1992. At the Company resolutions increasing pital of the Company by the creation preference shares and sanctioning their

Harvestime to retrench 300

8/Day 6/2/92
PORT ELIZABETH — Frozen food manufacturer Harvestime is to retrench about 500 people nationwide because of severe drought in the Eastern Cape and the recession.

Harvestime chairman and Table Top MD Gert Schoonraad said 300 of those to be retrenched worked at the company's frozen vegetable plant in Port Elizabeth.

Schoonraad said the drought was causing a lack of adequate supplies. Operations in Port Elizabeth had to be scaled down, due mainly to declining demand.

The decline in demand was probably being caused by the current state of the economy, with people eating more cheaply, he said. — Sapa.

Van Niekerk set for aerial 'scorched earth' inspection

③ ARG 7/2/92

45 MPs to attend whistle-stop meetings as drought deepens

ALAN DUNN
Political Correspondent

AGRICULTURE Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk will address drought-hit farmers and personally survey scorched crops in a helicopter tour next week of some of the worst areas.

He has invited about 45 MPs to attend meetings he will address on Monday and Tuesday in Kroonstad and Bethal.

In terms of an agreement between him and the Conservative Party, Transvaal Agricultural Union chairman Mr Dries Bruwer and Free State Agricultural Union chairman Dr Piet Gous, both of them MPs, will accompany him in their political capacities.

Dr van Niekerk, accompanied also by his deputy Mr Tobie Meyer and senior officials, will visit Bloemfontein, Senekal, Bethlehem, Vrede, Heilbron and Bothaville on Monday.

On Tuesday, he will fly to Klerksdorp, Wolmaranstad, Scheizer-Reineke, Lichtenburg, Ventersdorp, Potchefstroom, Vereeniging, Greylingstand, Standerton, Morgenson, Davel, Bethal, Trichardt, Devon, Springs and Pretoria.

The government has an emergency scheme to feed farmers and their workers who are going hungry because of the drought.

Aid committees would be set up immediately to start supplying those in need, Minister of Health Dr Rina Venter announced as the House of Assembly debated what was described as the "worst drought this century".

Health, agricultural and welfare officials, and members of national women's organisations would form these committees to judge individual cases.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said of the drought: "It looks as though the 12 plagues of Egypt and a few more are queueing to ravage agriculture."

He said in a special debate marked by general agreement between the parties that it was not only the farmer facing hard times. It was every worker, every rural inhabitant, every rural business, every rural official.

The whole rural economy was at stake, he said.

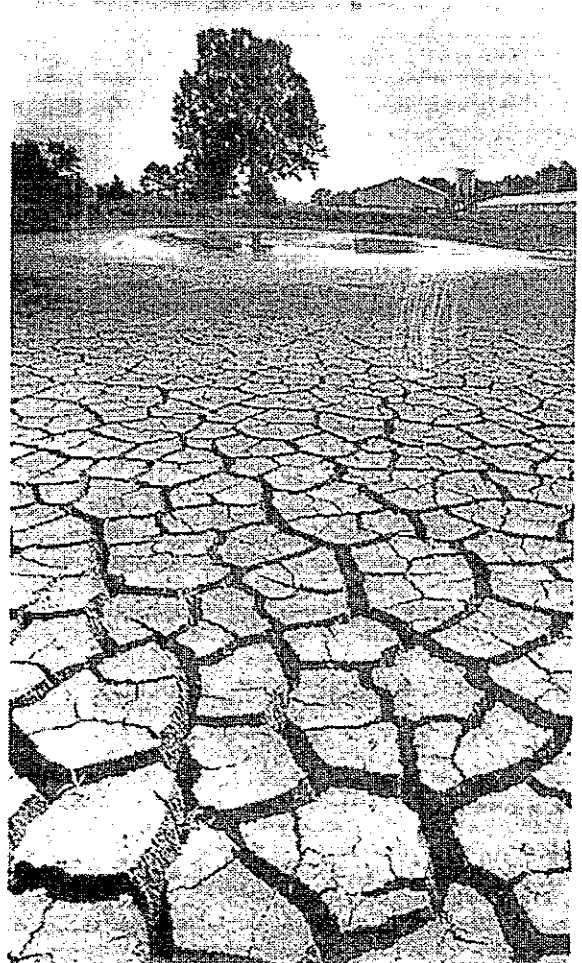
Other implications were less food, which was costlier and poorer in quality, and greater dependence on imported food, which was inferior and more expensive.

Food self-sufficiency in South Africa was an important priority: "This makes agriculture a strategic business and that is what it is in the government's eyes."

The country had lost many farmers for various reasons in past years.

"The disaster now hitting us leaves farmers again staring insolvency in the face."

South Africa could not afford to lose more competent farmers, particularly in circumstances over which they had little or no control.



Dr Venter

Dr Van Niekerk

The State would therefore have to establish aid measures to keep farmers on their lands as far as possible. This would have to be done individually. Organised agriculture could help by surveying

the financial positions of each farmer. But the intensity of the damage had first to be determined, and the first reasonably reliable crop estimates could only be done in the middle of March.

"After this the aid wheels can really start turning faster," he said.

He assured farmers of government understanding and sympathy "in their hour of need". The State would not turn its back on them and would help them again within its financial capacity.

"I have cleared this principle with the Cabinet and it is again positively confirmed," he said.

Agriculture ministers had in the past never returned from the Cabinet empty-handed when a disaster struck agriculture, Mr Van Niekerk said.

But he said it took time and "does not happen overnight".

"This does not mean we are dragging our feet and I appeal for understanding for the processes and prescribed budgetary procedures."

The government would have to look not only to farmers, but agricultural communities as a whole.

It was worrying that co-operatives were, as a result, facing a crunch. Some had been sequestered. Some faced amalgamation.

Attention would have to be given this — without co-operatives there would be chaos in the agricultural sector.

Mr Van Niekerk said all financial institutions with an interest in agriculture would have to contribute to solving these problems.

"I therefore appeal to the Land Bank, commercial banks and other creditors not to act hastily or irresponsibly in these difficult times. It would be in nobody's interest."

Mr Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg) described the drought as the worst this century. He said city dwellers, the government, the ANC and other organisations did not seem to realise what was happening, and the consequences.

It was the big, expert farmers who were collapsing. All sectors should jointly act to prevent a catastrophe.

Mr Bruwer, also chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said that if it did not rain by Sunday there would be no crops left in the Western Transvaal.

In central Transvaal (Delmas, Middelburg), less than a 40 percent crop remained.

In Eastern Transvaal conditions were critical. Eighty percent of the crops had been damaged.

The Northern Transvaal, which had had periodic droughts since 1974, was on its knees. Various co-operatives were collapsing, Mr Bruwer said.

Mr Mike Tarr (DP Maritzburg North) said tragedy threatened. The drought stalking the rural areas would affect all, he said, raising the prospect of a 30 to 50 percent increase in food prices.

It would cause further unemployment and government should be planning relief.

Drought expected to push up food prices

STAR 7/2/92

By Paula Fray
Consumer Reporter

3 pens

The prices of agricultural produce are set to soar as consumers pick up the high cost of the searing drought gripping the country.

Unless the present heatwave over various farming areas is broken soon, embattled consumers reeling under double-digit food inflation could face even harsher price increases.

Yesterday, National Co-operatives Dairies Ltd group manager Dr Martiens Hermann announced an 8,02c increase in the producer's price of milk from March 1 because of the drought.

Similar increases would be passed on to wholesalers, but there was no need for retailers to pass on the increases to consumers "immediately", Dr Hermann said. NCD controls a third of the dairy market.

This follows a Meat Board warning that drought conditions in the country could push the price of meat up by an estimated 15 to 24 percent this year.

The Meat Board's management information systems head, Jurie Snyman, said if it did not rain within the next two weeks there would be "drastic consequences for the meat industry

and carcasses would have to be bought in".

On Monday, the Meat Board announced price increases of 3,3 percent for beef, 2,8 percent for mutton and 13,3 percent for pork.

However, the Consumer Council has warned that consumers expect to benefit from surpluses and would turn to alternative products if meat prices soared again.

"Consumers will buy less meat if prices increase in spite of the expected surplus of this product due to the drought," said Consumer Council executive director Jan Cronje.

Meat prices soared by 38,8 percent last year, according to the Central Statistical Service.

Mr Cronje said consumers were strapped for cash as a result of the economic recession and would resist price increases that were not in line with the principle of demand and supply.

"In the interest of the survival of their industry, producers and marketers of red meat are advised to keep the depleted buying power of consumers in mind before increasing the price of their products indiscriminately," said Mr Cronje.

There is widespread concern in agricultural circles about the effect of the drought on the

maize market as a disastrous year for maize could ripple through to other industries.

Maize Board spokesman Piet Denysschen said the conditions were still dry and there had already been damage to crops.

"Indications are there will be a shortage of maize for local consumption," he said. Maize would then have to be imported.

Exact figures on the effect of the drought could not be given as the "situation is changing" on a daily basis, he said.

Consumers will know in March how the drought has affected maize crops as the board meets then to decide on prices for the next year.

A source in the food industry reiterated market concern for the maize crop — not just as a feed but as a basic foodstuff under threat of shortages.

"Shortages would, on the principle of demand and supply, push up prices," he said.

According to the source, the citrus and vegetable growing areas in the Gamtoos Valley of the eastern Cape, already suffering from bad rains in previous years, has been severely affected by the drought.

This could lead to shortages for canned and frozen products which, in turn, could put additional pressure on the price in terms of demand and supply.

Rural economy collapsing

Drought a 'national disaster'

STAR 7/2/92

(3) Gen

The Government has activated an existing emergency scheme to feed farmers and their workers who are going hungry as the crippling drought threatens to become a national disaster.

National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter announced yesterday that aid committees would be set up immediately to start supplying those in need.

She spoke during a special House of Assembly debate in Cape Town, during which the drought was described as "the worst this century".

Dr Venter said health, agricultural and welfare officials as well as members of national women's organisations would form these committees to judge individual cases.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said: "It looks as though the 12 plagues of Egypt and a few more, are queuing to ravage agriculture."

And the chairman of the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo), Cerniels Claassen, said yesterday the drought was no longer an agricultural crisis but a national disaster.

Mr Claassen said the disaster — with its anticipated effects on the country's economy — needed to be addressed urgently with extraordinary measures by the Government.

It could be estimated that about 100 000 black farm workers, who had up to nine dependents each, would be stripped of their livelihoods. It could therefore be estimated that work and housing for up to 1 million black peo-

By Alan Dunn
and Helen Grange

ple were seriously threatened as a result of the extensive crop failure.

Mr Claassen added that the business infrastructure of platteland towns — already close to breaking point due to poor agricultural conditions over the decades — would be strangled.

Professional people such as doctors, dentists and lawyers would close their doors, at the same time forfeiting thousands of job opportunities, and there would be further retrenchments with the loss of big companies in transport, pharmaceuticals and petrol among others, he said.

"Hundreds of thousands of workers and their families — black and white — were threatened. Squatter camps around the cities would grow, along with an increase in unrest, robbery and murder," he said.

Food shortages could, for the first time in decades, be come a reality.

Mr Claassen said that it

● To Page 3 ■

● From Page 1

cost R500 million for 1 million tons of imported maize — and it was currently estimated that the country needed to import between 2 million and 3 million tons. The figure rose with every day without rain.

Unless it rained, the country's maize harvest would be between zero and 50 percent. This meant the financial damage to a farmer — apart from money invested in the crop — would amount to more than R1 million.

In Cape Town, Dr van Niekerk said in the special debate, marked by general agreement between the parties, that it was not only the farmer

STAR 11217 C facing hard times. It was every worker, every rural inhabitant and every rural business. The whole rural economy was at stake.

Other implications were less food and poorer quality, costlier food and more dependence on imported food-stuffs which were of lower quality and cost more.

Dr van Niekerk assured farmers of Government understanding and sympathy "in their hour of need". The State would not turn its back on them and would help them again within its financial capacity.

"I have cleared this principle with the Cabinet and it is again positively confirmed," he said.

The Agriculture Minis-

ter had, in the past, never returned from the Cabinet empty-handed when a disaster struck agriculture, Mr van Niekerk said.

"It takes time, it does not happen overnight," he cautioned. "This does not mean we are dragging our feet and I appeal for understanding for the processes and prescribed budgetary procedures."

Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg) said city dwellers, the Government, the ANC and other organisations did not seem to realise what was happening.

It was the big, expert farmers who were collapsing. All sectors should jointly act to prevent a catastrophe.

Mr Bruwer, chairman

of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said only 22 percent of the western Transvaal's crop would exist as of Wednesday. Sunday, he said, would see no crops left.

In the eastern Transvaal conditions were extremely critical. Eighty percent of the crops had been damaged.

The northern Transvaal, which had suffered periodic droughts since 1974, was on its knees. Various co-operatives were collapsing, Mr Bruwer said.

● The Acting State President, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and MPs will attend an hour of prayer for rain at the Groote Kerk in Cape Town at lunchtime today.

● Drought to push up food prices — Page 6

Govt launches food aid plan for farmers

CAPE TOWN — Government is launching a food aid plan for farmers and their labourers who are suffering in the drought ravaging most of the country.

National Health Minister Rina Venter said yesterday she had given "urgent" instructions for the programme to be established.

The drought was the subject of a four-hour debate in the House of Assembly yesterday, where Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg), who is also president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, warned that it was probably the biggest disaster yet to hit SA's farmers.

Wessel Nel (DP Mooi River) said the

Political Staff

livelihood of SA's 6 000 farmers and their 1,3-million labourers was threatened.

Venter said in a statement the National Health and Population Development Department would set up the programme to provide "continuous" assistance to those in need. It would draw from the Nutritional Development Programme.

Aid committees would be established immediately on a district level, and farmers who needed assistance for themselves and their labourers should contact their local agricultural extension officer.

● See Page 3

Drought a national disaster ^{(3) Gen} — experts

B1009 7/2/92

PRETORIA — The drought was no longer just an agricultural crisis — it had spun into a national disaster with dire socio-economic consequences, Nampo chairman Cerneels Claassen said yesterday.

In a statement from Bothaville, he warned that tens of thousands of black farmworkers would lose their jobs and government would probably have to find up to R1,5bn to import between 2-million and 3-million tons of maize this year.

To counter the catastrophic short- and long-term impact of the worst drought in decades, extraordinary relief measures were required. The jobs and housing of up to 1-million people were threatened. The infrastructures of platteland towns, after a decade of decline, had reached breaking point.

The major input companies — fertiliser, tractor manufacturers, petroleum and other industries — were threatened and further heavy job losses would occur.

The accelerated stream of rural population to urban squatter camps would aggravate crime and unrest. Neither would the SA consumer escape the bitter consequences of the drought. There could be food shortages for the first time in SA.

The financial risks associated with maize production had assumed such proportions that most mealie farmers did not have the reserves to survive a failed harvest, he said.

"Literally thousands of farmers in the summer grain area face sequestration and if government aid policy is not upgraded

GERALD REILLY

they will look in vain for production loans from commercial banks and co-operatives for the new season," he said.

Senior Absa economist Adam Jacobs said Nampo was not exaggerating — "what is happening in the summer grain areas is a national disaster".

Prices of most farm products would rise putting pressure on the CPI and on consumer buying power generally.

"One of the worst summer seasons in living memory is going to make us all poorer."

Greater unemployment in rural areas was inevitable, as more farmers collapsed financially, exacerbating the urban squatter problem.

The virtual certainty of costly maize imports would have a direct impact on the balance of payments.

Our political staff reports that yesterday's special House of Assembly debate on a "matter of public importance" was marked by widespread agreement that the situation was dire in many areas of the country. Only parts of Natal and the western Cape had escaped the ravages of the drought.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said government had great sympathy with the farmers "in their hour of need" and would assist the agricultural sector within the limits of its financial capacity.

He called on financial institutions — the Land Bank, commercial banks and other creditors — not to act hastily and irresponsibly in this difficult time.

Drought doom

THE government is launching a massive food-aid plan for farmers and their labourers who are suffering in the drought ravaging most of the country.

The Democratic Party estimated that most of South Africa's 6 000 farmers and their 1.3 million labourers were threatened. Only parts of Natal and the Western Cape have escaped the drought.

Nampo (the National Association of Maize Producers) said 100 000 farm workers' jobs were in danger. It said each worker had an average of eight dependants, prompting fears of a huge exodus of poor people from

the platteland to the cities.

Yesterday the three parties in the House of Assembly were united in describing the drought as one of the worst agricultural crises the country had ever faced and accepting that drastic action was needed.

The drought was the subject of a four-hour debate in the House and the Conservative Party MP for Lydenburg, Mr Dries Bruwer, introducing the debate, said it would appear that urban dwellers did not understand the extent of the disaster.

Mr Bruwer, who is also president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said: "One also gets the impression that the perception exists that the government also does not understand it."

CP deputy leader Dr Ferdie Hartzenberg urged the government to take "desperate measures" such as a debt standstill to enable insolvent farmers to stay on their land. He said harvest estimates for the Western Transvaal were "virtually nil".

Prayers

The CP MP for Standerton, Mr Rosier de Ville, warned that the drought could lead to prices going "sky high" for consumers.

Today MPs will gather in the Grootte Kerk during lunch-hour to pray for rain at a bilingual multi-denominational service.

The Minister of Health Services and Welfare, Dr Rina Venter, said that aid commit-

tees consisting of agricultural extension officers of the Department of Agriculture and representatives of national women's organisations would immediately be established in districts affected by the drought. Welfare departments would also assist.

The immediate need for food assistance would be determined by the district aid committee, which would pass on its evaluations to the Department of National Health and Population Development.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, said the government would assist the agricultural sector within the limits of its financial capacity.

He called on the Land Bank, commercial

banks and other creditors "not to act hastily and irresponsibly at this difficult time".

The DP MP for Maritzburg North, Mr Mike Tarr, called on the government to consider short-term measures such as subsidies for high interest rates, debt-rescheduling schemes, production credits, transport subsidies and direct subsidies to farm labourers.

The DP MP for Maritzburg South, Mr Rob Haswell, said disruption in rural areas led to migration, mainly to metropolitan areas.

Port Elizabeth frozen-food manufacturer Harvestime is to retrench about 500 people

To page 3

From page 1

nationwide — victims of the drought in the Eastern Cape and the declining economy. ③

The Harvestime chairman and managing director of Table Top, Mr Gert Schoonraad, said the drought was causing a lack of adequate supplies. Operations in Port Elizabeth had to be scaled down, due mainly to declining demand for frozen vegetables.

The decline in demand was probably being caused by the current state of the economy, with people eating more cheaply, he added.

The chairman of Nampo, Mr Cerneels Claassen, said tens of thousands of black farm workers would lose their jobs and the government would probably have to find up to R1,5bn to import between two and three million tons of maize this year. Food shortages could not be ruled out.

The infrastructure of platteland towns after a decade of decline had also reached breaking point.

"Because of this doctors, dentists, lawyers and businessmen could finally close their doors and thousands more would be out of work."

The major input companies — fertiliser, tractor manufacturers, petroleum and other industries — were threatened and further heavy job losses would occur.

Senior Absa economist Mr Adam Jacobs said Nampo was not exaggerating. "What is happening in the summer grain areas is a national disaster on a large scale". — Political Staff and Sapa

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A farmer claims that half his dairy herd has been poisoned by a vanadium factory in the eastern Transvaal — and there is serious concern about the health of residents in the area. By JENNIFER VERSTER and EDDIE KOCH

FARMERS in the eastern Transvaal are up in arms about toxic fallout from a German-owned vanadium plant that they say is linked to a disease which kills cattle and causes cows to abort prematurely.

And the health of people living near the factory, in the upper Steelport Valley 40km north of Middelburg, may be at risk. A farmer whose land borders the chemical plant claims his lungs have been made "rotten" by the pollution, while preliminary studies conducted by the Medical Research Council indicate that one in two people in the district suffer from eye irritation.

The department of health — responsible for monitoring pollution emanating from the Transvaal Alloys factory, owned by the German multi-national Norddeutsche Affinerie — appears to be dragging its feet over addressing the problem.

"Your factory poisons 30km and further the environment around you," said farmer Piet Geldenhuys in a letter to the company. "In die natuur vrek al wat leef om u fabriek (everything that lives around your factory dies): fish, birds, animals and a large number of plants and the people are being drastically affected."

The plant refines vanadium ore to produce vanadium pentoxide and ammonium metavanadate. These appear to be strategic compounds used in the armaments and nuclear industries as well as the manufacture of synthetic fuels. GR Hövener, general manager of Transvaal Alloys, refused to tell *The Weekly Mail* who the company's clients were.

Hövener has denied any responsibility for degrading the environment around the plant. He is backed by the government's chief air pollution officer, Martin Lloyd, who says "the dust on the windowsill in my office carries more toxins than the air in the eastern Transvaal".

But this has not deterred Geldenhuys from conducting a campaign against the multi-national. And the farmer has received backing from a team of scientists based at Onderstepoort near Pretoria — toxicology researchers began investigations after they received reports some 18 months ago of a strange disease afflicting cattle in the area.

Two-year-old bull calves on the farm seem to have stopped growing at six months. But they are the lucky survivors: in the past five years, Geldenhuys claims to have lost 50 percent of his dairy herd.

A local vet identified the disease as "illthrift" — a chronic disease that suppresses the immune system of livestock, disrupts the animal's ability to digest food and impairs fertility. It appears to be caused by long-term exposure to toxins.

Onderstepoort's final report, issued in August, concluded that vanadium toxicity was the underlying cause: "What this investigation has done is accumulate a library of circumstantial evidence that leads us to believe the animals on Mr Geldenhuys' farm have been suffering from the effects of excessive levels of vanadium. . . we feel confident that vanadium toxicity is the under-

lying cause of the illthrift problem experienced on the farm.

"On the basis of all our findings, and until proved otherwise, we conclude that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to make a diagnosis of vanadium toxicity which was most probably caused by air pollution which most probably came from the nearby mine (processing plant)."

After months of research and post mortems on cattle and stillborn calves, together with grass and soil samples, the research team concluded that the cattle were suffering from malabsorption complicated by immuno-suppression and that the most likely cause was vanadium poisoning.

"There is now considerable evidence to suggest that the animals on the farm have an impairment of their immune system. This then makes animals susceptible to a wide range of infections that would otherwise not cause problems," says the report.

Studies into the effects of exposure to vanadium toxins on humans are less conclusive. A team of medical researchers headed by Dr Petro Terblanche, of the Medical Research Council in Pretoria, has begun probing the issue.

"Fifty percent of the people living in the area complained of eye irritation," she told *The Weekly Mail*. "That is consistent with vanadium poisoning, but it needs to be verified."

Vanadium can cause respiratory

problems, irreversible decline in lung function, reproductive complications, lower respiratory tract infections, skins rashes, gastro-intestinal disturbances and lethargy.

Exposure to vanadium dust over about 15 to 20 years can lead to dust pneumonitis, which in turn leads to emphysema and high blood pressure. It can also lead to mild renal tubular damage.

There is concern among the people living in the area about the effect pollution may be having on their health. Children suffer from chest ailments and asthma and there seems to be a high incidence of kidney problems. Geldenhuys says local workers will not live on the farm because there is a higher incidence of women miscar-

rying. . .
Wide, conducting a study for the international journal *Environmental Research* in 1984, found an increased frequency in spontaneous abortions in Finnish women that correlated to metal industries where aluminium, cobalt, molybdenum and vanadium were used. She also found experimental evidence that a single dose of vanadium could interfere with foetal skeletal ossification in pregnant mice.

Vanadium is used for its tactile qualities to strengthen steel. South Africa has half the world's reserves and is the single biggest producer of vanadium products. Ammonium metavanadate is also used in the manufacture of dyes, inks and paints, and vanadium pentoxide in the manufacture of ceramics.

At the factory, vanadium ore from a nearby mine is milled, the dust is mixed with water and sodium sulphate and made into pellets. These pellets are dried and roasted in a rotary kiln at temperatures of 1220 to 1300 degrees Celsius. Smoke and gases from the kiln escape through chimneys. Pollution is possibly from two sources: vanadium dust from the crushing process or compound smoke and gases emitted from the kiln.

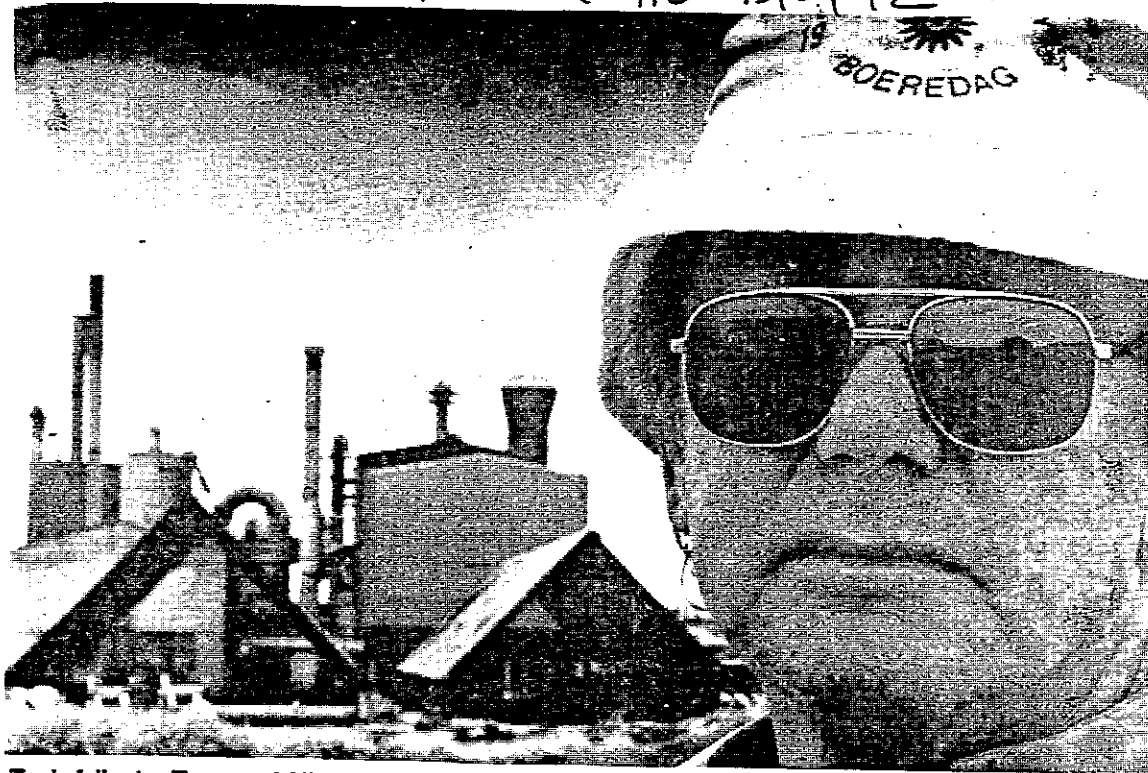
"Work done by the CSIR has shown that there is considerable fallout of vanadium dust near the mine (4710 micrograms a metre a day) and that these levels decrease further from the mine (processing plant) (536 micrograms a metre a day), which supports our own findings that aerial pollution of the farm is taking place and gives added evidence that inhalation toxicity could be playing a role," says the Onderstepoort report. "This is not the first case of vanadium toxicity to be reported in South Africa."

In 1976 a case was brought to the attention of the then minister of agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman, by a Mr Jacobs of the farm Leeuwklip in the Belfast district. This was the same farm that Geldenhuys now owns.

Geldenhuys bought the farm in 1986. Now facing bankruptcy because of his losses, he explained his problem to the Land Bank in Middelburg and was advised by the bank manager "to sell the farm as quickly as possible".

TA is adamant that it is complying with all standards and requirements set by the government (see accompanying article). Department of Health officials are unavailable for comment.

w/m and 7/2-13/2/92



Toxic fallout ... Transvaal Alloys' vanadium plant borders on Piet Geldenhuys' farm

Photo: GUY ADAMS

'Don't blame us,' says factory

w/m and 7/2-13/2/92
LAWYERS for Transvaal Alloy yesterday said the Onderstepoort report "is tentative and is based on circumstantial evidence. A survey by independent experts has not revealed anything to indicate that TA has contributed to Mr Geldenhuys' problems in any way".

According to TA: "The plant has been upgraded continuously in order to modernise the equipment and ensure that the company complies with the obligations in terms of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act. The company holds a registration certificate issued in terms of this Act.

"Monthly, gravimetric monitoring, in line with Act 70 of 1973 as amended, of the plant environs is done by an authority accredited by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs — Air Quality Division. This monitoring reveals that the company is in compliance with the

required standards.

"The company is aware of no conclusive evidence that its operations have caused any damage to Mr Geldenhuys.

"The company indicated that if Mr Geldenhuys persisted in his claims to the contrary, it would be necessary to arrange for certain sampling to be undertaken on his property. Mr Geldenhuys has refused to give the company access to his property.

"During 1975, an earlier owner of the property, a Mr Jacobs, brought a claim in the supreme court against the company for damages ... Expert evidence obtained by the company indicated that the problem experienced by Mr Jacobs arose from poor agricultural practices rather than from contamination or pollution from the company." ^{3 cen}

The curse that hangs over ^{(3) son} farmer ^(H/b)

Piet's land

w/ Mail 7/2-13/2/92

STRANGE things have been happening on Piet Geldenhuys' once-thriving farm. Bull calves stop growing at six months. Those are the lucky ones; Geldenhuys claims to have lost half his dairy herd.

Farm children suffer from chest ailments and asthma. There seems to be a high incidence of kidney problems. Geldenhuys says his lungs are "rotting". Local workers will not live on the farm because there is a high incidence of women miscarrying.

What is the curse hanging over the Geldenhuys farm? He blames a factory next door which produces vanadium, an alloy which toughens steel. Some respected scientists agree.

A local vet says the cattle suffer from a disease called "illthrift" which suppresses the immune system of livestock, disrupts the animal's ability to digest food and impairs fertility. It is caused by long-term exposure to toxins.

Scientists at Onderstepoort near Pretoria believe that the animals on the Geldenhuys farm suffer from excessive levels of vanadium toxicity, which damages their immune system, making them susceptible to other diseases.

But the issue is more complex. The owners of the plant — which produces alloys strategically important to the arms industry —



have the government health department on their side.

The government's chief air pollution officer says: "The dust on

the windowsill in my office carries more toxins than the air in the eastern Transvaal."

Full story: PAGE 5

Photo:
GUY
ADAMS

Driven to despair

ARC -
③ 8/2/92

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Western Transvaal is in the grip of the worst drought in memory.

Mr Pieter Maree, who has farmed in the area for 54 years, warned: "I don't know what will become of the farmers now. What I do know is that there will be chaos in this country."

"The people in the cities don't know what is happening out here. But come winter they will realise when they see how little food there is on the market."

And at the same time a shortage of maize has turned export to import.

Mr Dries Bruwer, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, estimates that by the middle of next week three-quarters of the region's crops will have been destroyed.

That alone would be enough to drive farmers to despair.

But many have been driven to the wall by droughts up to last year from the 1980s.

Many have gone bankrupt.

Agriculture Minister Mr Kraai van Niekerk will visit the Free State on Monday.

"There will be hard words at that meeting because farmers here can't see where the help for them is coming from," said one agricultural official.

Sapa reports from Pretoria that the South African Maize Board still has to meet export commitments, in spite of an estimated deficit in stocks of nearly three million tons.

Warning of city chaos

In a statement yesterday the board said crop prospects were between four and five million tons, but warned that lack of immediate soaking rains would scale down expectations even further.

Pointing out that the drought and accompanying high temperatures during the past six weeks were the worst experienced in the summer grain area in 50 years, the board noted that in many regions there was no crop and that the rest of the area was far below normal.

The deficit is complicated by unprecedented increases in maize consumption. This, said the board, means that supplementing stocks before the new season is urgent.

Permission had already been given by the board for importing about 100 000 tons during April.

But increased consumption was eroding the additional stock.

It is expected that the board will have at most 1.1 million tons of maize available at April 30. Without imports, this would meet the national requirements for maize until the end of June.

Cities will not escape the drought

STAR 8/2/92

(3) General

JOHN PERLMAN

JAN du Plessis and his family don't go down to the stream on their farm these days.

"We used to sit here and relax, make a braai, sometimes catch fish," says Mr du Plessis, who has worked the farm Witpoortjie near Klerksdorp for nearly 25 years.

"Now we don't go there because it's too terrible to see it like this."

The Schoonspruit stream is now a bed of sand and stones. Mr du Plessis and his wife Muriel haul out the family photo albums — snaps of children fishing, swimming, wading — to show what it used to be like.

"The spruit has been low before," he says, "but I've never seen it run dry like this."

The western Transvaal is in the grip of the worst drought in living memory. Dries Bruwer, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, estimates that by the middle of next week, three-quarters of the region's crops will have been destroyed.

That alone would be enough to drive farmers to despair, heaped on to

the damage already wrought by the droughts of the 1980s and last year, many have been driven to the wall.

"Many of the people in this area have gone bankrupt," Mr du Plessis says. "I would say more than 20 in an area of about 40 sq km. And they were all strong farmers, men who had a lot of money, men who came here and bought their farms for cash."

Crisis point

"There are always auctions," he adds. "But you try not to go to your neighbour's auction. Somehow it seems disrespectful. I just went to one, bought my neighbour's firearms then gave them straight back to him as a last gift."

Many would assume that Mr du Plessis, who moved away from mealie farming to concentrate on raising cattle, would be in a less precarious position.

But the state of his pastures — a mix of stubble burnt brown by the sun and ash grey where the wind has turned grass to powdery dust — re-

minds him daily of just how close to crisis point he is.

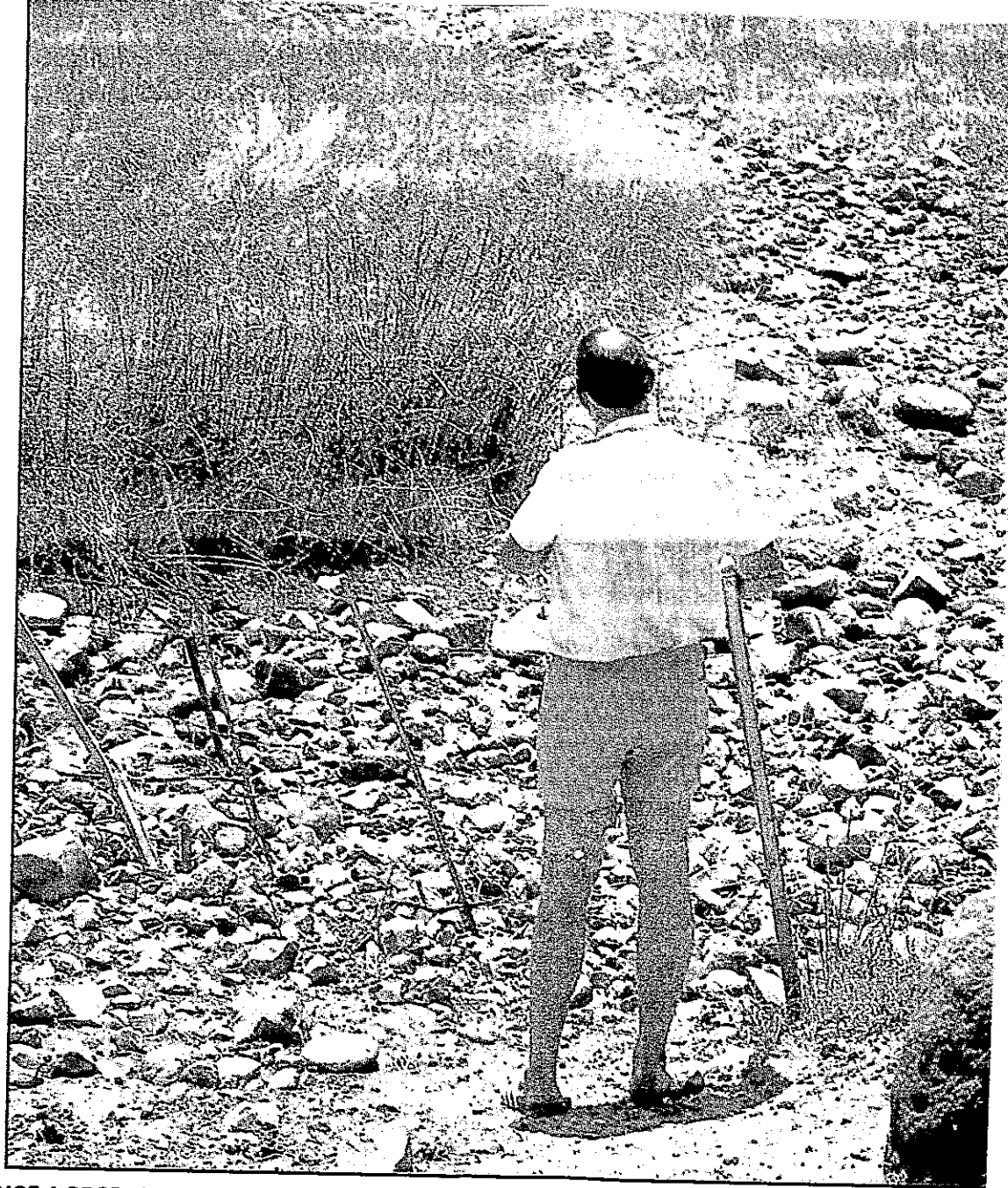
"There is no grazing to be had here, and I can't afford to buy it. There's not much to be had, anyway."

"I've already sold off my calves. And if there's no rain next week, I'll be forced to start selling my animals. Some of them cost me R1 000 each — I'm not sure I will even get R500 for them."

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk will be visiting the Free State on Monday and will meet farmers in the western Transvaal the following day. "There will be hard words at that meeting, because the farmers here can't see where the help for them is coming from," said one agricultural official.

Said Pieter Maree, who has farmed in the area for 54 years: "I don't know what will become of the farmers now. What I do know is that there will be chaos in this country."

"The people in the cities don't know what is happening out here. But, come winter, they will realise when they see how little food there is on the market."



NOT A DROP: Farmer Jan du Plessis views a dried-up spruit.

● Photograph: JOHN HOGG

This is my home, why must I go?

STAR 8/2/92

JOHN PERLMAN

ALFRED MOYO can't understand why some people think he should go and live in Soweto or Alexandra.

The 47-year-old house-painter has lived on farms and plots north of Johannesburg his entire life, the last three years at Zevenfontein.

"I was born in Honeydew on one of the farms, where my parents were both working," says Mr Moyo. "Then my father and my mother died and I had to find out how to live for myself."

Mr Moyo, who started off working as a clerk, says he thought at times about looking for a place in a township, but knew there was little point.

"I knew if I tried to go there the law would stand in my way. The whites would not just let anyone go and live in the locations."

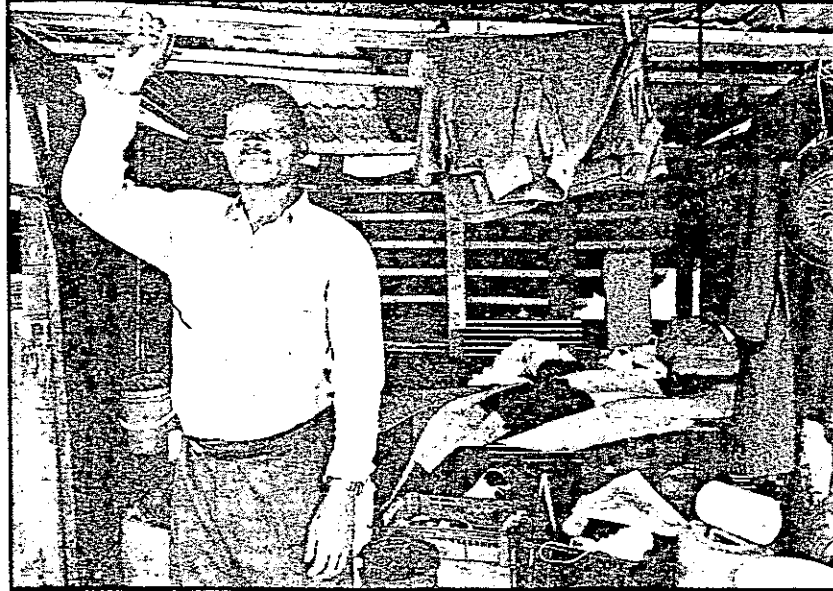
When I had married a woman from there, we would not have been able to live together. So I told myself I would have to live according to the laws of the farms.

Over time, though, the laws of the farms began to change. "In the old days, a plot in these areas was more than 200 acres," Mr Moyo says.

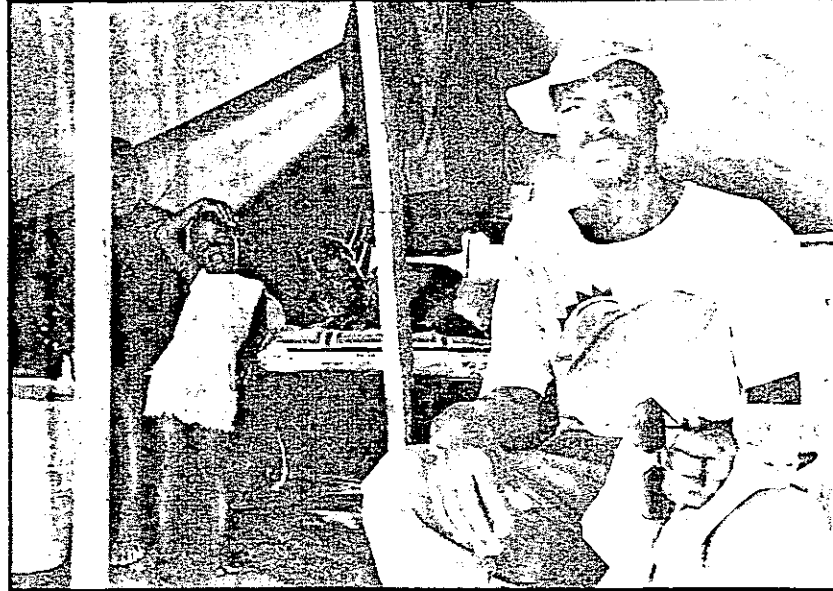
As the place developed, the plots got smaller. Then the owners would say they didn't want so many people there.

Mr Moyo says more than half the people at Zevenfontein grew up in the area. "There are some who were born elsewhere, but they have spent most of their lives on these plots and farms."

Olehile Motseki (54) was not born in the area. He left a farm at Ottosdal, Transvaal, when he



OLEHILE MOTSEKI: Lost his possessions when bulldozers flattened the shacks. He also lost his job when he missed work the day after the demolition. ● Photographs: JOHN HOGG



ALFRED MOYO: A house-painter, he has lived on farms and plots north of Johannesburg for all of his 47 years, the last three at Zevenfontein.

was a young man to seek work in Johannesburg.

"Ottosdal was a small place, there was no work," he explains. He too never wanted to live in a township, partly because his work on road-building gangs often took him away and partly because he felt it was no place to raise a family.

"Those places are too rough," says Mr Motseki.

He settled in a small room on a plot, but was forced to move when the owners objected to his family being there. "They said there was not enough room to have children running around."

That is what brought Mr Motseki to Zevenfontein. Both he and Mr Moyo lost possessions when some of the shacks were flattened by bulldozers last month. Mr Motseki lost his job when he failed to turn up at

work the day after the demolition.

Both men say they do not mind being moved, provided they can remain in the area. "If they must move us, that's fine, but it mustn't be far," says Mr Motseki.

"We want to live here because most of us work in Randburg," says Mr Moyo. "If they could develop this place, put in sewerage and so on, it would be good to stay here."

"But if that is not possible, then Randburg should find a place where its people can build low-cost houses and we can pay rent like in any township."

Mr Motseki insists that the Zevenfontein community is law-abiding: "We have a committee to run things and there has never been any fighting

or any stealing."

His children go to a nearby school, as do Mr Moyo's. A number of residents own motor vehicles, including Mr Motseki who has a sturdy-looking bakkie.

And both men say the majority of Zevenfontein residents are in stable jobs. "I think more than 80 percent of the people here are working," says Mr Moyo. "Those young men you see in the daytime work in the hotels at night." Mr Moyo knows there is great white opposition to the continued existence of Zevenfontein, but says he feels "neither angry nor sad" about it and expects that that attitude will change.

"All we want is a place to live and I think they know we have nowhere to go. I don't really see why they would want to give us a hassle."

Identify land for housing, says ANC

MINING land and land being held for speculative purposes should be used for low-cost housing, the ANC said in a statement yesterday.

Urging the creation of a forum to establish a housing policy and to identify suitable land, the ANC said these steps were vital to prevent conflicts such as that involving the Zevenfontein squatters.

The ANC, the statement said, believed that planning should be a public process enabling parties such as civics, local authorities, ratepayers, the private sector and the general public to take part in decisions that affected them.

"All this should be underpinned by the principle that the needs of the urban homeless must be affordably met."

The State, it said, was obliged to seek out land suitable for residential sites and encourage the use of vacant land being held for speculative purposes.

"Furthermore, the assumption that mining land is untouchable should be challenged, as such vacant land is often well suited for residential purposes." — Sapa.

R17bn debt mounts for farmers hit by drought

By PETER MALHERBE

DEBTS run up by South African farmers have passed the R17-billion mark — more than the country's total budget for defence, education and law and order.

This was despite direct state assistance worth R7,4-billion over the past decade.

Roughly 50 percent of the debt is owed to commercial banks and financial institutions, 44 percent to co-operatives and the Land Bank and six percent to the Agricultural Board.

Now, with one of the worst droughts in memory threatening to destroy crops and drive up food prices, the chances of farmers reducing the mountain of debt are slipping away.

The South African Agricultural Union warned this week that the effects of the drought could be "catastrophic" and there could be food shortages.

Disaster

SAAU president Boet Fourie said many farmers could be forced into liquidation and the survival of hundreds of platteland communities was at stake.

"Can you imagine the impact it will have on the country if so many farmers are allowed to leave their land?" he asked.

Meanwhile, the Maize Board, which is predicting a shortfall of two to three million tons of maize this season, still has to meet export commitments agreed to before the drought.

This season's export sales amount to more than 800 000 tons, not all of which has been shipped yet.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk responded to growing calls for help this week by saying the government would assist the agricultural sector within the limits of its financial capacity.

The Minister, who is to meet the SAAU next Friday after a tour of drought-stricken areas earlier in the week, called on financial institutions not to act hastily or irresponsibly.

National Maize Producers' Organisation chairman Cerneels Claassen said the drought was no longer an agricultural crisis but a "national disaster".

He warned that tens of thousands of black workers could lose their jobs on farms and in farm-related industries and the government could face a R1,5-billion bill for maize imports.

The Meat Board this week said the price of meat could rise by 15-24 percent this year.

Help

SAAU chief economist Dr Koos du Toit said farmers had accumulated a debt of R17-billion by the middle of last year, but this was likely to be closer to R18-billion now.

The estimated R17-billion debt represents a significant increase since 1980, when farmers owed R3,8-billion. In 1985 their debts rose to R11,1-billion and at the end of 1990 the figure was R15,9-billion.

The total for this year is higher than the combined 1991/92 state budgets for law and order (R4,63-billion), education and training (R3,13-billion) and defence (R9,18-billion).

Interest repayments on the debts are now R2,4-billion a year.

Of the total debt bill, the amount owed to the Land Bank increased by R75-million last year to R3,2-billion, with unpaid interest and capital instalments amounting to more than R236-million.

Spectre of famine looms

clpers 9/2/92

3 Gen
By SOPHIE TEMA

HUNGER now, starvation tomorrow.

This is the stark reality threatening millions of people caught in the grip of the worst drought to hit the country this century.

Welfare workers predict a human catastrophe of enormous proportions as already impoverished rural communities face starvation.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said it would take a miracle to save crops in some areas.

"We are praying daily for our subsistence farmers in Mahlobayini, Ramatlabama, Winterveldt, Nkandla and Lebowa," Perlman said.

She added that her organisation was struggling to find funds to feed the people they already served and were praying they would be able to help the ballooning waiting list of 500 000.

"There is now the need to double and treble food aid while we are desperately trying to find the cash for several hundred self-help projects," Perlman said.

Jannie Momberg (DP Simon's Town) said in Parliament this week at least five million black people would be drastically affected by the drought.

It was calculated that about 1,1 million people were employed on farms in SA.

Each worker had about seven dependents, which



SCORCHED EARTH . . . Winterveldt farmer Joseph Maduna's crop has been ravaged by drought. Farmers across the land face starvation if rain does not fall soon. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

meant that about eight million people depended on agriculture.

There was a real possibility that if the farmer went under, the workers would find themselves homeless, and they and their dependents would stream to the cities with all the socio-economic problems this would bring.

"This is a potential time bomb of people who have no jobs and who are mostly without school

education and will be left absolutely at the mercy of others," Momberg added.

A subsistence farmer in Winterveldt, Joseph Maduna, said his community needed a miracle to save them from the drought.

"We will have to pray to the Almighty to open up the heavens and send us rain to save the crops that have not yet been burnt up," Maduna said.

"If our prayers are not answered, we will be

doomed and all we can do is to sit and wait for death."

Also hard hit is the Eastern Cape where animals are already dying from the heat and drought.

In the area between Willowvale and Jansenville near Port Elizabeth, several white farmers have abandoned their dry land and trekked to the cities, leaving hundreds of labourers destitute.

In the Northern Trans-

vaal, Free State and Northern Cape grazing land is fast becoming wasteland and rivers and dams are down to dangerously low levels.

Food aid organisations have been inundated with appeals for food by thousands of people starving in rural backwaters.

"All the gains Operation Hunger had made over the past 10 years have been used up to help ailing black farmers and the needy," Perlman said.

It's survival of the fittest, says angry horse-belt 'liberal'

STP *3 Gen*
5 Times 9/2/92

VAL and Dennis Keightley are wealthy, English-speaking and politically progressive.

Or at least they were — until last week when the Randburg council pulled the rug from under their riding boots by allocating 44 hectares of nearby veld to thousands of Zevenfontein squatters.

This week Dennis Keightley joined residents from upmarket Inanda and middle-class Bloubaarsd in patrolling the streets surrounding his R1.2-million property and manning a roadblock to keep squatters out.

"I have always been to the left, but now I am moving the other way. I am starting to see what Africa is all about — it's the survival of the fittest," said the professional diamond marker.

"I certainly don't want the AWB in here, but if those squatters come in I will do everything in my power to defend my property and my family," said his showjumper wife, Val.

"When this started my son wouldn't go to school because he had to look after his pony in case the squatters came and tried to eat it.

"People might accuse us of being the filthy rich, but we've worked hard to get

what we have. When my husband arrived in South Africa 26 years ago he had R30 in his pocket and that was all.

"We moved here 11 years ago from Bryanston because we wanted to be in the countryside. I've created a world for myself and my family. I don't know about politics, I don't even go to the shops, all I do is ride in the greenbelt. Now they want to change it all and turn it into a dump.

Pilfering

"There are already squatters living along the river, I see them when I go riding, and already the place is a mess."

What the Keightleys are opposed to is thousands of squatters moving in less than 1km from their homestead, not because the newcomers are black, but because 44 hectares would not contain an impoverished and largely unemployed population for long, they said.

"Don't get me wrong, I am not against people having proper houses, but there will never be enough room. They'll spill out, and then where will they go?

"We already have a pilfering problem here. We can never get the police out here as it is. Once a woman

was being raped down the road and it took the police hours to arrive. Now we'll have to get double barbed wire fences and Rottweilers," Mrs Keightley said.

"Why should outsiders get houses anyway, why shouldn't our staff who have worked for us for years have first option?"

Her husband added: "It's not a black-white thing — it basically boils down to bad town planning. You can't put sub-economic housing in the middle of a suburb. The government took away influx control and left nothing in its place. If we don't make a stand here no-one is safe."



ROUGH RIDE AHEAD . . . Dennis Keightley, his wife Val and children Dawn and Dylan

Platteland on its knees as the drought bites

By Dirk Nel (3) *sem*
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Farmers were literally on their knees yesterday as churches observed a national day of prayer for rain, while the drought crisis intensified.

But the scope of many of the prayers offered by ministers and

laymen went beyond the immediate need for relief from the heat and drought conditions.

In several churches in the far northern Transvaal, one of the worst affected regions, people prayed emotionally for peace and reconciliation throughout the country, and for a change of heart in those perpetuating violence.

The Bible passage used most frequently at prayer gatherings was 2

Chronicles 7 Verse 14: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."

There were unprecedented numbers at churches in Soutpansberg, Pietersburg and Ellisras areas.

Drought-hit farmers seek debt standstill

By Helen Grange
Own Correspondent
and Sapa

Some Transvaal farmers are already retrenching labourers as the drought begins to strangle rural economies, and cash-strapped farmers are urgently appealing for a debt standstill.

Thousands of farmers as well as agricultural heads from every region met Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk yesterday to discuss what they have called a national disaster. Many appealed for an immediate hold on farmers' debts as the start to a solution.

Food and cash would have to be provided for a number of farmers in the Free State as they did not have food for their families, Free State Agricultural Union president Dr Piet Gous told Dr van Niekerk at a meeting attended by about 1 000 farmers in Kroonstad.

Dr Gous said there would also have to be immediate intervention by the State to stop the large-scale sell-off of farms. The subsidisation of stock feed would have to be addressed.

Another problem was production credit for the next year — not only the availability of production credit, but also of affordable production credit.

Another matter was the discharge of the existing agricultural debt of R17 billion. This had become an "albatross" round the neck of the farmer.

Dr van Niekerk said there had been positive suggestions at the meeting. He said he was very concerned about the farmers' inability to service their debts because of lack of income,

which had been aggravated by the fact that the past 10 years had not been good agricultural years.

Dr van Niekerk noted that there were no instant solutions and it would be necessary to negotiate with creditors to work out problems with local committees and determine the role the State must fulfil.

He pointed out there were basic principles to be observed before money could be allocated from budgets. He said he would not make any promises and did not want the farmers to be under any illusions. They should also not talk themselves into pessimism.

As soon as he had answers he would inform the farmers.

Subsidised

The meeting heard that 40 percent of agricultural debt was in the open market, which was not consolidated with that of the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit. The question was posed as to whether this debt could not also be subsidised.

Other points raised from the floor included a demand that the sequestration of farmers should be stopped; that in 1952 agriculture got 12,5 percent of the national Budget, compared to 1,2 percent in 1991; that there should be a return to a close relationship between the price of a ton of fertiliser and a ton of maize; that farmers should be put back into the situation they had been in in September 1991 before they planted the present crop; that the Land Bank was unapproachable when it came to settlement; that if debts of black townships could be moved to other accounts, the same should also be done for the farmers' carry-over debt; and

ways should be found for farmers to get realistic prices for their produce.

Flip Kotze, a prominent Delareyville farmer, proposed that a convention on farming, similar to Codesa, be formed to thrash out solutions.

The Government should also take immediate steps to help farmers pay the cash wages of their labourers, he said.

Mr Kotze said farmers were struggling to meet Eskom charges for power, and several farmers in Delareyville had already paid off labourers they could no longer support. Some labourers had volunteered to work for only food and housing.

Dr van Niekerk inspected the failed maize crops and poor grazing in the Senekal, Bethlehem, Vrede, Bothaville and Heilbron districts before the meeting.

Today he will visit drought areas in the Transvaal.

Boer Crisis Action has called on President de Klerk to declare an emergency in the entire agricultural sector.

Mr de Klerk yesterday said the country faced "a great crisis" and extended his sympathy to victims of the drought.

Speaking at DF Malan Airport in Cape Town on his return from Europe, he said the Government would take steps to care for people who had suffered the effects of the drought.

● Natal farmers are quickly finding themselves in a situation as bad as farmers in the Free State and Transvaal.

Some Natal farmers have lost up to 70 percent of their crops after the weekend's intense heat. Sugar harvests this year are also expected to be lower than previous expectations because of the drought affecting Natal's sugar belt.

Drought plea to minister

③
11/2/92

KROONSTAD. — Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk, on a tour of drought-ravaged areas, was yesterday told that many farmers in the Free State did not have food for their families.

At a meeting of about 1 000 farmers here, Dr Piet Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union, told Dr Van Niekerk there would have to be immediate intervention by the state to stop the large-scale selling-off of farms. The subsidisation of stock feed would have to be addressed.

Dr Van Niekerk proposed subsidised interest rates as low as 5% as one of the measures to help the farmers.

Other measures were that interest should be frozen, that there should be a one-off input subsidy for all crop farmers, that there should be an immediate adaptation of mortgage rates for farmers to a level of 3% for five years and that full payment before the interest reduction should be maintained.

This would reduce capital loans, but these full payments should be tax deductible, he said.

President F W de Klerk yesterday extended his sympathy to the victims of the disastrous drought. Speaking at D F Malan Airport on his arrival from Europe, Mr De Klerk said the government would take steps to care for people who had suffered the effects of the drought. "We are, in fact, facing a great crisis," he said.

Mr Johan Neethling, president of the National Wool Growers Association in the Free State, called for a tax holiday of two

Farmers need food and cash

years to enable farmers to solve their financial problems and get back on their feet.

He asked for the Eskom extension tariff to be abolished for two years in the outlying stock grazing areas as it placed a great burden on farmers.

Mr Neethling said there had been many warnings in the past that the rural infrastructure was collapsing. Now the whole farming community was collapsing, he said.

President De Klerk should proclaim the whole agricultural sector an emergency, the Boer Crisis Action said yesterday.

In a statement from Potgietersrus the BCA said all sequestrations of farmers should be ceased, a debt standstill on agricultural debt should be announced and an urgent re-appraisal of agriculture should be conducted taking into account the production capacity of farms.

In Natal many farmers have lost up to 70% of their crops after the weekend's intense heat. The farmers have started cutting the plants for winter feed.

Although farmers said their animals were in good condition, they added they had begun to send parts of their breeding herds to abattoirs because they expected a grazing shortage during winter.

And sugar harvests for 1992 are expected to be lower than previous expectations because of the green drought affecting Natal's sugar belt.

Cane-growers' Association general manager Mr Rex Hudson said there had been just enough rain to keep the cane-fields looking green, but in most places growth had come to a standstill.

According to auctioneers, 38 farmers in northern Natal have lost their farms because of bankruptcy since 1989.

Meanwhile foreign buyers of SA maize have refused to let the Maize Board buy back its export contracts after it became apparent that this year's crop would be disastrous.

Board sources said yesterday this meant SA would now have to import large quantities of maize to meet its contractual obligations to supply hundreds of thousands of tons.

Mr Robin Veldman of grain merchants Khan and Khan said yesterday maize prices at all levels were likely to rise sharply in the new season — which starts on May 1 — because of the catastrophic drought in the summer grain areas. — Sapa and Own Correspondent

Drought-stricken farmers cut crops for winter feed

B/day 11/2/92
3 Gen

DURBAN — Many farmers in five Natal districts have lost up to 70% of their crops after the weekend's intense heat, and have started cutting the plants for winter feed.

Farmers said although stock was in good condition, they had begun sending some of their breeding herds to abattoirs because they expected a winter grazing shortage.

And yesterday President F W de Klerk extended his sympathy to the victims of the disastrous drought.

Speaking on his return to Cape Town from Europe, De Klerk said government would take steps to care for those who had suffered.

Meanwhile, sugar harvests are expected to be lower than usual because of the drought.

Cane-growers' Association GM Rex Hudson said there had been just enough rain to keep the canefields looking green, but in most places growth had come to a standstill.

He said there was hope of a partial recovery as long as good rains fell between now and April.

Despite the drought in parts of the province, Natal's major storage dams are still in a healthy state.

In the Transvaal, a prominent Delareyville farmer said yesterday a convention for farming, similar to Codesa, was needed to thrash out solutions for the drought-stricken farmers.

Delareyville District Agricultural Union chairman Flip Kotze said that in his personal view there should be a total write-off of farming debt. He urged government to help farmers pay the wages of their labourers, and their Eskom bills.

"We must compile a whole new set of rules for the game, because the existing rules have just landed us deeper in difficulty," said Kotze.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk is scheduled to call at Kotze's farm today during a helicop-

ter tour of drought areas.

Van Niekerk said at Heilbron yesterday that Free State farmers would not have an income to service their debts. This was aggravated by the fact that the past 10 years had not been good agricultural years.

He was giving his first impressions during a tour of the drought-stricken north and north-eastern Free State.

"It will be necessary to negotiate with creditors ... to work out solutions with local committees to determine the role the state must fulfil."

Farmers interviewed at the weekend said the drought was the best thing that could have happened to further the right-wing cause.

A northern Transvaal farmer warned that government and city-dwellers did not truly comprehend the situation. This was "radicalising" farmers.

"There are 80 000 farmers. By this time next year there may be less than half left," he said. — Sapa.

Thousands now face starvation

Paula Fray
and Helen Grange

Thousands of people are facing starvation within the next few weeks as a result of the severe drought gripping the country, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman warned yesterday.

The critical shortage of maize in the country is expected to result in serious shortages of mealie meal, a staple diet for the poor.

Several farmers are already struggling to feed their farmworkers and some have begun retrenching those they can no longer support.

Ms Perlman said at a press conference in Johannesburg that the Government had been "monstrously slow" in responding to Operation Hunger's formal request for money to alleviate the plight of people reeling under the severe drought. Not a cent had yet been received.

"Such bureaucratic delay will, for many of our constituency, effect the most permanent solution of all —

● To Page 3

Thousands could starve as drought grips country

● From Page 1

death," she said.

Health Minister Dr Bina Venter recently told Parliament R94.55 million was in the process of being paid out. Of this, about R16 million had been paid out to non-government organisations.

Ms Perlman said Operation Hunger's waiting list of people needing immediate aid was now close on 500 000.

The blazing heat had reduced black subsistence farmers' markets by up to 30 percent.

Ms Perlman said there was "precious little evidence" that money made available on paper by Government was being distributed.

Eastern Cape field worker Glynnis Baer added that people in the eastern Cape were also not feeling any effect of the Government's poverty-relief programme.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekirk yesterday toured devastated Transvaal farms following a mass meeting with Free State farmers on Monday.

The SA Agricultural Union yesterday expressed grave concern about the situation, saying it was already clear that few farmers would harvest any summer crops whatsoever.

The future of many co-operatives was uncertain.

Mr van Niekirk is expected to report back on possible steps to be taken at a meeting organised by the National Maize Producers Organisation next month.

Meanwhile, Farmers' Crisis Action has warned the Government that it will launch protest action if immediate relief measures were not taken.

The organisation demanded that insolvency litigation and sequestration sales against farmers should be halted, and interest rates on agricultural debt suspended. President de Klerk should also declare the whole agricultural sector a disaster area.

The organisation did not expand on what action would be taken, but it was responsible for the "Siege of Pretoria" last January when thousands of farmers disrupted traffic in the city.

Government warned of large-scale starvation

OPERATION Hunger said yesterday two-million blacks could be starving by May unless government accelerated drought relief.

The private welfare group said delay in starting the first government funding of its work could turn malnutrition in rural areas to outright starvation.

"We do not use the word starvation lightly. We use it with the full weight of what the word means," agency director Ina Perlman told a news conference. "We are desperately worried."

The group said it had received none of the R220m promised to non-government organisations for normal hunger relief in government's budget in April last year.

The money was more urgently needed now because of the drought.

"We are feeding, wholly or partially, 1,8-million people now and we have almost half-a-million others on our waiting lists," said Perlman.

She said the organisation would need to feed between 2,25-million and 2,5-million people if government did not release funds by the end of April.

The Department of National Health said strict precautions to prevent misapplication of taxpayers' money had led to a delay in payments, but these were now being accelerated.

Perlman said in a statement the "miracle" of rain might still save crops in some areas, but prayers were being said daily for subsistence farmers in Mahlobayanini, Ramatlabama, Winterveld, Nkandla and Lebowa.

She said Operation Hunger was aware that grants had been made to some creches and had read about a clinic relief scheme that had been announced but as yet had seen no signs of its implementation.

Perlman warned that "bureaucratic delay and dilly-dallying" would result in death for many.

Aid workers estimate a quarter of all deaths among blacks are children under five who succumb to malnutrition. Perlman said this rate was rising. — Sapa-Reuter.

Urgent drought talks scheduled

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk will meet a top-level delegation from the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) on Friday for urgent talks on the drought disaster and its consequences for the economy and agriculture.

Union director Piet Swart is expected to appeal for cash aid measures at the Cape Town meeting.

The union said about half the industry's total debt, which could reach R20bn by the year end, is owed to commercial banks. The balance is on the books of the Land Bank and co-operatives, except for 5% owed to government.

Nampo economist Kit le Clus said yesterday 12 000 farmers in the summer grain areas were responsible for 90% of the country's maize, wheat and oil seed production.

GERALD REILLY

Almost 3 000 of these were in grave financial straits. About R1,5bn of the total invested in crops this year — mostly borrowed money — had "gone down the drain with absolutely no return".

Farmers were paying almost R3bn a year to service debt — a burden fewer and fewer were able to carry. Without substantial aid few would be able to plant the 1992/1993 crop.

Le Clus added that food shortages could not be ruled out.

A "disastrous" situation loomed if farmers had to keep on borrowing to get the industry back on its feet was urgently needed.

Meanwhile the Farmers' Crisis Action group, which orchestrated the disruption of central Pretoria last year when thousands of farmers and

their vehicles clogged city thoroughfares, is threatening another "farmer power" demonstration unless government acts to defuse the crisis.

Sapa reports SAAU co-operative council chairman Charles van Veijeren said in a statement yesterday it was clear few farmers would harvest any summer crops whatsoever.

"This situation can have disastrous results for many farmers who are already in a weak financial position due to many years of crop failures and high interest rates, while the rural areas also suffer, making the future of many agricultural co-operatives uncertain," he said.

He said co-operatives played a key role in determining the extent of the losses, and encouraged them to continue to provide all possible co-operation in the search for solutions and further aid actions.

**IT'S A CREDIT JUNGLE OUT THERE
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE YOUR COMPANY IS**

Aid urged for farmers facing ruin

ALAN DUNN
Political Correspondent

FINANCIAL aid is needed urgently for thousands of farmers facing ruin.

Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk, clearly alarmed by what he saw in a two-day helicopter tour this week of drought-ravaged farmlands in the Transvaal and Free State, said: "Reports on the serious damage to crops were not exaggerated".

In some districts there was apparently no prospect of any crops at all.

"Even if rain should fall, it will be too late," he said. "Grazing in the areas visited is inadequate and every-

(3) ARC 13/2/92
thing points to a shortage of fodder during the winter."

Innovative ways had to be found to tackle a host of problems the drought had created, including consideration of an input cost subsidy to lower farmers' debts and methods of lowering agricultural interest rates without too much distortion of the economy.

Dr Van Niekerk said he would discuss the drought with the South African Agricultural Union and government's agricultural departments tomorrow.

The Department of Agricultural Development would, with the Depart-

ment of Justice, establish local committees as soon as possible to help farmers in financial trouble.

He urged farmers to table their cases for emergency relief through applications for debt consolidation with the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit Board.

● **Zambian President Frederick Chiluba** has declared the whole of the southern province and sections of the Lusaka, central, eastern and western provinces as drought disaster areas, Sapa reports.

Water scarcity 'inherent to SA climate'

By Shirley Woodgate

3/2/92

to 1983.

STAR

13/2/92

Drought is an inherent part of the South African climate, according to a report to the Water Affairs Commission by Professor Walter Zucchini and P T Adamson.

"Statistics prove that not a single year passes without drought in some part of the country," concluded Water Affairs hydrologist Stefan van Biljon.

But three periods dominate, when vast areas of the country were affected: the early 1930's, from 1948 to 1949 and the recent major five-year drought from 1978

and northern Transvaal experienced some of the driest years ever. By 1972, the coastal areas of the south-western Cape and the southern interior were in the throes of its worst drought.

In this context, latest Water Affairs figures indicate the total amount of water in dams throughout the country has dropped 7 percent below the overall 72 percent recorded in February last year.

Natal is well supplied with water, the level only slightly down from last year's 75 to 74 percent.

At the other end of the scale, the critical state of eastern Cape water resources has seen dam capacities dwindle to the 33 percent mark from 46 percent last year.

Although parts of the western Transvaal are in the throes of a crippling drought, the 17 dams in the region were just over half full this week, averaging 53 percent.

In the Upper Orange River scheme, the Hendrik Verwoerd and the P K le Roux are dams recent (86 in 1991) and 70 percent full (59 in 1991) respectively. But the total for the 11 dams is down from 74 to 64 percent.

Platteland trade grinds to a halt

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau STAR 13/2/92

Trade in platteland towns has almost reached a standstill as a result of farmers' financial crises — and some businesses, no longer able to carry their debt, have closed shop.

In the western Transvaal town of Delareyville, two shops closed during the past month and other traders are considering their options as sales plummet.

Struggling farmers are not even able to repair farming equipment and are cutting down sharply on purchases of feed and essential agricultural goods.

Delareyville furniture maker Christie Pool said yesterday that traders in the small town were extremely worried.

"Everyone is just hanging on, but already two shops — a boutique and a stationery shop — have closed," he said.

"The farmers are dead scared to spend money, and we depend on them. We don't have the option of working in factories to make ends meet," he said.

General dealer Michel Chidrawi said businessmen were now "on the edge".

"We are trying to hang in, but business is terrible and the heat is killing us. My trade is 60 percent down. Even if it does rain now, the crops are ruined and the farmers

won't recover," he said.

Wholesalers in the area are also suffering, as retailers are keeping purchases to a minimum. A worker at Metro Cash 'n Carry wholesalers said the shop was "absolutely dead" this week.

In Thabazimbi, farmers are expected to begin retrenchment of their farmworkers in the next few days, leaving hundreds in the area out of work.

Rural unemployment is expected to rise dramatically in both the Free State and Transvaal in the next few weeks as a result of farmers being unable to support their labourers.

The branch manager of the Thabazimbi co-operative, Andre Botha, said farmers would probably cut their staff by more than half in some cases.

Fight on

The co-operative, which sold "everything needed by the farmer", had been empty yesterday "for the first time ever".

"It is the same in all the towns, right up to Ellisras," he said.

However, several traders said they would fight on and assess the situation in April.

In the Free State — where it is understood almost half of commercial farmers have mortgaged their farms — 326 farms have been sequestrated recently, according to Frik Dreyer of the Free State Agricultural Union.

A spokesman for Farmer Crisis Action said hundreds of Transvaal farms were being sequestrated every month. "It's a case of standing there one day and being gone the next," he said.

The Land Bank has not yet commented on the number of farm sequestrations in the two regions.

● Crop losses of 80 percent and more had been reported in 13 of the 49 farming areas falling under the Eastern Transvaal Agricultural Co-op, the organisation said in a report.

The areas that had suffered crop damage of 80 percent and more were Amersfoort, Bloekomspruit, Davel, Devon, Glenroy, Greylingstad, Holmdene, Leeuspruit, Maizefield, Morgenzon, Platrand, Standerton and Trichardt.

● Farmers in the Koedoesrand district of the north-western Transvaal yesterday formed a disaster committee to help farmers in trouble because of the drought.

The committee will supply drinking water and other essentials to needy families and will also try to keep farmers who lose their farms because of insolvency in the district, by providing them with work on neighbouring farms.

● The drought has hit South Africa's cotton crops badly, reports the Cotton Board. The 1991/92 forecast has again been reduced, from 174 172 to 169 835 bales.

If present weather conditions persist, further reductions were likely, the board said.

It's a disaster - Kraai

STAR 13/2/92

By Alan Dunn ³ Gen
Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Thousands of farmers faced ruin if meaningful aid programmes were not urgently instituted to rescue them from the drought, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Nierkerk said last night.

Clearly alarmed by what he saw in a helicopter tour this week of drought-ravaged farmlands in the Transvaal and Free State, he noted that "reports on the serious damage to crops were not exaggerated".

Dr van Nierkerk seemed also in his statement last night to show a greater sense of urgency about the looming crisis than he displayed in Parliament last week.

He warned: "Even if rain should fall at this point in time, it will be too late for any recovery of maize and other summer crops."

"Grazing in the areas visited is inadequate and everything points to a shortage of fodder during winter."

Dr van Nierkerk informed the Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday of the gravity of the situation.

He said innovative ways had to be found to tackle a host of problems the drought had created, including consideration of the practicability of an input-cost subsidy to lower farmers' debts.

Another aspect requiring innovation was methods of lowering agricultural interest rates without too much distortion of the economy.

Ways had to be sought of preventing large-scale sequestrations.

"Urgent efforts are being made to clarify ways in which this imminent disaster can be avoided," he said.

Appeal

Dr van Nierkerk reiterated an appeal he issued in the House of Assembly last week to the Land Bank, commercial banks and financial institutions "not to take headlong decisions and to co-operate in trying to fend off the sequestration of farmers".

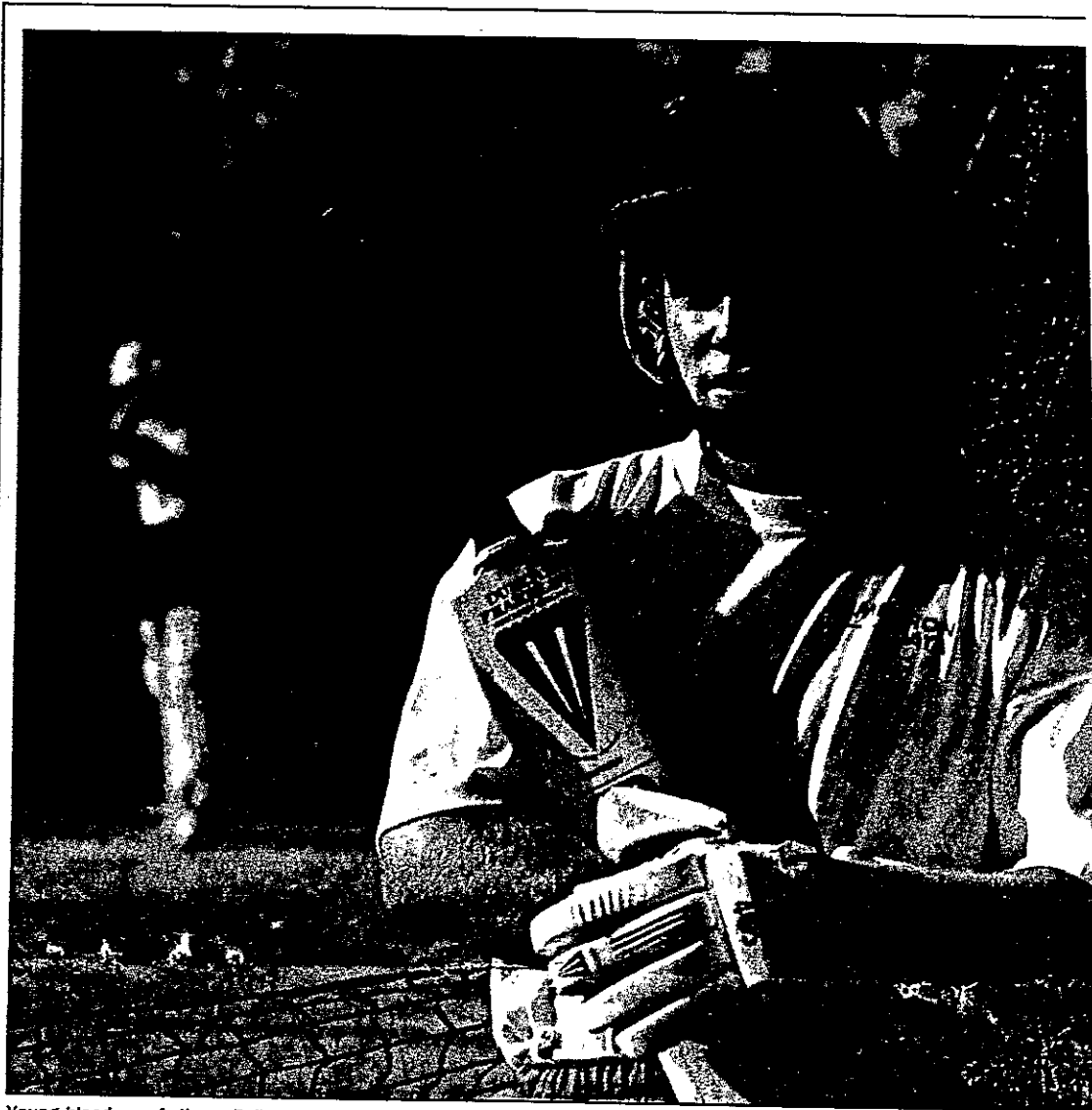
He noted that the Government was limited in what it could do.

"All players in the field of agricultural finance must co-operate in order to identify and handle their respective responsibilities in the whole matter," he said.

The distressing situation would negatively affect the entire country. "If meaningful assistance programmes are not instituted as a matter of urgency, agriculture and rural communities will face a crisis," he said.

He said the consequences would be:

- Sequestration of thousands of summer crop farmers.
- Agricultural co-operatives closing.
- Farming expertise lost to agriculture.
- Rising unemployment due to farm labourer retrenchment, and accelerated urbanisation as a result.
- The demise of small rural businesses, and socio-economic problems in those areas.
- The import of maize and other agricultural products



Young blood . . . Anthony Pollock (18), son of cricketer great Graeme Pollock, makes his debut with the Transvaal side tomorrow. Picture: Joao Silva

Anthony chip off the old Bok

By Jacqueline Myburgh

His father is a cricketing legend — and like his father, he's a left-handed batsman and he was selected this week to play for the Transvaal team for which his father played.

But that is all co-incident, says 18-year-old Anthony Pollock, son of Springbok cricketer Graeme. He plays his own game.

"He was a natural — I'm just going to try my best. It's been great having his support, but he let me play my own game," he says.

A B Comm student at RAU, Anthony played for the Transvaal B team before selectors chose him to play against Eastern Province tomorrow.

Anthony also plays for the RAU first team which is top of the Premier League, along with three other of his Transvaal teammates.

At his first practice with them yesterday, Anthony was warmly welcomed by all the other players, including former captain Clive Rice and new chief Roy Pienaar.

Anthony has no plans regarding a career. "You could make a living playing international cricket, but not provincial cricket," he said.

Tomorrow, the Transvaal side plays Graeme Pollock's first team, Eastern Province.

"I am nervous, it's tough," said Anthony. Predictably, Anthony's cricket career started long

before he can even remember. He does recall that he had a plastic bat when he was a young boy.

At school he captained KES's first team and he played Transvaal A during Nuffield Week and took part in the SA Schools competition.

The highlight of Anthony's cricketer career — apart from being selected to play for Transvaal — was when he scored his first century during a match between Transvaal B and OFS.

During the winter months, Anthony takes to the gym but he enjoys most other sports — tennis, squash and swimming in particular.

"Anything outdoors goes," he said.

Whoopi snaps up piece of bushveld

By Michael Sparks

American actress Whoopi Goldberg has bought a 21 ha bushveld property close to the Kruger National Park.



Mr Vorster said he was surprised by Goldberg's very good knowledge and understanding of nature.

"She knew that pollution in this country is a big problem. The pollution is

The flavor of France

to lower farmers' debts.

Another aspect requiring innovation was methods of lowering agricultural interest rates without too much distortion of the economy.

Ways had to be sought of preventing large-scale sequestrations.

"Urgent efforts are being made to clarify ways in which this imminent disaster can be avoided," he said.

Appeal

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He said the consequences would be:

- Sequestration of thousands of summer crop farmers.
- Agricultural co-operatives closing.
- Farming expertise lost to agriculture.
- Rising unemployment due to farm labourer retrenchment, and accelerated urbanisation as a result.
- The demise of small rural businesses, and socio-economic problems in those areas.
- The import of maize and other agricultural products which would be more expensive and of inferior quality.

Dr van Niekerk said he would discuss the drought with the SA Agricultural Union and the Government's agricultural departments tomorrow.

The Department of Agricultural Development would, with the Department of Justice, establish local committees as soon as possible to help farmers in financial trouble to negotiate with their creditors on the handling of their debts.

He urged farmers to table their cases for emergency relief through applications for debt consolidation with the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit Board.

● More reports — Page 3

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By Jacque

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By Micha

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Crisis over houses alleged in platteland

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EDWARD WEST

HOME building practically came to a halt in the platteland over the past year and a number of contractors were forced to close their doors, said outgoing Master Builders' Association Witwatersrand and South Transvaal president Adrian van den Berg at its general meeting yesterday.

The main reason for this decline in building activity was high interest rates which in turn led to high building costs, he said.

Equivalent housing, priced at between R150 000 and R250 000 in the PWV area, was being sold for between R80 000 and R100 000 in platteland areas like the Free State, eastern Cape and eastern and western Transvaal. New homes of comparable size could simply not be built at these low prices, he said.

"The ever increasing tax structure, high inflation and interest rates have caused people to become poorer. The reduction in bond rates of between 0,5% and 0,75% announced on 30 January 1992 is a drop in the ocean. The time is ripe for a further reduction in bond rates," he said.

Van den Berg said government should reduce interest rates and promote home ownership by way of tax concessions on the interest portion of bonds made to homeowners. "If these tax concessions are im-

plemented, home ownership and savings will be promoted," he said.

He said a large number of homes were repossessed by financial institutions last year. These were being sold far below market value, at prices that covered the outstanding bond. He said new home owners should buy such houses rather than have new homes built.

Political uncertainty, poor productivity and the continuing increase in the cost of building materials also contributed to poor levels of business activity in the building industry, he said.

Van den Berg also referred to an apparent dispute between his association and the Master Builders' Association of Natal.

He said relations with the Natal body had been sour for the past few years and ended when his association requested an inquiry to determine whether Natal's conduct was in the interest of the Building Industry Federation of SA.

He said that if it was found the Natal association had not acted in the interests of the federation, its membership would be terminated. Spokesmen for the Natal association yesterday said they had no knowledge of what Van den Berg was referring to.

Train safety plan

C

ANC joins row over emergency food funding

MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent

THE ANC has joined the row over the funding of emergency relief through Operation Hunger, accusing the government of insincerity in responding to the critical needs of the people.

"The government has once again shown bad faith and a monstrous lack of concern for the suffering of people in desperate and urgent need," the ANC said in a statement. APR 14/2/92

It was reacting to the row between the Department of National Health and Operation Hunger, which wants R20 million from State emergency funds to help feed drought-stricken communities.

Operation Hunger director Mrs Ina Perlman warned yesterday that 2 million people could be starving by April.

But Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter — who criticised Operation Hunger for using "public pressure" to obtain funds — insisted that the organisation spell out how it intended spending the money before a grant could be approved.

Talks on drought battle plan

TOS WENTZEL
Political Staff

A COMPREHENSIVE emergency plan to deal with the drought crisis will be discussed today when Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk and his top officials meet a South African Agricultural Union delegation. (3) APR 14/2/92

The minister said today that many farmers in the summer grain areas faced a double crisis — many of them would not have maize crops or winter grazing for their animals.

Many faced the choice of slaughtering their animals or letting them die.

The main aim of today's meeting will be to evaluate and quantify the damage to crops and to establish support schemes.

The drought is one of the worst this century.

Dr Van Niekerk has warned that the distressing situation will effect the entire country.

"If meaningful assistance programmes are not instituted as a matter of urgency, agriculture and rural communities will face a serious crisis."

This may include:

- Sequestration of thousands of summer crop farmers.
- The closure of agricultural co-operatives.
- The loss to agriculture of farming expertise.
- Rising unemployment due to farm labour retrenchments.
- Accelerated urbanisation.
- The demise of small rural businesses and socio-economic problems in those areas.
- The import of maize and other agricultural products.

Dr Van Niekerk called on banks and financial institutions to co-operate in trying to fend off the sequestration of farmers.

Drought decimating southern Africa

By Hans-Peter Bakker
Star Africa Service

Virtually the entire southern African region is reeling in what could become the most devastating drought in a century.

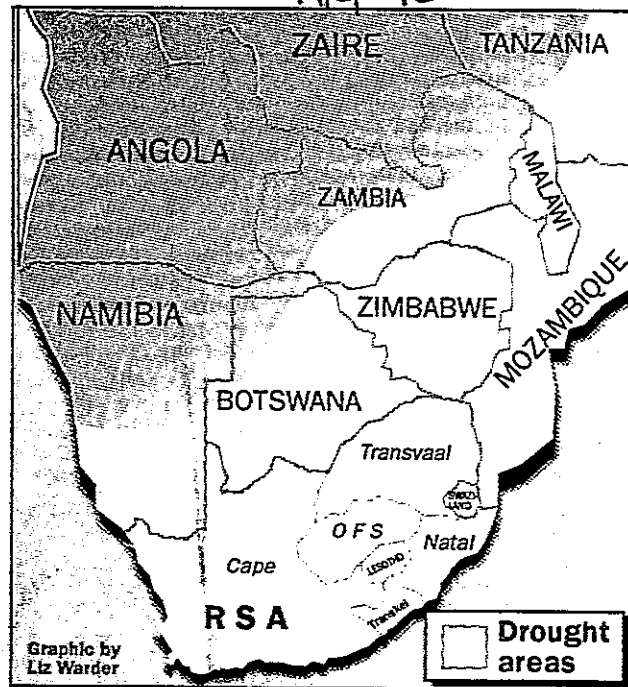
From Tanzania in the north to the Cape Province in the South, millions of people could face famine as crops are laid to waste and watercourses dry up.

The drought grips much of South Africa, southern Namibia and Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, all of Zimbabwe, southern Zambia and much of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

In former years of shortages, South Africa was often able to provide staple foods to hard-hit countries in the region, but 1992/93 threatens to be one of the worst in recorded history as South Africa faces the prospect of having to import about 3 million tons of maize for its own consumption.

To make matters worse, the United Nations World Food Programme predicts serious congestion on the region's transport system. Most provisions will have to be imported via Durban.

And, said a WFP spokesman, traditional donor countries are already far stretched to provide food aid



to war-torn Ethiopia and Somalia and in flood-ravaged Bangladesh, and would be hard pressed to provide the short-term requirements in southern Africa.

The spokesman said it was feared that many people in the region would die before the end of the year. "Even if we get the food, it will be logistically impossible to get it to the areas where it is urgently needed."

Thousands of farmworkers and villagers are facing bleak prospects, and already crowded cities will swell with millions seeking means to survive — with unemployment and crime rising as a result.

The drought also promises to play havoc with the region's hopes of economic and political stability.

In South Africa, hopes of an upturn in the economy

are fading and dreams of a more favourable trade balance will be dashed as the country imports foods to survive.

Zimbabwe is one of the worst-hit countries in the area, with estimates of more than a million tons of maize needed to make up the shortfall and with more than 2 million people already having applied for emergency food aid and another 4 million more expected to make the appeal soon.

In Mozambique, the drought promises to take a high human toll with many thousands of people already displaced by the war, and the cities holding little promise of survival for the stricken rural population.

Regie Mugwara, sector co-ordinator for food security in the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference region, is worried that the message of the seriousness of the situation is not getting through to policymakers in the area.

He said his unit was "quantifying" the extent of the drought to enable countries in need to apply for donor assistance. "But there is a danger that everyone will come asking for food aid at the same time."

● Subcontinent could be left high and dry — Page 13

Farmers ^{3 Gen} look to govt for relief

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk's obvious alarm over SA's summer crops has given agriculture leaders confidence that they will get a sympathetic response when they ask government today for massive and urgent aid.

A high-level SA Agricultural Union delegation meets Van Niekerk in Cape Town today to discuss the plight of the drought-ravaged maize industry.

The destruction in the summer grain areas has been catastrophic, agricultural authorities say, although it has not yet been measured in any detail.

They note that it is not only maize that has been affected, but all summer crops, including ground nuts, sorghum and sunflower.

Another issue to be raised at today's meeting is the fear that food shortages could develop in the next two years if many of the thousands of farmers now bordering on sequestration are forced off their farms.

Van Niekerk, after a brief helicopter tour of the damaged summer grain areas this week, was alarmed at the destruction, describing it as disastrous. He said thousands of farmers faced ruin unless aid programmes were instituted immediately. With that attitude, the sources said, there was hope of substantial new aid.

It was not clear whether Finance Minister Barend du Plessis would attend today's talks, but the situation would figure prominently at next week's Cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile, the worsening plight of farmers is highlighted by new Land Bank figures. A bank spokesman said farmers' mortgage debt to the bank was a record R3,2bn at the end of last year. This will be aggravated by the latest drought.

Sapa reports Land Bank GM H S Hattingh, yesterday gave the assurance that it would try to ensure farmers could continue with their ventures.

Hattingh said the bank had noted Van Niekerk's appeal to all banks this week to avoid sequestering farmers.

The bank was prepared to consider suspending arrear capital instalments, con-

□ To Page 2

Farmers ^{6/000} ^{14/2/92}

solidating arrear interest and extending loan periods as well as altering due dates of instalments to coincide with the period when farmers receive their main income.

SHARON WOOD reports that commercial banks — responding to Van Niekerk's appeal — will be sympathetic to their farming clients but that they have not yet

^{3 Gen}

□ From Page 1

made plans to deal with the problem. (T Volkskas Bank communications head Willie Roux said the bank's central strategy was to help keep farmers on their land. Standard Bank agriculture senior manager Rudi Wilsnach said the agricultural sector was an important segment of the bank's business and there was no question of a change in its lending policies.

Farmers hopeful of state aid

Own Correspondent

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Subcontinent could be left high and dry

STAR 14/2/92



AT A TIME when the countries in the southern African region hoped to see an upturn in their economies, with peace in sight in Angola and Mozambique and exciting prospects for open trade with South Africa, their hopes are being dimmed by crippling drought.

The economic damage caused by the drought could pose severe political problems for these countries' leaders as unemployment, poverty and crime increase.

Efforts to entrench free-market systems and multiparty democracy in the subcontinent could be set back.

With stocks of maize, the staple food, depleted throughout the subcontinent, most if not all of its countries will be forced to divert scarce foreign exchange to import maize, or seek food aid.

Even Angola, which was blessed with enough rain, will not be able to avoid the effects of the drought in its neighbouring countries.

Emergency food aid to the countries in the area is becoming a matter of urgency, but aid agencies are not very optimistic about either further donations

or the logistics of getting food to the places where it will be most needed.

Maize is the staple diet of most of the people living in the region and is used widely to feed livestock.

In South Africa, usually a maize exporting country, thousands of farmers face ruin in the devastation, which is likely to cost the country more than R2 billion in imported stocks.

The Maize Board estimates that this year's crop will be a 50-year low of between 4 million and 5 million tons — 2 million tons less than local consumption demands.

Economists predict that the effect on the economy will be a retarding of the bottoming-out of the recession, price rises and a drain on foreign reserves.

The depleted supplies in South Africa are further exacerbated by commitments already undertaken to export maize mainly to the Far East, but also to neighbouring coun-

tries.

The vast quantities needed to satisfy local demand will place additional pressure on the transport system, which will be further clogged up by the enormous demand for food from the other drought-stricken countries in the region.

The drought has not been merciful to war-torn Mozambique, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the war and would have been facing severe food shortages even without the drought.

In Mozambique's central provinces of Sofala and Manica, the failure of the rains has played havoc with the maize crops.

Thousands of peasant families who in the past have been able to sell surplus crops now face starvation.

Another country severely affected by the drought is Zimbabwe, whose crucial economic restructuring programme is in

The economic damage wrought by the drought could pose severe political problems for countries in southern Africa, reports HANS-PETER BAKKER of The Star Africa Service.

danger of being derailed.

Large areas in the south, south-west and east of the country have already lost their maize crops.

Predictions are that the country will have to import a million tons of maize to supply its consumption.

Social Welfare Minister John Nkomo expects the need for emergency food aid to swell to 6 million people.

Some farmers with records going back to the turn of the century have described it as the worst drought in more than 80 years.

Production from the commercial farming sector is expected to drop to only 30 percent of last year, and supplies

from the communal areas could drop by about 90 percent.

One of the most immediately pressing effects of the drought is the critical shortage of water in many areas, particularly in the south.

The drought problem is being exacerbated by transport difficulties: in the Buhera district in the east of Zimbabwe, officials say 40 000 people are facing starvation because food aid has not arrived.

Swaziland, which normally has consistent rains, has also not escaped the drought. Under normal conditions Swaziland imports only about 20 000 to 40 000 tons of maize from South Africa, but this year it will have to import much more.

Thousands of rural Swazis and refugees engaged in subsistence farming in the Lubombo district have been warned to save water, which is now being supplied to them by tankers from distant sources.

The Ministry of Agriculture has warned that the drought, which is already killing large numbers of cattle and ruining maize crops in north-eastern Swaziland, could become the worst drought-induced crisis in the country's history.

The minister also warned farmers to sell off some of their cattle immediately rather than have them starve to death through lack of pasture and water.

Even in Botswana, a country not unused to drought, emergency measures are being applied. Most of the country is in the grip of drought, except for areas near Chobe in the north.

Cattle are dying in the Jwaneng area and further reports of cattle dying in major villages

like Molopolole, 55 km from Gaborone, have been received.

David Finlay, executive chairman of the Botswana Meat Commission, has warned cattle farmers to sell their livestock while they are still in good condition.

The government has set up an inter-ministerial drought committee, which has toured the country to assess the drought. The committee's report is expected to result in President Quett Masire declaring much of the country a drought-stricken area.

In Zambia, President Frederick Chiluba has declared half the country a disaster area, apparently due to the drought.

But reports from Zambia are conflicting. Two weeks ago Zambia's deputy minister of agriculture proudly predicted a bumper maize crop following late, but timely, rains.

Southern Namibia had good rains in September and October but virtually nothing since.

The situation has been aggravated by very high temperatures, and a meteorologist said: "If the region doesn't get rain before the end of summer, it will be a disaster."

The southern parts of Malawi will be severely affected by the drought, according to Regie Mugwara, sector co-ordinator for food security in the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

The estimated 1 million Mozambican refugees in Malawi are in the south of the country.

In Tanzania, serious food shortages are being experienced despite rains in the north. Relief supplies of 52 000 tons are urgently needed to meet the needs of 1.7 million people in Dar es Salaam and 870 000 elsewhere, according to Mr Mugwara.

Lesotho, landlocked within South Africa, is suffering alongside SA, from which it normally imports much of its basic food-stuffs. The drought has hit at a time when the economy of Lesotho has been put under unusual strain by the return of thousands of mineworkers who were laid off from South African gold mines. □

Not even the champion's feeling chirpy

w/mail 14/2 - 20/2/92

(3) Gen ~~1/2~~

What do small farmers do when the going gets tough?

By RAY NXUMALO

NIKLAAS NGODELA, owner of the farm Vlakfontein just outside Bronkhorstspuit, is regarded as the champion farmer in kwaNdebele. Yet, he feels he is losing this battle.

"In all the years I have been farming — since 1958 — never has there been such drought in the land."

His experience in farming comes from some 36 years employed as a farmworker. He started working for a white farmer at the age of 16.

"He would be working in town while I farmed his land."

Ngodela's big break came when most farming land in the area fell under the jurisdiction of kwaNdebele six years ago. He took over the farm he'd been working — this time as the master. And he proved he could do it by himself, building up a fleet of five tractors in the process. He also has his own farming implements like ploughs, planters and harrows.

But this year has seen a turnaround in his fortunes.

"I may manage to repay a loan I took out for the fertilizers, seeds and the diesel — but there will be no profit for me this year, that's for sure."

Unlike most of his peers, he has four dams on his farm. He has put 20ha of land under irrigation, and he hopes this patch of land will produce the crops he needs to repay the loan.

Ngodela is pessimistic about the chances of his fellow farmers in the Witbank area. "Even if it rains, there is nothing for those people to rejoice about. They are finished there."

WHEN the going gets tough for the farmers of kwaNdebele, the farmers get going to the Zijameleni Farmers Co-operative for help.

The organisation is less than nine months old, according to chairman Nico von Hulst, but already it has secured land on a leasehold for numerous black farmers. And through

its guidance as the farmers' business arm, it has given them an additional lease on survival through the drought.

"Black farmers in kwaNdebele are shaping up to the challenges of farming," says Von Hulst. "You see, most of these people have been foremen and labourers in white-owned farms for some time. Now that they are on their own they can only get better."

It does help that the drought has not ravaged the area to the extent that it has in other parts of the country.

"We are sitting in an oasis compared to the western Transvaal. In my opinion that is the hardest hit of all regions," says Von Hulst.

Nevertheless, the black farmers have been hampered at a time when they are only just beginning to find their feet. What they need is time and proper guidance, according to Von Hulst. He thinks 15 years would be appropriate to give them the necessary skills to establish themselves.

But first, the drought has to be overcome.

NEARLY the entire community of black farmers outside the eastern Transvaal town of Bronkhorstspuit stopped worrying about the drought for a few hours on Wednesday morning and asked for God's intervention.

The prayer meetings were held in schools, churches and outside in the fields after Duka Mabona, president of the local Farmers Union, went on radio to urge other farmers in the area to observe a call for prayers.

Mabona, owner of the farm Blesbokfontein, himself held a prayer meeting with his neighbours at a hillock called Spookklip.

Promising clouds formed in the sky as they returned from the meeting, but they did not build up to anything beyond a scattered patchwork.

Sitting in his dining room, Mabona clutched his hands together as if in prayer. "One has to have hope all the time," he says. "Farming is a risky-business. One moment we can be in a drought and the next day it may rain."

The devil in the deep blue sea

③ *gen*
EL NINO seems to be behind the drought. El Nino is a warm current that flows past Latin America around Christmas.

It is not the current itself, but the energy exchange between warm water and atmosphere that apparently causes the abnormal weather.

Weather forecasting director Gerhard Schulze says El Nino almost always coincides with abnormal weather in the summer rainfall season in southern Africa. Given that, the present abnormal heat should last until March.

However, El Nino is only part of the total picture, says Schulze. And every El Nino is different so there is no absolute certainty about how long the weather will be affected or to what extent. Schulze does say that 12 out of the last 13 El Ninos studied resulted in below normal rainfall in the summer rainfall area of South Africa.

Peter D'Abreton, a member of the University of the Witwatersrand's Climatology Research Group, agrees. "People are coming to the conclusion that it is El Nino." But D'Abreton says El Nino can only be held responsible for 16 to 20 percent of the variance in South Africa's rainfall.

Abreton says El Nino crops up every three years or so. The last time it was associated with devastating drought was at the end of 1982 and beginning of 1983. While the 1982-83 El Nino effect was severe, the next time it appeared, in 1987, it was not as severe.

Long-range forecasting is well-nigh impossible. So if events associated with El Nino do foreshadow disruptions in "normal" weather, it gives forecasters a handy tool.

Schulze says the more extreme events of El Nino give the best indication of coming disruptions. So if the ocean temperatures are way out of line and the ocean area affected is larger than usual it is probable a very dry season is on the way.

D'Abreton says that in mid-December oceanographers noted the current was stronger than usual. This should have given South Africans a warning of what was coming. *Wimmer*

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Hardly a year passes without a drought crisis. Are we entirely at the mercy of the heavens, or can sensible

Another year, another drought

W/maill 14/2 - 20/2/92

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Will it hurt city types? Alas, it will

THE joke used to be that a South African farmer would look at the one year out of five when rains were plentiful in his area as the norm. The other four dry years were abnormal.

There's some truth in that but the present searing drought hurts the good and the bad. Yet the question lingers: are most South African farmers so marginal that one bad year can wipe them out?

Take maize farming in the Western Transvaal which has attracted most criticism for being an area unsuitable for maize. Maize Board deputy general manager Peter Cownie denies it is unsuitable. Compared with the yields obtained from rich United States farmland maize farming in South Africa could be considered a very poor prospect. That doesn't mean South Africa shouldn't be farming maize at all.

THE drought will not only hit farmers. It will cause food prices to rise and in turn push up inflation in general.

It will reduce export revenues and diminish the surplus in the current account of Balance of Payments, or how much money as a nation we have in the kitty.

It will shave a percentage point or so off the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the broadest measure of the country's wealth.

Volkswagen economist Adam Jacobs points out that agriculture only contributes six or seven percent to GDP. But because of economic linkages with agriculture, drought has a wider effect. "It's quite clear that we will be lucky to see 1 percent growth this year," he says.

The drought could not have come at a worse time both

economically and politically. The economy is at the lowest point for years of an already long, drawn-out recession. Politically, the country is undergoing huge adjustments and changes.

Mark Lyster, of the Development Bank of South Africa, reckons 100 000 farm labourers could be put out of work. Multiply this by eight or nine dependents and you have a million people homeless or jobless.

Should they move to the city, the problem of finding land for informal settlement and paying for it will be so much worse. In general, increasing joblessness and rising crime will be given another boost, making it that much more difficult for South Africa's haves to cope with change.

Moreover, the drought has hit not only the maize farmers, such as the Western Transvaal, but other farmers as well. National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) general manager Giel van Zyl puts it bluntly:

"The drought is devastating the summer rain crops countrywide."

While dry-land farming has been hit, irrigation farming is by and large not affected. The sugarcane crop will be affected. So will, among others,

sunflower seeds, dry beans, sorghum and potatoes.

Mealies, a staple food for much of the population, has been hardest hit. Cownie says South Africa might have to import two to three million tons of mealies — despite having carried over

one million tons of maize from last season. At a world maize price of R450 to R500 a ton, that means R1-billion to R1.5-billion of precious foreign exchange flowing out of the country. In good years, maize exports from South Africa are a boost to the trade balance.

The urbanite view of farmers as mollycoddled Mercedes Benz drivers is wide of the mark, stresses the Development Bank's Mark Lyster.

A decade of moving agriculture towards a more market-related set-up, where demand matters as much as supply, has taken its toll. For instance, the real (adjusted for inflation) price of maize hasn't risen in the last six or seven years.

Lyster is careful to emphasise that the bank empathises with the plight of many farmers. There is real suffering out there, he says. Some farmers will be driven off the land. Lyster doubts

planning alleviate much needless suffering? REG RUMNEY reports

.. another big surprise. Why?

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the government has much money available to spend on agriculture.

On the other hand, one has to be cautious about the special pleading of vested interests. For instance, farmers' groups have been calling for writing off the R18-billion or so of debt that hangs over the farming community. And they have been warning of widespread sequestrations. The banks are unlikely to rush into sequestrations. Those banks involved in agriculture hardly need to have more unsaleable property on their books. They would rather leave the farmers on the land to repay their debts.

Lyster supposes it wouldn't help much to write off the debt without addressing the underlying problem: farmers would merely build up debt again.

From a strategic point of view farmers' call for drought relief must gain sympathy, as long as it doesn't extend

beyond drought assistance, and is confined to debt related to production rather than the farmers' car or speedboat.

What the drought has shown, though, is the need from several different angles for fundamental reshaping of agriculture. The official attitude to agriculture has changed, and prices are more market-related, but much more needs to be done. As one example, the role and composition of the controversial agricultural marketing boards must be looked at carefully.

Distortions arose over many years in agriculture from various kinds of subsidisation of a strategic industry and the political clout of the farmers. So, for example, farmers grew maize where they should have grown sorghum or ground nuts. This kind of problem is not unique to South Africa. The present round of talks of the

General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs is supposed to take another step towards world trade free from subsidy and protection. But it has been nobbled by powerful farming lobbies in the European Community, and the US itself is not completely innocent when it comes to subsidies. Subsidisation of farm crops overseas affects domestic agriculture in various ways. It can be cheaper to import certain products, even though they are plentiful in South Africa.

Nonetheless, restructuring must be undertaken in South Africa for economic and environmental as well as political reasons. The political rationale for some kind of affirmative action for black farmers is well known. The Development Bank made itself unpopular some years ago by recommending that land which could not be farmed by white farmers without massive subsidies could be given to black farmers.

Lyster points out that in areas where maize farmers have not relied on far more risky but potentially more profitable high-input farming techniques, they have had good crops.

But he cautions against a romantic view of smallholder farming. It won't necessarily help food production simply to hand over farms from failed white farmers to small black farmers, for instance.

Moves towards a more rational economic approach have already been made. The Development Bank has advocated a land reform programme, encompassing politics, the economy, social, technical and environmental aspects. Its approach should include affirmative action for black farmers.

The reshaping of agriculture has to be sweeping.

Lyster sums up: "We have to try to move to a more sustainable environment."

In a land of dry stalks, dreams of tall fields of green

W/Mail 14/2 - 20/2/92

The old ways were the best ways say the black farmers of Goedgevonden — and economics appears to support their argument. **FERIAL HAFFAJEE** and **PAUL STOBER** report

GOD seems to have lain a reproachful finger on the western Transvaal. For endless miles all you see are dead and dying mealie fields and stunted sunflowers.

Goedgevonden, near Ventersdorp, is a dry and dusty expanse of land where nothing grows and the only moving objects are children fetching water in discarded two-litre Coke bottles.

But the people of Goedgevonden have not given up in despair. They have visions of tall mealie fields and healthy watermelon patches stretching to the horizon and of grazing lands filled with fat cattle.

Before they were forcibly removed from their land in 1978, the Goedgevonden community practised communal farming. Last year they moved back to the land, after the scrapping of the Land Acts, expecting to resume where they had left off.

Prevented from doing so by ongoing negotiations about whether they will be permitted to stay on the land, they are now challenging the government and surrounding farmers to let them farm in the way they know best. Goedgevonden's former farmers this week told *The Weekly Mail* how they used to farm.

Each family had a homestead with a



Goedgevonden farmer Edward Lesedi stretches out his arms to show how high the mealie stalks once stood

garden and a pen for their livestock. The community shared four grazing camps and one large piece of grazing land.

A committee, or *kgotla*, allocated the land. The *kgotla* was also responsible for vaccinating animals and for the general administration of the community.

Most families were allocated five morgen of land, but others had as much as 200 morgen. The bigger farmers usually had tractors and other equipment and for a share of the crop, they would plough the land of the smaller farmers.

Each family contributed to the cost of all that was communally owned and cash was brought into the community by migrant workers and the sale of surplus crops.

Now the community is itching to put these practices to work again. "We want to make a competition with the white farmers. We taught them to farm, they did not know this land could produce food. We can produce the same, and better than them," says 57-year-old Levy Segopolo.

Meshak Mbandese is about 75 years old. "I can work better than the white

man. I can plough, I know how deep to plough and I know how much fertilizer to put in," he says.

Mbandese's friend, Edward Lesedi, nods his head in agreement. When he was a farmer, he says, the mealies were as tall as he could stretch his arms — not short like they are now. When we point out that the stalks are dying because of drought, he shrugs his shoulders, saying: "One year you get rain, one year you don't."

"We never knew a year when nothing came from the land," adds Segopolo. In the old days, they stored enough maize to see them through droughts.

Harold Winkler, of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), comments: "The Goedgevonden social system proved very resilient even in periods of drought. The balance between migrant wages and agricultural crops assured that if either suffered a set-back, people could survive until the next period of rain."

Winkler adds that this method of farming supports wider economic goals like providing housing and food for extended families. It can also reduce the rate of urbanisation and strengthen the rural economy.

The system has checks and balances built into it. By practising rotational grazing, limiting the head of cattle a family could own and planting trees, sustainable land use is ensured and the capacity of the land is not exhausted, says Winkler.

The department of agriculture, however, favours the idea of dividing the land into 21 units for as many families. Each of these families would be allowed to keep two more families as farmworkers.

Segopolo says about this plan: "The people of Goedgevonden have decided to farm communally, not individually. We want the government to give us a chance for five or six years." The community is willing to accept a leasehold on the land for five years and if their methods are not successful, they can be reassessed.

The Goedgevonden farmers hope to show that their traditional communal approach is the way for drought-stricken farmers to survive the dry seasons — and their plan can work if the state and agricultural industry back them up.

"The most successful efforts to develop peasant farming involve

impact because of the scale of the problem," he says.

Cooper points out that South Africa has huge resources in the agricultural sector which can be used to help black farmers. "But the institutions of the agricultural sector will have to be opened up and democratised."

Even if this happens, says Cooper, successful small-scale black farmers cannot be expected to appear overnight: "Only 13 percent of the land has been available to black farmers. There is no residue of peasant farmers which can be expanded and it will take five to 10 years to increase their numbers incrementally by about 20 percent."

Cooper believes the best way to increase the number of black farmers on the land is to improve their access to land, capital and markets. "This would help redistribute land without disrupting food production."

The new farmers would have to use alternative farming methods — broadly defined as not requiring large inputs of capital or energy, and using the same principles as the Goedgevonden farmers. "Capital farming methods led to the present debt crisis of white farmers," Cooper says.

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~~Finance~~

Will it hurt city types? Alas, it will

THE drought will not only hit farmers. It will cause food prices to rise and in turn push up inflation in general.

It will reduce export revenues and diminish the surplus in the current account of Balance of Payments, or how much money as a nation we have in the kitty.

It will shave a percentage point or so off the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the broadest measure of the country's wealth.

Volskas economist Adam Jacobs points out that agriculture only contributes six or seven percent to GDP. But because of economic linkages with agriculture, drought has a wider effect. "It's quite clear that we will be lucky to see 1 percent growth this year," he says

The drought could not have come at a worse time both

economically and politically. The economy is at the lowest point for years of an already long, drawn-out recession. Politically, the country is undergoing huge adjustments and changes.

Mark Lyster, of the Development Bank of South Africa, reckons 100 000 farm labourers could be put out of work. Multiply this by eight or nine dependents and you have a million people homeless or jobless.

Should they move to the city, the problem of finding land for informal settlement and paying for it will be so much worse. In general, increasing joblessness and rising crime will be given another boost, making it that much more difficult for South Africa's haves to cope with change.

Moreover, the drought has hit not only the-maize farmers, such as the Western Transvaal, but other farmers as well. National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) general manager Giel van Zyl puts it bluntly:

"The drought is devastating the summer rain crops countrywide."

While dry-land farming has been hit, irrigation farming is by and large not affected. The sugarcane crop will be affected. So will, among others,

sunflower seeds, dry beans, sorghum and potatoes.

Mealies, a staple food for much of the population, has been hardest hit. Cownie says South Africa might have to import two to three million tons of mealies — despite having carried over

one million tons of maize from last season. At a world maize price of R450 to R500 a ton, that means R1-billion to R1.5-billion of precious foreign exchange flowing out of the country. In good years, maize exports from South Africa are a boost to the trade balance.

The urbanite view of farmers as mollycoddled Mercedes Benz drivers is wide of the mark, stresses the Development Bank's Mark Lyster.

A decade of moving agriculture towards a more market-related set-up, where demand matters as much as supply, has taken its toll. For instance, the real (adjusted for inflation) price of maize hasn't risen in the last six or seven years.

Lyster is careful to emphasise that the bank empathises with the plight of many farmers. There is real suffering out there, he says. Some farmers will be driven off the land. Lyster doubts

planning alleviate much needless suffering? **REG RUMNEY** reports

.. another big surprise. Why?

W/mail

14/2 - 20/2/92

(3) Gen

the government has much money available to spend on agriculture.

On the other hand, one has to be cautious about the special pleading of vested interests. For instance, farmers' groups have been calling for writing off the R18-billion or so of debt that hangs over the farming community. And they have been warning of widespread sequestrations. The banks are unlikely to rush into sequestrations. Those banks involved in agriculture hardly need to have more unsaleable property on their books. They would rather leave the farmers on the land to repay their debts.

Lyster supposes it wouldn't help much to write off the debt without addressing the underlying problem: farmers would merely build up debt again.

From a strategic point of view farmers' call for drought relief must gain sympathy, as long as it doesn't extend

beyond drought assistance, and is confined to debt related to production rather than the farmers' car or speed-boat.

What the drought has shown, though, is the need from several different angles for fundamental reshaping of agriculture. The official attitude to agriculture has changed, and prices are more market-related, but much more needs to be done. As one example, the role and composition of the controversial agricultural marketing boards must be looked at carefully.

Distortions arose over many years in agriculture from various kinds of subsidisation of a strategic industry and the political clout of the farmers. So, for example, farmers grew maize where they should have grown sorghum or ground nuts. This kind of problem is not unique to South Africa. The present round of talks of the

General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs is supposed to take another step towards world trade free from subsidy and protection. But it has been nobbled by powerful farming lobbies in the European Community, and the US itself is not completely innocent when it comes to subsidies. Subsidisation of farm crops overseas affects domestic agriculture in various ways. It can be cheaper to import certain products, even though they are plentiful in South Africa.

Nonetheless, restructuring must be undertaken in South Africa for economic and environmental as well as political reasons. The political rationale for some kind of affirmative action for black farmers is well known. The Development Bank made itself unpopular some years ago by recommending that land which could not be farmed by white farmers without massive subsidies could be given to black farmers.

Lyster points out that in areas where maize farmers have not relied on far more risky but potentially more profitable high-input farming techniques, they have had good crops.

But he cautions against a romantic view of smallholder farming. It won't necessarily help food production simply to hand over farms from failed white farmers to small black farmers, for instance.

Moves towards a more rational economic approach have already been made. The Development Bank has advocated a land reform programme, encompassing politics, the economy, social, technical and environmental aspects. Its approach should include affirmative action for black farmers.

The reshaping of agriculture has to be sweeping.

Lyster sums up: "We have to try to move to a more sustainable environment."

Farmer threatens to shut school

New Nation (Learning Nation) (4/2-20/2/92)
A FARMER near Lanseria Airport is set to jeopardise the future of hundreds of children by refusing to let them attend the school on his property.

Swartkop Valley School, according to parents, was built by the previous owner who died. The farm was then sold to a BA Billet.

Billet is reported to have demanded that the school be bought by the Department of Education and Training (DET) or anybody else, failing which he would stop children from attending.

He has carried out his threat. He has reportedly barred children from attending the school on several occasions since last year.

Last Friday he reportedly chased the children away and only re-admitted them after he was given an undertaking by an unnamed Pre-

torial DET official that the school would be bought. *(S Gen) (2/2/92)*

However, parents claim that either the DET or the principal of the school are dragging their feet in addressing the issue.

The expulsion of children was reported to have started earlier last year and the principal, known only as Bogatsu, had constantly refused to make the issue public. He argued that the department would fire him if it was known that he had taken the issue to the people or institutions other than the department.

Neither the department nor the farmer were available for comment, but PUPILS' FORUM-learned that Billet had undertaken to expel the kids again should the department fail to settle the matter urgently.

It happens every year in SA ^{ARCT 15/1/92} ③

Dateline: **JOHANNESBURG**

DROUGHT is an inherent part of the South African climate, says a report to the Water Affairs Commission by Professor Walter Zucchini and Mr P T Adamson.

"Statistics prove that not a single year passes without drought in some part of South Africa," concluded Water Affairs hydrologist Mr Stefan van Biljon.

But three periods dominate, when vast areas of the country were affected: the early 1930s, from 1948-1949 and the major drought from 1978 to 1983.

In 1963/4 and 1965/6 the Eastern and Northern Transvaal experienced some of their driest

years. By 1972 the coastal areas of the southwest Cape and the southern interior were in the throes of their worst drought.

In this context Water Affairs figures indicate the total amount of water in dams throughout the country has dropped seven percent below the overall 72 percent recorded last February.

Several individual reservoirs have fallen by as much as 20 percent.

But there are major exceptions, including 27 dams in the Western Cape (which today average 57 percent compared to 39 at the same time last year), and the Boegoeberg Dam on the Lower Orange River which remains full.

Natal is well supplied with wa-

ter, the total level only slightly down from last year's 75, to 74 percent. At least four of the 16 major dams are 100 percent full and most stand at well over 90 percent full.

At the other end of the scale the critical state of Eastern Cape water resources has seen dam capacities dwindle to the 33 percent mark from 46 this time last year.

Although parts of the Western Transvaal are in the throes of a crippling drought, the 17 dams in the region were just over half full this week, averaging 53 percent, only one percent lower than February 1991. This includes the popular boating venue, Hartebeespoort Dam, down from 83 to 59 percent full.

New moves to rescue ^③ drought-stricken farmers

ART 15/2/72

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Staff

MEASURES to hasten financial relief for drought-stricken farmers and to fend off imminent sequestrations are being taken by the government.

These are among the main points to emerge from a crisis meeting between the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, and the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Boet Fourie, yesterday.

In a joint statement the ministry and the SAAU said "everything possible" would be done in the short term to fend off imminent sequestrations and, in the longer term, to bring about more general financial relief.

The following actions have been agreed on:

A committee of ministers to plan and co-ordinate drought relief.

Forming a task group under the leadership of the president of the SAAU and the superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development to establish an assistance network and gather information.

The Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board to be instructed to prevent, as far as possible, sequestrations.

Negotiations with financial institutions involved in the agricultural sector, to be launched on February 24.

Establishing joint local committees in magisterial districts in which all parties involved in financing agriculture will be represented. Farmers have been asked to file applications for financial aid with magistrates.

Measures to avoid food shortages. The importation of maize is "receiving urgent attention".

■ More reports on the drought — page 18.

Deadly drought plagues millions

REG 15/2/92 (3)

VIRTUALLY the entire southern Africa is reeling in what could become the most devastating drought in a century.

From Tanzania in the north to the Cape in the south, millions of people face famine as crops are laid waste and watercourses dry up.

The drought grips much of South Africa, southern Namibia and Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, all of Zimbabwe, southern Zambia and much of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

In former years of shortages, South Africa was often able to provide staple foods to hard-hit countries in the region, but 1992/93 threatens to be one of the worst in history as South Africa faces the prospect of having to import about 3 million tons of maize at R1,5 billion, for its own consumption.

To make matters worse, the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) predicts serious congestion on the region's transport system. Most of the area's provisions will have to be imported through Durban.

And, says a UNWFP spokesman in Harare, traditional donor countries are already far stretched to provide food aid to war-torn Ethiopia and Somalia and in flood-ravaged Bangladesh, and will be hard pressed to provide the urgently needed short-term requirements in southern Africa.

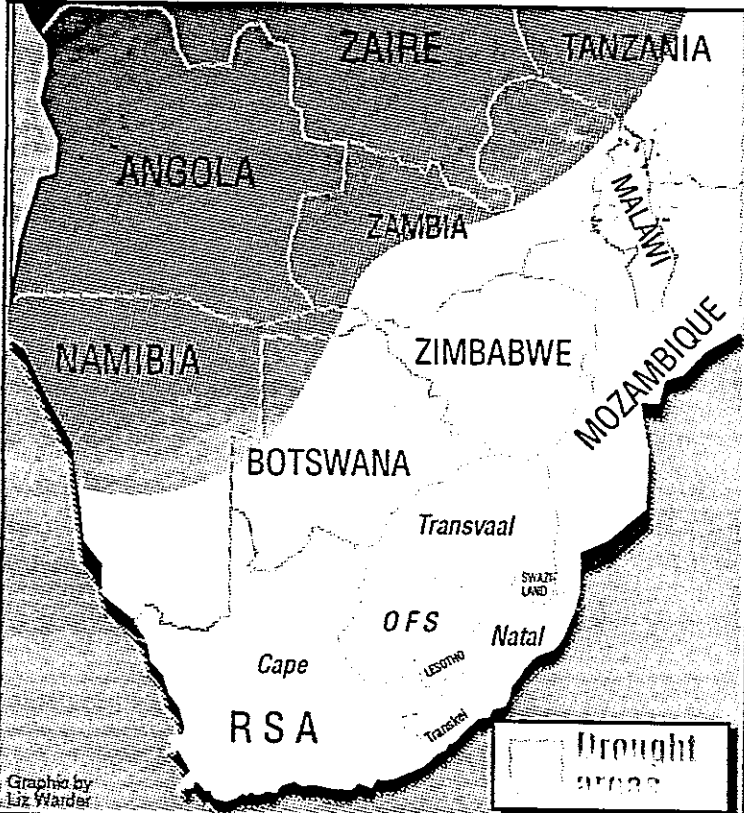
The spokesman said it was feared many people in the region would die before the end of the year. "Even if we get the food, it will be logistically impossible to get it to the areas where it is urgently needed."

Thousands of farm workers and rural villagers are facing bleak prospects and the already crowded cities will swell with millions of people seeking means to survive — with unemployment rising and crime rates likely to soar as a result.

The drought also promises to play havoc with the region's quest for economic and political stability.

In South Africa, hopes of an upturn in the depressed economy are fast fading as the drought takes its toll and dreams of a more favourable

As southern Africa reels in what could become the most devastating drought in a century, millions of people face famine as crops are laid waste and watercourses dry up. **HANS-PETER BAKKER** of the Argus Africa News Service reports from Johannesburg.



Graphics by Liz Warder

trade balance will be dashed as the country imports food to survive.

Zimbabwe is one of the countries worst hit in the area, with estimates of more than a million tons of maize needed to make up the shortfall with more than 2 million people already having applied for emergency food-aid and another 4 million expected to make the appeal soon.

The drought poses a serious political threat to Zimbabwe's five-year structural adjustment programme as forecasts suggest a fall in GDP to minus 3 percent, the lowest in decades.

In Mozambique, ravaged by more than 20 years of war, the drought promises to take a high human toll with many hundreds of people already displaced by the war and the cities holding little promise of survival for the stricken rural population.

Mr Regie Mugwara, sector co-ordinator for food security in the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) region, is worried that the message of the seriousness of the situation is not getting through to policy-makers in the area.

He said his unit was quantifying the extent of the

drought to enable countries in need to apply for assistance. "But, there is a danger that everyone will ask for food aid at the same time".

Mr Mugwara said the drought was taking on epidemic proportions. "Many people and animals are in danger of dying of thirst and hunger. Not only food is running out, water supplies also are becoming critical."

Unless widespread rains fall before the summer ends, the region will go into the normally dry winter with seriously depleted water and food stocks for people as well as livestock.

Milk crisis looms in dairy revolt

The dairy industry is under threat in drought-torn Zimbabwe and producers have warned that unless prices paid to them are doubled, the country will have no milk. **ROBIN DREW**, Argus Africa News Service, reports from Harare.

ZIMBABWE, under the lash of a devastating drought, acute shortages of water and food, and galloping inflation, is faced with the threat of the collapse of the dairy industry.

Grim-faced dairy producers have warned that the country will have no milk if they are not paid double the present price.

The chairman of the National Association of Dairy Farmers, Mr R W Franklin, told a packed meeting: "In a few short years we have been reduced from a sophisticated First World dairy industry to one of subsistence and mere survival."

"Dairy cattle are today worth more as meat than they are as milkers."

Many producers had dropped out and more were about to follow.

"If the system used for deciding producer prices for milk is not immediately revised, we will end up with no milk."

A leading economist, Mr E W Bloch, said although droughts had contributed to the downturn in the fortunes of dairy farmers, by far the greater and overriding cause had been the total lack of realism relating to prices.

Dairy farming had once been a lucrative industry but in the past five years it had steadily declined.

The crisis was such that the entire future of the dairy industry was in jeopardy and the health and well-being of the population was being put at risk.

Zimbabwe now has less than 500 registered producers, production is falling and input costs are rising dramatically, a seminar to devise a strategy for survival was told.

The milk crisis comes when the morale of commercial farmers has been dealt a heavy blow by the government's intention to press ahead with legislation to enable it to take half the white-owned farmland for black resettlement.

Meanwhile the shortage of maize, which has forced Zimbabwe to import from South Africa and to look to other sources for more supplies, threatens the future of the stockfeed industry.

The Commercial Farmers' Union has said that supplies for the industry are totally inadequate. Repercussions are likely to include the slaughter of up to half of the country's laying hens and broilers, a decline of 30 percent in pork production and a 50 percent reduction in cattle production.

Banks ready to aid stricken farmers

③ ARG 15/2/92

DAVID CUMMING

Weekend Argus Correspondent

SOUTH Africa's commercial banks stand at the ready to save farmers from the devastating drought.

That's the good news to emerge from two of the banks heavily involved in loans to the nation's agricultural sector.

While the drought will undoubtedly send some farmers to the financial wall, commercial banks are ready not only to set up a safety net for others but also to allow efficient operators to expand through "creative" finance packages which will allow them to buy out bankrupt enterprises.

Spokesmen for the banks said there was little likelihood that they would foreclose on victims of climatological circumstance.

Instead, they would examine each case on its merits, using pure business criteria and a sympathetic approach to keep as many farmers as possible on the land.

Such an attitude is viewed as stemming partly from a call by Dr Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture, for a lenient approach from suppliers of credit to agriculture.

"We have been very accommodating in the past when farmers have been in difficult circumstances and I do not anticipate that we will react differently in the current situation," was the encouraging response from Frans Venter, chief agricultural advisor to First National Bank.

However, he warned that those farmers who found themselves in financial difficulties because they had become involved in injudicious schemes would not find support from the banks.

Yet in spite of the assistance many farmers would receive from the banks, the drought could have serious implications for the rural economy.

"You merely have to drive to such areas as Koster, Lichtenburg and Delareyville to observe the effect. Shops are standing empty already and they were not built by speculators but because there was a demand for them."

Mr Venter said many of the workers of farmers who could not survive would find themselves destitute. There were already reports of labourers offering to work without pay, on the proviso that their families were given food and shelter.

He said the cost of importing maize to make up shortfalls had not yet been fully appreciated.

"Standards of purity on world markets are not always up to the standard of those on our domestic market. This means we may incur considerable costs in screening it to ensure it meets our requirements — over and above the cost of transporting it from our harbours to where it is required."

Additional costs could also have a knock-on effect on food prices, since many animal feeds incorporated maize.

He did not believe there would be much to be gained, in efficiency terms, from corporate farming organisations buying up bankrupt farms, since local experience had shown that big was not necessarily

better — as conventional wisdom in the US would have it.

Economists suggested this week that in view of the pragmatic approach to farm debt by the banks, consumers could be harder hit than farmers in the current situation. This was because food prices would undoubtedly rise as the gap between demand and supply grew.

While the farmers might find a sympathetic ear among creditors, consumers could not expect similar treatment.

Econometrix's Tony Twine said a major cause for concern was the plight of subsistence farmers. In times of normal rainfall, aggregate demand for maize fell, since farmers were able to grow their own crops in dryland conditions.

However, in times of drought they were forced to buy in their requirements. There was a significant threat that those who were unable to survive the onslaught of the elements would swell the flow of people to the urban areas, where employment was not readily available.

Rain won't wash away the problem

STAR 15/2/92

(3) Gen

IT IS difficult to look beyond the immediate problems caused by our climate — the havoc wrought on agriculture by the drought, the imminent collapse of rural communities and the inevitable squeeze on State coffers to bail farmers out.

But even if the heavens opened tomorrow, agricultural experts agree that the deeper difficulties facing South African farming won't be washed away by rainwater alone.

They also agree that this country is no farmers' paradise, something that may surprise city people accustomed to seeing rolling fields whenever they head down to the coast on holiday.

Marginal land

"We have very limited high-potential land in this country," says Professor Michiel Laker, professor of soil science and plant nutrition at the University of Pretoria. "It represents about 3 percent of the land and a lot of that is gobbled up for non-agricultural uses. Another 12 percent is arable, but much of that is marginal.

"We also have very difficult soils in South Africa," Professor Laker says. "They are often very shallow, they compact easily and they are highly erodible. It also doesn't help that we have so few soil scientists to

When the dust has finally settled on the last devastated mealie field, what then? JOHN PERLMAN went to find out.

provide agriculture with the detailed information it desperately needs."

Professor Laker warns that droughts have caused long-term ecological damage. "My main concern is with grazing areas where the ground has now been eaten clean. Without cover, the ground can harden and seal.

"That means rain cannot penetrate and water catchment areas dry up, there is greater erosion, and the quick run-off of water can lead to flash floods, which we see more and more. The farming system will also have to adapt to long-term weather patterns."

Those patterns, it would seem, are not so easy to predict. "Long-term predictions are not really possible at the moment," says Dr Janette Lindesay, deputy director of the Climatology Research Group at the University of the Witwatersrand. "We are working on the possibility of accurate seasonal predictions and we are getting close."

Professor Roland Schulze, professor of

hydrology at the University of Natal, believes there is sufficient climatic information available for "us to know what nature can give us in each place and time".

"There is no doubt that droughts will recur and the areas that are climatically risky for maize — which needs rain in a very particular phase of its growing period — are highly identifiable. Our agriculture should be in harmony with our natural environment, rather than fighting against it."

There would be little disagreement with that ideal. But how precisely to attain it is a matter of some debate.

Indigenous crops

One view is that growers of maize — which was brought here from North America — should switch to indigenous African crops such as sorghum and millet which are more drought resistant.

"In drought areas, sorghum and millet have an infinitely better chance of survival," says Mpho Mashinini, deputy director for relief and development for Operation Hunger. "People used to grow sorghum only for beer, but now they are turning back. I believe that if we can get people growing traditional crops, they will not return to maize."

"This is not good country for growing maize, but it was always a strategic issue that South Africa should be self-sufficient

in food," says Dave Cooper, an agriculturalist with the Group for Environmental Monitoring. This system, Mr Cooper says, was then propped up with subsidies to farmers which have only recently been cut back.

Andries Botha, a successful maize farmer in the Free State for 31 years, insists he is planting the right crop. This year, he says, even the most adapted indigenous thing, the grass, has perished. "But in a normal year, maize produces a much higher yield and is far more profitable. Besides, sorghum is far more vulnerable to aphids and quelea finches."

High risk

Professor Schulze believes "there are areas with high potential for maize production and these should be encouraged. But we are sometimes practising agriculture in areas where the risk is too high.

"There are areas where you get one or two crops every five years, and those farmers then run to the State for aid."

It is these "marginal lands" that are the biggest bone of contention. The Government has been running a land conversion scheme for a few years now, whereby subsidies have been given to farmers to switch fields from maize production to grazing. According to the Government, some 400 000 ha have been turned around, but after November, no more ap-



NO FARMER'S PARADISE: Only 3 percent of land has high agricultural potential and another 12 percent is arable — but much of that is marginal and difficult soil, which is shallow, compacts easily and is highly erodable.



GOOD YEARS: Maize yields can be high, but SA is not suited to cultivating this crop, which needs rain at a specific time in its growing period.



Drought plan for farmers

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CTIS/2/92

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
THE government and the SA Agricultural Union yesterday agreed on an urgent action plan to save hundreds of drought-battered farmers from looming bankruptcy.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, and the president of the SAAU, Mr Boet Fourie, said after a crisis meeting in Cape Town that everything possible would be done for farmers in the short term to fend off imminent sequestrations.

In the longer term, joint efforts would be necessary to bring about more general financial relief for farmers, they said in a joint statement.

The actions agreed upon at yesterday's meeting include:

- The Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board would be instructed to prevent, "as far as possible", imminent sequestrations.

- The Minister of Agriculture and the SAAU would begin negotiations with senior representatives of financial institutions involved in agriculture aimed at saving farmers from bankruptcy.

- The immediate establishment of joint local committees in magisterial districts in which all parties concerned with finance to agriculture would be represented, with local agricultural credit committees at the nucleus.

All farmers experiencing financial difficulty should file applications for financial assistance with local magistrates.

- Measures are being taken to avoid food shortages among farmers and their labourers.

- The establishment of a committee of government ministers to take responsibility for the planning and co-ordination of relief.

- A task group under the leadership of the president of the SAAU and the superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development was formed to take urgent steps to quantify problems facing farmers countrywide.

Drought sows the seeds of despair for stricken farmers

S/ Times 16/2/92

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

FOR the drought-stricken farmers of Delareyville the sakkie-sakkie is over — now they can dance only with the dust devils that swirl across their barren mealie fields.

With no chance of saving their crops they say they have pinned their hopes on God and the government.

As farmers' total debt soared beyond R17-billion, these Delareyville farmers — once the wealthiest in the land — buckled under individual debts topping R1-million.

In the Delareyville district alone four farmers have been sequestered since December — two remain unemployed and a third is in Weskoppies Hospital.

Hammer

Churches, co-operatives, the Farmers' Union and the SA Vroue Federasie are distributing food and clothing parcels to white families without incomes on the farms and in the towns, according to Mrs Makkie Uys.

"A boer can no longer make a plan. I've tried and tried, but if they don't help me now I'm out," said Delareyville farmer Frikkie Marais, 60.

In an attempt to wrest the auctioneer's hammer from above his head, Mr Marais, once an established maize farmer and breeder of racehorses, sold all but 50ha of the farm where he was born.

But as the sun blasts from a clear sky on to stunted mealies little bigger than potplants, Mr Marais' back is wedged against the wall more tightly than ever. He cannot even afford to mend a broken lounge win-

dow let alone tackle a loan of R603 252,60.

Jan van Niekerk, who meticulously records and calculates his farming operation on computer, had to auction 46 prize beef cattle on Thursday at a rock-bottom price of R3,90 a kilogram.

After seven years of drought Frans Joubert, 43, is mortgaged up to his eyeballs. His 10-year-old son is so depressed that he doesn't want to come home from boarding school, his wife quit the local Vroue Federasie to save the petrol and his pumpkins burst open in the heat.

Broken farm implements lie idle because there is no money to repair them, his car has more than 350 000km on the clock and his small dairy herd is producing half the milk it did in 1989.

"This is the crunch; we are all in big trouble," said Mr Joubert, the recipient of eight 80kg bags of emergency mealie meal to feed nine families living on his farm.

"You could buy a new tractor with 1 000 bags of mealies 10 years ago. Today that won't even pay your deposit," said farmer Winston Sumner.

Delareyville Agricultural Union chairman Flip Kotze said that only three percent of Delareyville's 350 farmers were able to fend for themselves. Without government aid about 60 percent would collapse.

The crisis is not confined to the farmers. The newly formed Delareyville emergency fund is supplying rations to the families of about 500

labourers, Mr Kotze said.

Some workers have already been laid off and the jobs of many more hang in the balance — although some farmers vow they will never "get rid of people who have stood by us for all these years".

Mrs Poppie Sohole, 40, headmistress of the Borneo farm school, said her pupils were fainting in the classroom because of heat and hunger.

Malnutrition in the black community, already 80 percent, is expected to increase.

Also gasping for breath are the small businesses in the platteland towns.

Temperatures

Delareyville Chamber of Commerce chairman and local supermarket owner Chris Olivier said 10 of the town's 100 businesses would close within a month as store owners lost most of their black trade and could no longer extend long lines of credit to overdue farmers.

In Natal, drought and soaring temperatures have affected farms in many areas, with farmers around Ladysmith, Bergville, Winterton, Estcourt, Greytown and Weenen among the worst hit.

Many large maize farmers have already lost 75 percent of their crop, and if there is no rain within the next 10 days they could lose 95 percent. Some of them claim they have already lost between R300 000 and R500 000 because of the drought.

In the Eastern Cape, drought has ruined hundreds of farmers and could cripple the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage industrial complex.

Drought closes Fedfood plant

By DON ROBERTSON

THE drought and low demand for frozen vegetables have forced Fedfood to close its Harvest Time plant in Port Elizabeth.

Chairman Dirk Jacobs says farmers will not have sufficient water for irrigation this year.

Some freezing facilities will be used at the plant and packaging and distribution will continue.

Several workers and produce from some farmers will be sent to the Table Top plant in George.

As announced in the last interim report, the Patoma sub-tropical fruit processor will be sold. Three buyers are interested.

Farming folk despair as crops wilt

As the sun beats down on the Free State, it is met by the rising heat from the baked soil. And, as the weeks pass without rain, the drought takes a rising human toll. PAULA FRAY reports.

STAR 17/2/92

(3) Gan

THOUSANDS of farm labourers are flocking to Free State towns in the futile hope of getting work. But, with no hope of a harvest this year, chances are that most will end up in the burgeoning squatter camps where malnutrition is growing rapidly.

Operation Hunger field coordinator Anthony Mfila says about 55 percent of children between the ages of five and 15 are malnourished. Most of them are recent migrants from the farm areas.

"Unless help is given, this will definitely rise," he adds.

Not only have farmers been crippled by the drought, but the economic situation has led to numerous retrenchments at factories in the smaller towns.

Throughout the Free State, fields of mealies present fool's gold for the hopeful. Their growth stunted, their green appearance belies one of the worst droughts the country has ever seen.

As more and more farm labourers move to the cities, swelling squatter communities, organisations such as Operation Hunger are straining to cope with the increasing number of malnourished

children. Kwashiokor is becoming more common.

Lusaka squatter camp, outside Theunissen, is one such area, filled with farm labourers without hope of work this year.

"About 40 percent of the black rural community survive on seasonal work. This year, there will be not be a harvest," says Operation Hunger regional director Judy Mokgetle.

Theunissen's Sister Sophia Cockrell has seen the influx of workers and how her sisters strain to cope.

Although the clinic has received finance for targeted assistance from the Government, Sister Cockrell does not believe the rest of the community can survive without Operation Hunger's help.

An outbreak of measles has prompted an urgent immunisation programme at local schools.

But she says, "There is an enormous problem with tuberculosis and malnutrition."

While the former is complicated by overcrowded conditions, the latter is severely exacerbated by ignorance, says Sister Cockrell.



Against the odds . . . farmer Clement Seape with his stunted crop. Picture: Alf Kumalo.

Most farm mothers are unaware of symptoms of malnutrition and nurses tell of mothers boasting that their children are gaining weight when the symptoms are really malnourishment.

"We find that once diarrhoea sets in that the mothers

first use home-made remedies, including an enema, under the mistaken impression it is something the children have eaten.

"By the time they are taken to local clinics the children are not only malnourished but dehydrated as

well," says Mrs Mokgetle.

The despair is shared by the farming community.

Clement Seape has fought against the system for over 20 years as one of the country's few black farmers.

But the drought may yet present his biggest challenge.

"In my entire experience as a farmer we have never had such a dry February, with temperatures of up to 35 deg C.

"I planted, hoping it would rain. But when it did come it was just a drop in the ocean. The soil is as dry as a bone," says Mr Seape.

"The farmers' future is already jeopardised. In the last six years we have had more drought than good years.

"I planted 200 hectares of sunflowers. But the sunflowers which normally withstand the heat start wilting . . . The mealies are a write-off. If by March there is still no rain, I will have no stock left by July," he says.

The owner of two farms — one of 140 ha and another of 600 ha — Mr Seape is not only facing the consequences of the drought but also increased violence and theft against Free State farmers.

"I brought some sheep here the other day — 40 of them got stolen in broad daylight," he says, shrugging.

It is impossible to plant mealies, or even pumpkins, out of eyesight, he adds, attributing the increase in crime to a breakdown in law and order.

At this stage he has not needed to retrench any of his workers but there will be no harvesting this year and so seasonal labour will not be hired. □

Nampo expects a 'calamitous' crop

GERALD REILLY (3) *gen*

PRETORIA — The drought-ravaged maize crop could shrink to a "calamitous" 3-million tons or less, even if late summer rains fell, Nampo said at the weekend.

Massive damage had been inflicted on all summer crops and SA was facing the probability of having to import up to 4-million tons of maize.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said SA's transport system was capable of handling only about 3-million tons, which meant food shortages were looming in SA and the rest of southern Africa. The whole of the sub-continent was in the grip of an unprecedented disaster which meant tens of thousands could face starvation. Zimbabwe would be short of about 800 000 tons of maize.

Van Zyl said while the plight of the commercial farmers was known, there also were between 500 000 and 750 000 black subsistence farmers whose crops had been destroyed. *6/10/92 17/2/92*

Our political staff reports from Cape Town that government and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) on Friday agreed on an urgent action plan to save hundreds of farmers from looming bankruptcy.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and SAAU president Boet Fourie said after a crisis meeting that everything possible would be done to help farmers fend off imminent sequestrations in the short term.

In the longer term, joint efforts would be necessary to bring about more general financial relief for farmers.

respected, he said, blaming "subversive priests" for causing the bloodshed.

It was the worst bloodbath in a single incident in the

is inspired by the same liberation theology espoused by Latin American priests fighting dictatorship.

The national conference

succeed," Mr Cohen told a Senate subcommittee in Washington on February 5. — Sapa-Reuter.

Hunger as drought worsens

By Paula Fray

This is the face of hunger as drought ravages South Africa. STAR 17/2/92

Severely malnourished, Daniel Modise is one of thousands of children in the Free State alone who would have died by now but for help from Operation Hunger.

When nurses first saw the toddler about a month ago with his distended stomach and stick-like legs, they did not think he would live more than two days.

Since then, medical staff at the Theunissen clinic have been checking up on him and his family at the Lusaka squatter camp each week.

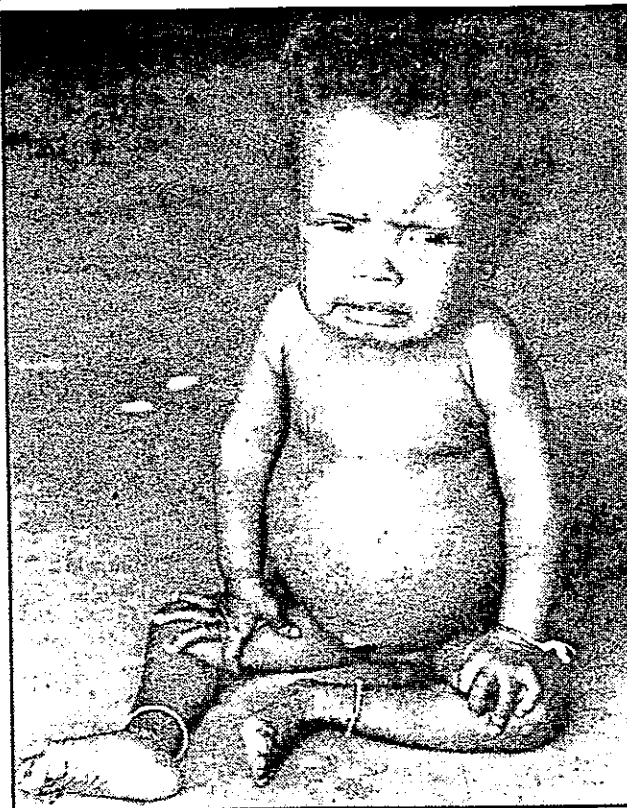
But conditions are far from ideal.

The family lives in a one-room tin shanty which brings little protection from the boiling heat. Around them little grows and there is no work.

Nearby, 32-year-old Mapakiso Mokgashane — herself malnourished — is struggling to raise five children who also need weekly care.

The squatter camp, swelled by recent migrants from the farms, has more than 90 percent unemployment, according to Operation Hunger field co-ordinator Anthony Mfila.

About 70 percent of Lusaka's children under five years are malnourished.



Malnourished . . . Daniel Modise is one of thousands of children suffering in the drought. Picture: Alf Kumalo

However, according to Operation Hunger Free State regional director Judith Mokgetle, while the incidence of malnutrition is rising in Lusaka, other Free State towns such as Addington and Bethlehem are in

an even worse situation.

In the entire Free State, says Mr Mfila, about 55 percent of children between five and 15 years are malnourished — most of them from the farms.

● More reports — Page 11

Dutch trade minister to open Holland Fair

DARIUS SANAI

MORE than 50 firms from the Netherlands will exhibit at a major trade fair in Johannesburg timed to be opened by Dutch Foreign Trade Minister Yvonne van Rooy next month. *8/02/92*

Dubbed the Holland Trade Fair, and taking place between March 4 and 7 at Nasrec, the event marks the normalisation of trade relations between SA and the Netherlands following the lifting of EC trade sanctions last year. *17/2/92*

The Netherlands has been one of the staunchest critics of apartheid, a fact which a highly placed Dutch government source once attributed to "a combination of moral revulsion and historical guilt".

Dutch PM Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek last month postponed a visit to SA, scheduled for this month, after the ANC opposed the trip on the grounds that it was premature.

However, sources in the Dutch embassy yesterday said Van Rooy's trip — which was planned separately from Lubbers's — would definitely go ahead.

A Dutch trade delegation visited SA last June. Safto director Wim Holtes said at the weekend that the delay between last year's visit and this year's trade fair was due to political pressures resulting in a reluctance by the Dutch government to provide its firms with export credit guarantees.

That problem had now been overcome, Holtes said. Among the companies planning to exhibit at the trade fair are electronics giant Philips, the Royal Begemann group, agricultural technology firms including Fancom, Abbi-Sun and APV, beverage groups Heineken and De Kuyper en Zoon, and the Netherlands Potato Consultative Institute.

Other companies exhibiting will be from the electronics, textile and engineering industries. The Dutch agriculture and fisheries ministry and the Dutch meat board will also have stands at the fair.

GERALD REILLY

THE crime wave sweeping the country was also affecting farmers, with particularly heavy losses in ranching areas, an SA Agricultural Union spokesman said at the weekend.

It appeared that stock theft syndicates were operating, but thieving by individuals was increasing, the spokesman said.

Thefts took place at gathering

Cattle farmers hit by crime wave

points, during transportation to slaughtering and marketing points, as well as at abattoirs. *3/Jan*

A committee consisting of members of the Meat Board, abattoir authority Abacor and the Red Meat Producers' Organisation has been formed to monitor the threat, the spokesman said. Professional assist-

ance had also been sought to develop counter-measures.

Police figures show that stock theft in 1990 increased by 9% from 1989 to more than 21 000 incidents. The 1991 figure will be disclosed in the police commissioner's report to be tabled in Parliament later this month. It is expected to be significantly higher than the 1990 figure.

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Listing is cherry on top for Langeberg

18/Day 17/2/92 (3) Gen (2) (1) (1)

LANGEBERG Holdings will complete its transformation into a public entity with a listing on the JSE before June 30, two years after being the first agricultural co-operative to be privatised.

Cape-based Langeberg is one of the world's largest food canning operations and has an annual turnover of more than R640m.

Langeberg Holdings spokesman Dev du Toit said the decision to list was based partly on the wish by minorities to trade their shares on the open market.

Tiger Oats has a controlling 56% stake in Langeberg Holdings through wholly owned subsidiary Langeberg Foods. Langeberg Co-operative — mainly made up of the farmers who are Langeberg's prime source of raw materials — holds about 30% of Langeberg Holdings while about 14% is made up of minority shareholders.

The decision to go public was also to a large extent based on a clause in the contractual agreement between Tiger Oats and Langeberg Co-operative which was drawn up in July 1988 on Tiger Oats' acquisition of its stake in Langeberg. The clause stipulated that an attempt be made to list Langeberg by June 30 1992, said Du Toit.

Langeberg MD Ray Brown said in a statement the company had nine food processing and canning operations and exported a large variety of canned fruits, vegetables and other food products.

It processes 350 000 tons of raw produce every year, consuming 35 000 tons of sugar and using more than 400-million cans, bottles and jars. Its products include brand

EDWARD WEST

names such as Koo, All Gold, Silver Leaf, Hugo and Naturlite.

Brown said the Langeberg board decided the time was appropriate for a listing in view of the strong financial performance of the company and the buoyancy of the stock market.

In the 1991 Tiger Oats annual report, Tiger chairman Robbie Williams commented on Langeberg's increased profitability: "Very encouraging results were achieved by the group's recent acquisitions, particularly Langeberg."

Langeberg Holdings' 1991 annual report showed the company increased turnover by 15,4% to R645,8m in the financial year to September 1991 when compared with the same period in 1990. Earnings a share more than trebled to 156c. Consequently dividends increased from 11,5c a share to 45c a share over the same period. The report forecast a further improvement in Langeberg's performance in 1992.

Brown said drought in the northern regions of SA would have no effect on Langeberg's profitability. The past three years had seen drought affect pineapple crops in the eastern Cape, but farmers there expect crops to improve this year.

Fruit crops were mainly in the western Cape and were safe from drought. Pea crops were slightly affected by drought last year and only 70% of Langeberg's requirement was produced. Brown said drought was a natural occurrence in SA and the group experienced such conditions with at least one crop a year.

AWB agrees to clear squatter area

By Peter Wellman

Farmer Sarel Swanepoel has called in the AWB to demolish squatters' shacks on his Krugersdorp farm — because he says the authorities won't do the job.

Yesterday Mr Swanepoel confirmed he had asked the AWB's Wenkommando for help "because the authorities say this is the New South Africa, and they won't take action".

The AWB would not give a date for the shack-busting yesterday, but said it would do it be-

cause Mr Swanepoel's farm had been occupied by about 30 000 illegal squatters.

Mr Swanepoel had received no compensation, added a spokesman, after the organisation met in Welkom to discuss his request.

The SAP had been invited to witness the Wenkommando's actions "in accordance with the law", he said.

A possible date is the end of the month. Mr Swanepoel has given squatters at Swanieville notice to quit his 376 ha farm by then.

"I did it legally, the

way the police said I must do it," he said.

Mr Swanepoel says there are between 26 000 and 28 000 squatters on about 32 ha.

A building contractor, Mr Swanepoel originally invited blacks to live on his land, as tenants in low-cost housing about two years ago.

"The accommodation was planned for a few thousand, but in no time squatters had overrun the place," he told The Star last night.

Mr Swanepoel said police had refused to take any action against the squatters.

Refusing to disclose whether he was an AWB member, he said: "That is not relevant. I have paid a lot of money to this Government, but only the AWB would help me of all the avenues I explored."

About 18 months ago Mr Swanepoel's shotgun was forcibly taken from him by squatters in a confrontation.

The PWV region of the ANC yesterday condemned the AWB's threat to forcibly remove the squatters and called on the Ministry of Law and Order to "take appropriate action".

Bid to stop demolition of homes

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Members of a western Transvaal rural community yesterday turned to the Pretoria Supreme Court to prevent their homes being demolished as allegedly advocated by Conservative Party deputy leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg.

Paul Taute Masie (64) from Welverdiend near Lichtenburg, brought the application as one of 105 families on the farm.

The community has been there since the farm was declared a diamond digging in 1926 and Mr Masie's counsel will

argue that residents are not squatters as defined in the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

The court issued an interim order preventing Welverdiend's owner, Willem Johannes Mouton, from "demolishing or threatening to demolish" his home. Mr Mouton consented to the interim interdict which holds good until March 3.

According to Mr Masie's affidavit, after several warnings that he would take action under the Squatting Act, Mr Mouton and his brother destroyed 25 homes with a bulldozer on December

18. They were accompanied by police.

Mr Mouton allegedly stated that the remaining dwellings were to be vacated by mid-February, failing which they would be demolished. He also pressed squatting charges against 33 residents in January.

Mr Masie said he and Iqbal Motala of Lawyers for Human Rights were invited to a meeting of the WestVaal Squatting Committee on Friday.

Committee chairman Sampie Steyger called for a two-week halt to demolitions to allow for discussions and empha-

homes

STAR 18/2/92

sised that nobody should take the law into his own hands.
But the CP's Mr Hartzenberg, said Mr Masie, "advised the meeting that the (Wolverdiend) residents were willing to move from the farms but the lawyers had advised them against moving."
The Commissioner of the SA Police was named as a respondent in yesterday's court action. He gave a written undertaking not to demolish or threaten to demolish Mr Masie's home and the application against him was dropped.

Drought sets back hopes of economic recovery this year

STAR 18/2/92

By Sven Lünsche

Hopes of economic recovery this year have been dealt a severe blow by the drought.

Central Statistical Service (CSS) said at the weekend that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 0,6 percent last year after an 0,5 percent drop in 1990.

Economists had generally expected growth would recover to a positive 1,5 percent in 1992, but they are now scaling down their forecasts in the wake of the drought.

Econometrix analyst Dr Azar Jammine estimates that the loss of agricultural production will be R2 billion to R4 billion.

While the contribution of agricultural production to GDP is no more than five percent, such a loss implies a decline in the projected economic growth rate this year of 0,5 percent to one percent, Dr Jammine says.

He now expects overall GDP to record a mere 0,5 percent growth.

The most immediate impact is that the country will have to import up to four million tons of maize, resulting in a foreign exchange loss of R1 billion to R2 billion.

However, given the record trade surplus of R18 billion last year and renewed access to foreign capital markets, the loss does not represent a significant blow to the build-up in gold and foreign exchange reserves.

Food prices

More significantly, Dr Jammine says, the drought means that certain food prices may rise as a result of the shortage.

Agricultural production fell by 1,3 percent last year, despite slight increases on a quarterly basis, according to CSS.

The majority of business and financial sectors showed a drop in output over the year.

The list was headed by construction, where output plunged 4,5 percent. This was followed by manufacturing (-2,4 percent),

transport (-1,5 percent), mining (-1,5 percent) and commerce (-0,6 percent).

On a quarterly basis, GDP growth fell by 0,6 percent in the fourth quarter of 1991.

In the third quarter GDP rose by 0,5 percent, but this was preceded by seven quarters of negative growth.

● The decline in South Africa's national output in the last two years was alarming and should be seen by all as a clear warning that time was running out for the country, said Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Mike Cato.

Sapa reports that Mr Cato said the year had not started well in economic terms with the drought bringing serious threats to national agricultural output.

"Whilst recent surveys have indicated a slight improvement in general confidence levels among businessmen, they have also shown that slack capacity will have to be filled before the levels of employment will rise," he said.

Farmers meet banks, govt to plan aid deals

Blow 18/2/92 SHARON WOOD (3) Gen

AN AID package for drought-stricken farmers will be negotiated between senior commercial bank representatives, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and Cabinet Ministers when they meet early next week.

The meeting is part of the six-point plan adopted at a top-level Cabinet meeting in Cape Town last Friday to prevent farmer sequestrations.

Bank spokesmen said it was too early to speculate on what aid packages would entail, but a possible solution might allow the repayment of interest but not the capital portion of agricultural loans.

Bankers said aid would be based on sound business principles. Banks could not be expected to make an exception of the agricultural sector when other sectors also had problems.

Banks have said they would remain sympathetic and patient with farmers' problems and assist customers on an individual basis. The long-term viability of the individual farmer remained a priority and short-term problems would be accommodated.

Standard Bank agricultural senior manager Rudi Wilsnach said a top-level delegation would attend the meeting. Volkskas spokesman Willie Roux said the bank had been informed but not officially invited. Absa representatives would attend the meeting.

Nedbank, with limited debt exposure in the agricultural sector, would send representatives to the meeting but would not take a lead in any viewpoint, said corporate banking senior GM Mike Leeming.

□ Sapa reports that Nampo chairman Cerneels Claasen said yesterday maize farmers appreciated the assurance from President F W de Klerk that financial aid would be given to agriculture.

He said government had to decide on the reallocation of state funds and make an announcement before the agricultural sector could do any meaningful planning.

Claasen said government's commitment to aid reassured farmers that government realised the important economic role played by maize producers.

Stay out of Swanieville, Minister warns AWB

STAR
19/12/1972
By Peter Weillman

(3) Gen

The Government last night warned the AWB to stay out of the Swanieville squatter row at Krugersdorp.

Deputy Law and Order Minister Johan Scheepers said the police would not allow the AWB to destroy shacks on the farm at the request of owner Sarel Swanepoel.

"I am convinced that arriving at a solution to this problem, which was to a degree created by Mr Swanepoel himself, will be made more difficult by the involvement of any third party, including the AWB.

"The police will not tolerate any irregular conduct.

"I therefore urgently call on Mr Eugene TerreBlanche not to allow the AWB to become involved in any action that could possibly result in confrontation and violence," he said.

Mr Swanepoel told The Star yesterday the ANC had "taken over my farm and my rents. That was 18 months ago. There are 26 000 to 28 000 squatters.

"The authorities have not given me clearance for a black housing project and they refuse to act on the squatting situation that has developed as a result."

"So I went in the end to the AWB. Where else was I supposed to go?"

"They were the only ones who said they would help me, and I have sent that message to the State President.

"There is going to be a blood-bath. I can't even go on to my own land any more.

"The last time I went to the squatters was 18 months ago — I was cut by a knife thrown at me and a security guard with me was beaten to death, but no one has been arrested."

Mr Swanepoel warned that Star journalists would face a hostile reception at Swanieville. It did not happen.

Part of the row is whether the people there — The Star estimated about 15 000 — are squatters at all.

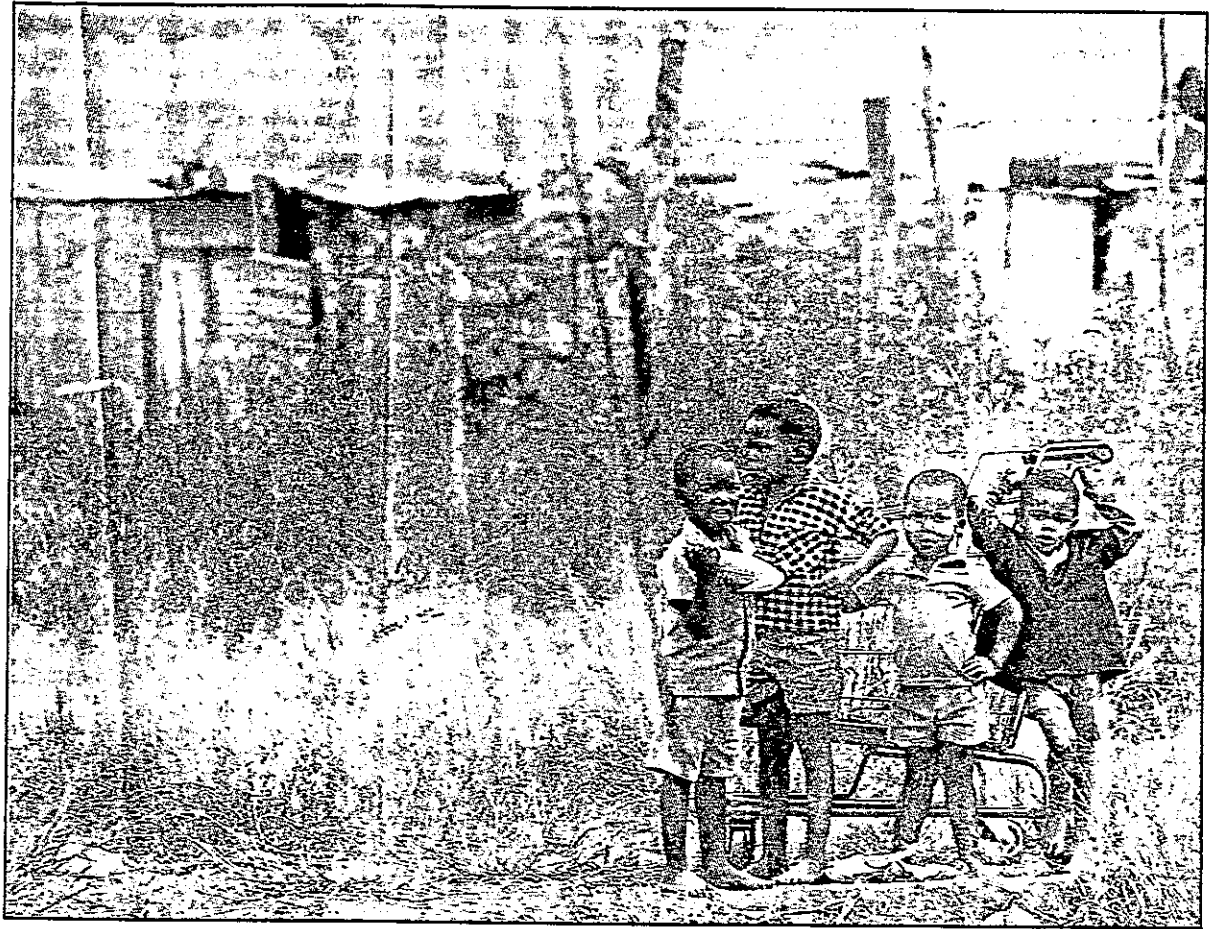
They say they moved into Swanieville One and Two camps over the past two years



Keep out . . . Sarel Swanepoel says squatters have barred him from his own farm. He says the last time he went to the squatters was 18 months ago — and he was cut by a knife thrown at him.

Waiting for Swanepoel . . . Swanieville residents want delivery on promises made by the farmer. Some residents say they paid R100 to secure a plot and monthly rental for "no facilities".

Pictures: Joao Silva



at Mr Swanepoel's invitation because he promised cheap but good housing and toilets, plenty of water, a school and creche, and a clinic.

During a three-hour visit yesterday The Star heard about these promises repeatedly.

Middle-aged Agnes Mlambo, whose husband died recently, is expecting her six children, ranging from seven years old to

25, to move into her one-roomed mud and daga shack on an 8 m by 10 m plot she says Mr Swanepoel marked out.

A member of the Swanieville Two residents' committee, she told simply but articulately about the empty promises she was made.

Like others, she says she had to pay R100 to get a plot, then

R30 a month in rent "for no facilities at all".

As she spoke another woman chipped in: "Here is proof" — and produced a receipt for R100, marked "rent". The signature was not clear.

The atmosphere was calm and friendly, and there were chuckles at Mr Swanepoel's ANC claims.

One was that ANC officials

were selling his stands for R200 each at a barber shop in Swanieville One. The owner of the shop, Stephen Segwabe, his hair slicked and shiny, simply laughed.

Residents said they had refused to pay rents from December last year. They would renege when Mr Swanepoel delivered on his promises.

Across a dip of open veld,

Swanieville One has a pro-ANC reputation. 27 residents were massacred there last May. It was more tense, and an ANC presence was obvious.

No one would talk without "the comrades" say-so. A group of young men, apparently ANC officials, said briefly but politely that they would answer questions at a press conference today. But they confirmed resi-

dents were also boycotting rent to Mr Swanepoel.

Neither section of Swanieville had the listless air common to squatter camps, and residents said many people had jobs in the area.

"But some of us have come from as far as the Transkei because of Mr Swanepoel's promises," was the parting shot as we drove away.

Why I called in the AWB - Swanieville owner

THE owner of the controversial Swanieville farm near Kagiso yesterday told why he approached the AWB to demolish the shacks in the area.

The Government last night warned the organisation it would not allow it to go ahead with its threat to pull down the shacks. *Sowetan 19/2/92*

This was after the AWB announced it had been given permission by owner of the farm, Mr SG Swanepoel, to pull down the shacks. *(3 Gen)*

Swanepoel said the African National Congress had "taken over my farm and my rents".

There are 26 000 to 28 000 squatters.

"The authorities have not given me clearance for a black housing project and they refuse to act on the squatting situation that has developed as a result."

"So I went in the end to the AWB. Where else was I supposed to go? They were the only ones who said they would help me, and I have sent that message to the State President. There is going to be a bloodbath.

"I can't even go onto to my own land any more. The last time I went to the squatters was 18 months ago. I was cut by a knife thrown at me and a security guard with me was beaten to death, but no one has been arrested."

He warned journalists would face a hostile reception at Swanieville.

Deputy Law and Order Minister Mr Johan Scheepers said the situation, which he said had been created by Swanepoel himself, would be made more difficult by the involvement of any third party, including the AWB.

"The police will not tolerate any

irregular conduct. I therefore urgently call on Mr (Eugene) TerreBlanche not to allow the AWB to become involved in any action that could possibly result in confrontation and violence," he said. *(S)* *(S)*

Part of the row is whether the people there - estimated about 15 000 - are squatters at all.

They say they moved into Swanieville over the past two years at Swanepoel's invitation because he had promised cheap but good housing and toilets, plenty of water and a school.

Mrs Agnes Mlambo, whose husband died recently, is expecting her six children, ranging from seven to 25, to move into her one-roomed mud shack allocated to her by Swanepoel.

Like others, she says she had to pay R100 to get a plot, then R30 a month in rent "for no facilities at all".

Foreigners 'mustn't own land'

Sowetan

19/12/92

3 Gen



By IKE MOTSAPI

FOREIGNERS should not be allowed to buy land and property in South Africa and those in possession should be compensated.

This was said yesterday by callers to the Sowetan Radio Metro Talkback Show when voicing their concern and displeasure at foreigners who owns, among other things, properties when the question of land distribution had not settled.

Most callers felt that South African citizens should be the only people allowed to buy land, especially when a section of them were denied this in the past.

The ANC 's expert on



the land issue. Ms Bongiwe Njobe, told listeners that some foreigners acquired land unfairly in the past.

She said blacks were denied the right to buy property and land in the past but that this had changed.

Njobe however warned against foreigners buying land and property in South Africa because they "will be contributing towards investment in the country."

She said the ANC was

busy discussing the issue.

Joe Mthimkulu from Sebokeng said land should not be sold to foreigners because "it could be used to meet the increasing challenges of providing houses to the needy".

He said: "Population explosion demands that certain steps have to be taken to house the millions and millions of people needing accommodation".

Fatima from Cape Town said foreigners who owned property and land in the country should be refunded the money they spent for their purchases.

She added: "Consideration should be given first to people who seriously needed houses".

Jimmy Petersen from Eldorado Park said: "The issue is very complex in that the land rightfully belong to blacks.

"Blacks in South Africa suffer because they had been prevented to buy or acquire what is rightfully theirs."

Joe Pearce said he was against land and property being sold to foreigners.

He said: "There should be a moratorium on the land owned by foreigners. "The land has to be bought back from them and placed in a trust. "Once this has been done local people can team up and buy it."

He said foreigners bought land for cheap and sold it for huge profits.

Drought is driving farmers to ruin

3 Gen
Sowetan
19/2/92

DROUGHT is driving hundreds of South African farmers to ruin, but ecologists say they should blame themselves and not the weather.

"This drought is the worst ever in the Free State," said Mr Piet Gous, president of the agricultural union in the province, part of South Africa's main maize growing area.

"On my 900 hectare farm we will harvest less than one ton of maize this season."

Maize is South Africa's most valuable field crop and in a normal year the harvest totals about nine million tons with yields of about two tons a hectare.

Department of Agriculture spokesman Mr Frans Lood said farmers would be lucky to achieve half that figure this season and the country would have to import maize, one of its staple foods.

Maize fields in the Free State and western Transvaal are shrivelling in mid-summer temperatures that have broken 30-year records in some parts of the country.

Some farmers, unable to grow enough food for their

own families, are surviving on handouts and some have left their farms for jobs in towns.

Laid-off black workers are heading for the cities with their families, swelling shanty towns of jobless and homeless people that are already primary sources of crime and political unrest.

"Most farmers in the Free State face financial ruin because of the drought," said Gous, a member of the rightwing opposition Conservative Party.

"They cannot afford to plant a crop next season. If they are driven from their farms, South Africa will permanently become a net importer of food."

He cited South Africa's total farm debt of R18 billion.

Lood, however, said the situation was not that bad and the banks holding the debt were unlikely to force a mass exodus from farms.

"South Africa has a healthy farm trade balance and our agricultural resources are adequate until the year 2020 ... This is not the first drought in South Africa, and it won't be the last," he said.

Indeed, droughts and

prayers for rain are a frequent phenomenon in South Africa.

The weather bureau said the present lack of rain is no worse than the last serious drought nine years ago or two severe droughts in the 1970s.

Ecologists said the problem is that farmers, encouraged by Government subsidies, are using the wrong techniques and growing the wrong crops for South African conditions.

"If you go for mono-agriculture, you go for big disasters," said Mr Keith Cooper, an ecologist with the Southern Africa Wildlife Society.

"Farmers with a mosaic of different crops will suffer less from natural disasters."

Cooper said farmers do nothing to protect their lands once the harvest is in, so when it does rain the water washes off in floods that carry away precious top soil.

"Low rainfall is normal here. The western Transvaal is better suited to farming species that are adapted to drought, like gemsbok and springbok."

Mr Clem Sunter, a senior executive with Anglo American Corporation who has studied economic and environmental scenarios for South Africa's future, agreed.

"The western Transvaal does not receive enough rain for maize. We should put game farms there and import maize from countries with the right condi-

tions for it, like Zimbabwe."

Agricultural economist Mr Theo Kleynhans said maize and wheat farmers are in serious trouble because their costs are rising much faster than the prices of their products.

"Climatic conditions haven't deteriorated, but economic conditions have," he said.

Government aid which kept farmers afloat in the past is declining.

"As white farmers leave the land, it will be taken over by black squatters," said Kleynhans.

"They have lower economic expectations than whites and can survive on much lower incomes."

Sapa-Reuter.

Mangope talks to right

Sowetan 19/2/92

BOPHUTHATSWANA President Lucas Mangope held talks this week with leaders of the rightwing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging during which self-determination featured prominently. Mangope is the spokesman for the homeland.

Minister of State Affairs ... Cronje said the ... the homeland ... litical ...

Swedish Liberal Party

Farmers 'shocked into action' after sixth death

ADRIAN HADLAND

3 Gen

FREE State farmers have convened a special congress next week to discuss security after the murder of another farmer by armed intruders in the Theunissen region yesterday morning.

Thys Martins, 46, a farmer living near Theunissen in the Free State, was shot dead after discovering suspected burglars in his kitchen.

The slaying, the sixth violent death on a Free State farm since December, had shocked the farming community into action, said Orange Free State Agricultural Union representative Gerald Steyn.

The union has called a special congress for Tuesday. The main aim of the congress was to discuss, "at the request of Free State farmers, the safety of farms and to pass suitable resolutions in this respect", a statement said.

A man alleged to have been involved in the murder of Martins shot himself in the head yesterday after being pursued by police in the Theunissen district, Free State police liaison officer Lt-Col Johann Fourie said.

The suspect was in a critical condition in a Welkom hospital yesterday.

The other two suspects were apprehended by police yesterday afternoon.

Steyn said the easy availability of arms and growing unemployment in the region had contributed to the escalating violence and theft.

Farmers had been patrolling the more isolated farms since last year, said Steyn, but the agricultural union felt it necessary to raise farmers' awareness of the issue and plan specific proposals to counter the threat to farmers' lives.

PICTURE: BRIAN HENDLEN

Police arrest five after killing of two officers

8 Day 19/2/92

MARITZBURG — Police have arrested five suspects in a major breakthrough in their investigation of the execution-type killing of two teenage police constables last month.

Police yesterday disclosed that round-the-clock investigations by the Maritzburg murder and robbery unit led to the arrest of five suspects wanted in connection with the brutal killings of Consts Jacques Wilken and Wyebrand Smith, both aged 19.

The two constables, who had been in the SAP for only two months, were stationed at C R Swart Square police headquarters in Durban.

Hospital

Their bodies were found back-to-back on the Bulwer-Howick road, near the Mphomeni township, on January 11. They had been shot at point-blank range. The policemen's wristwatches, two bags and shoes and socks were missing.

Maritzburg Murder and Robbery Unit head Col Willie van den Berg said the first arrest was made on Friday. On Sunday, two more suspects were arrested and on Monday night a suspect who fled to Kokstad was arrested.

A fifth suspect is under police guard in hospital. He was shot and wounded during a clash between two groups recently.

Police have taken possession of three guns.

Van den Berg said more arrests were expected. He said detectives led by Det-Sgt Danie Reyneke were busy with investigations. The motive for the killings had not been established.

The two policemen, who completed their training in November, were on their way to Newcastle to visit Constable Wilken's parents. They were hitch-hiking. Const Smith's parents live in Vereeniging.

The killing of the two young policemen shocked colleagues and the SAP immediately offering a R25 000 reward for information leading to their arrest and conviction.

Meanwhile in Vosloorus, on the East Rand, municipal policeman Const D B Nkosi was shot dead on Monday night.

A police spokesman said three Vosloorus municipal policemen were visiting a women's hostel when four men entered the reception area.

One of the men fired several shots at the policemen. Two managed to escape but Nkosi was hit and died. — Sapa.

OFS farmers vow to fight murderers

STAR 20/2/92

③ can

By Peter Davies

There is "an undeclared war situation" in the Free State farming community, with farmers poised to take the law into their own hands after Theunissen farmer Thys Maartens became the 15th victim of 11 separate attacks on farmers since December 1 last year.

Dr Pieter Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union, said yesterday: "We must look at the reasons for these attacks.

"They are nothing to do with economics or survival, but are gruesome, brutal, planned murders. They are a planned effort to scare farmers from their land. And the political forces are trying to play down

the seriousness of the situation."

Police on Tuesday arrested three suspects in connection with the killing of Mr Maartens — one of whom allegedly shot himself in the head as detectives closed in, said a police spokesman.

The man, aged about 26, is in a critical condition in the Welkom Hospital. He also had a bullet wound in the right leg, allegedly inflicted during the shootout with Mr Maartens (48) and his wife, Maria Jacoba (43), on their farm Groothoek.

Mr Maartens was killed in the exchange.

A second suspect, aged 23, was later arrested in the Theunissen district, said Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Fouche.

By evening, police had picked up a third man on his way to Bultfontein.

Dr Gous said: "We are in an undeclared war situation. These guys are

trained killers and can handle weapons better than most farmers.

"I can't stress it enough that the farmers are tired of being hunted like wild animals. If the law can't help it'll take just one more murder for this situation to explode."

Koos Pienaar, chairman of the Theunissen farmers district union and brother-in-law of Mr Maartens said: "We are more ready than ever after this attack.

"We'll fight for our lives. We are more determined to protect ourselves and criminals must take note of this."

There will be a top-level conference on farm security in Bloemfontein on February 25 attended by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and Deputy Defence Minister Wynand Breytenbach.

Sad days for struggling towns up in the north

STAR 20/2/92

By Dirk Nel ^{③ Gen} Northern Transvaal Bureau

LOUIS TRICHARDT — Several northern Transvaal towns are threatened with economic ruin because of the devastating drought and recession.

"The profit margins of many businesses here have been decreasing in recent years, and now farmers' cash flow problems, unemployment due to retrenchments and the closure of some major industries have lowered the buying power of the general public", Len Lemmer, chairman of the Louis Trichardt Sakekamer, said in an interview.

Stringent water restrictions are in force in the town, with the nearby Albasini Dam only eight percent full. It has been confirmed that Tongaat, the countrywide cotton processors, is one of the industrial firms which are closing their Louis Trichardt branch.

"I get depressed when I receive half a dozen sequestration notices a week for publication", said local newspaper editor Johan Du Plessis. The victims were mainly farmers and small businessmen.

Necessity had forced the local business fraternity to devise strategies to survive, Mr Lemmer said.

Special commercials on radio in Zimbabwe, sponsored by the Sakekamer, had attracted many buyers from across the border, and this had kept businesses afloat. He claimed the town was offering some of the best bargains in South Africa. Many shops were cutting their prices by as much as 50 percent to sell old stock.

Meanwhile, The Star found the situation of farmers in the Soutpansberg district was still critical. Cattle farmers have reduced their herds drastically, due to a lack of grazing, while game ranchers have had to resort to providing feed for wildlife on their farms.

The situation is not much bet-

ter in neighbouring Messina. However, no water restrictions were in force there because the town was well-served by a pipeline from the Limpopo Valley, town clerk Johan Kok said.

Messina Mayor John Genis said businesses in the town were surviving well, mainly due to the settling of an increasing number of De Beers Company workers employed at the new Venetia Diamond Mine.

In other respects the future of Messina seemed bleak, because its 100-year-old copper mine would soon be closed, businessmen told The Star.

Mr Genis pointed out that unemployment in the area was being complicated by a continuous influx of illegal immigrants. No statistics in this regard could be obtained from police or immigration sources.

Regional Development Chairman Jack Klaff has put forward a three-point plan to transform the Soutpansberg district into an economically viable entity:

- Rebuilding of the border post

at Beit Bridge, to streamline trade with Africa.

- Urgent attention to the development of an international water scheme on the Limpopo River.

- The immediate upgrading of the N1 route north of Pietersburg.

"Unfortunately our appeals seem to be falling on deaf ears, despite an undertaking from private sector sources to provide a percentage of the capital needed," Mr Klaff complained.

Smaller towns such as All-days and Dendron were experiencing their worst ever economic slumps, while Potgietersrus, a major agricultural centre, was particularly hard hit, The Star was told by commerce leaders.

Pietersburg, the region's major town, seemed set to weather the crisis because of its strong infrastructure and established public sector activity, a municipal spokesman said. No water restrictions were being considered at the town at present, he added.

Emergency water scheme set to commence

③ MG 20/2/92
PORT ELIZABETH. — An emergency water scheme which comes into operation here next month will not necessarily benefit the city's domestic and bulk water consumers.

The R3 million scheme — in which water pumped from the Orange River to the Sundays River will then be pumped to a tem-

porary water treatment works at Motherwell, just outside the city — comes on-line on March 1.

But according to assistant city engineer Mr Tom Proudlock, the current restriction of 500 kilolitres a household a day will remain.

Mr Proudlock said the only thing which might change was

the allocation of water from the city's main supply, the Paul Sauer Dam. At present about 40 percent of the dam's water goes for irrigation purposes and 60 percent is allocated to city consumers.

The Orange River scheme has caused controversy in the past. — Ecna.

Bank attempts to halt farm auctions

CAPE TOWN — The Land Bank is to "urgently investigate" whether auctions of its creditors' farms can be halted with the aid of government contributions.

Deputy Finance Minister Japie van Wyk said in a statement yesterday that where auctions were scheduled or being arranged, the bank would see whether it would be possible for clients to be "further accommodated". This was so the bank "would not be compelled to proceed with its recovery procedures during this time of crisis".

Van Wyk said the bank applied its financing policy as leniently as possible because of the serious drought.

Climatic conditions could lead to financial embarrassment for farmers and they deserved "sympathetic treatment" to enable them to recover, he said.

Various internal measures had already been instituted to assist clients, such as the granting of liberal extensions for the meeting of commitments, the consolidation of arrear interest, the suspension of capital redemption and the extension of the loan period.

The bank also consented to clients taking up temporary employment, or the leasing of all or part of the bank's security, in order to enable them to supplement their cash flow.

Unfortunately, Van Wyk said, it was inevitable in some circumstances that a client's debt-loan would be of such an order that even with the bank's internal measures "he cannot be rehabilitated".

But, he stressed, the bank acted against a client only after "all possible alternatives for administering his financial positions has been thor-

oughly investigated and it is clear that there is no further hope of financial recovery".

Van Wyk said the bank would "in these present critical times" give its full co-operation to assist clients where possible.

"Any coordinated actions, with the object of keeping the farmers on their properties, is strongly supported by the bank, and the Land Bank wishes to give the assurance that in no way will it haphazardly act against its clients by taking drastic measures."

Sapa reports the SA Agricultural Union's emergency and disaster aid committee will meet next week to discuss measures to assist farmers worst affected by the drought.

Spokesman Steve Shone said while rain and cooler weather had brought considerable relief to farmers in Natal, the heat stress had reduced yields by up to 100% in some cases.

Farmers with late crops, he said, would benefit from the recent rains.

Shone said although grazing and stock watering conditions in east Griqualand and southern Natal were satisfactory, conditions in far northern Natal varied from extremely poor to critical.

The Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO) yesterday expressed concern at the expected failure of the maize crop and the fact that millions of tons of yellow maize would have to be imported at a high cost.

RPO chairman Gerhard Bron said in Pretoria that the increase in transportation costs for yellow maize, and the resultant similar trends in production costs, would have adverse effects on the slaughter stock and weaner industries.

8/04/2012 192 (3) Gen
Political Staff

Farmers ready to kill

Sowetan 20/2/92

3000

THERE is "an undeclared war situation" among Free State farmers who are poised to take the law into their own hands after Theunissen farmer Mr Thys Maartens became the 15th victim of 11 separate attacks on farmers since December 1 last year.

Dr Pieter Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union, said yesterday: "We must look at the reasons for these attacks.

They are nothing to do with economics or survival, but are gruesome, brutal, planned murders.

"They are a planned effort to scare farmers from their land. It's a classic example of the PAC's 'one settler one bullet'. The political forces are trying to play down the seriousness of the situation."

He added: "We are in an undeclared war situation. These guys are trained kill-

ers and can handle weapons better than most of our farmers.

"The farmer is expected to behave in a civilised way, but the rules of the game will have to change or we'll soon see people hanging from trees.

"I can't stress it enough. The farmers are tired of being hunted like wild animals. If the law can't help, it'll take just one more murder for this situation to ex-

plode like a thunder flash."

Mr Koos Pienaar, chairman of the Theunissen farmers' district union and brother-in-law of Maartens, said:

"What can we do? We are more ready than ever after this latest attack. It could lead to something the opposite of what they are trying to do at Codesa. We'll fight for our lives. We are more determined to protect ourselves."

Hundreds of farmers ask for financial help

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

③ GEN

More than 350 farmers have applied for long-term financial assistance to the Department of Agriculture since the beginning of the year — and up to 1 600 farmers are on the Government's disaster aid scheme.

Disclosing the statistics yesterday, a Department of Agriculture spokesman added there

STAR 21/2/92
were more applications for aid in the pipeline in the wake of the devastating drought which has destroyed any hope of this year's maize crop meeting local needs.

Relief measures for farmers, including the possibility of bank policy towards farmers being changed to alleviate their plight, are to be discussed by the SA Agricultural Union and Agriculture Minister Kraai van

Niekerk at a meeting in Pretoria on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Land Bank has attempted to halt farm auctions pending developments in government circles concerning aid measures.

The Agriculture Department spokesman said 317 applications had been received since January 1 for long-term assistance to consolidate debt.

Food scheme to follow poverty investigation

3

ARG 21/2/92

THE introduction of a food intervention scheme during this year's Budget was one of the Cabinet decisions resulting from a poverty study undertaken by a working group of the Department of Finance, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said.

In reply to a question by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP Pinelands), he said the working group headed by the Deputy Director-General (Financial Planning) had not tabled a report, but had submitted memoranda to the Cabinet on its findings.

Decisions taken on the basis of these memoranda would be reflected in the Budget, Mr Du Plessis said. — Sapa.

Farmers deeply in debt

AT the beginning of last year farmers had owed the Land Bank R83-million in instalments which had been overdue for more than 12 months, the Auditor General said in his report on General Affairs accounts tabled this week.

This included 1 467 cases involving R10 000 and more.

Total overdue instalments on December 31, 1990 was R250,9-million.

The Bank held 124 properties it had bought out and more than half had been held by the Bank for more than a year. — Sapa

Swanieville fight will go to court

(S)

STAR 21/2/92

(3) Gen

Swanieville residents near Krugersdorp say they are not squatters, and are going to court to prove it. PETER WELLMAN reports.

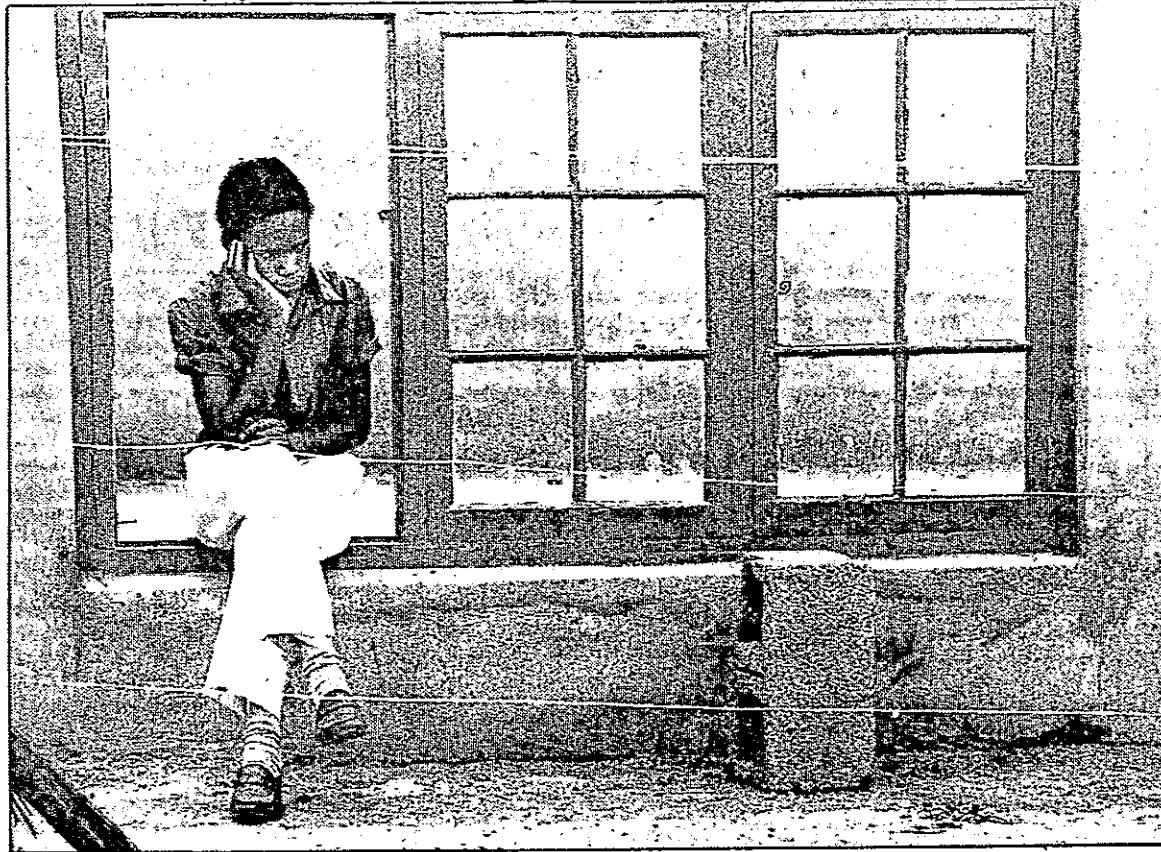
GUNGULUZA versus Molina at Sun City, Swanieville versus Swanie at Krugersdorp. One for a title to take home, one for a place to call home.

The ring for the Swanieville fight will be a courtroom where residents are trying to stop farmer Sarel Swanepoel evicting them from his 376ha farm.

The Swanieville shack dwellers decided yesterday to go for a court interdict against him after a dignified meeting in a cement-floored community hall they built themselves, among the tidy shanties, to hold about 100 people.

Fifty were there including a noisy delegate who ruined the dignity several times, shouting "Viva!" and demanding that everybody present, not just the convener, should get a chance to talk.

He was ignored, then allowed to have his say. Comrade Viva began deferentially, taking off his hat and holding it to his groin. But since it appeared he'd had a few beers first, and was rather fidgety, this probably gave rise to certain



Waiting for Swanepoel . . . Swanieville residents say he must deliver on his promises before he gets any more rent. Picture: Joao Silva.

groundless suspicions.

Comrade Viva became more insistent, and louder, as he spoke, shuffling sideways into the centre of the hall with rising confidence.

There were a few laughs, and he was tolerantly told by the convener "OK, sharp, com!" before others, less tolerantly, told him to shut up

and sit down.

Did residents have receipts to prove Mr Swanepoel had received money from them, asked the convener. Yes, bundles of them, and they were sorted and counted on the spot.

The decision taken, the meeting turned to the arrest of 15 residents overnight on Monday.

Eleven were later re leased, and SAP liaison officer Captain Henrietta Bester said four faced allegations of kidnapping and assaulting three of Mr Swanepoel's workers handing out eviction notices in Swanieville on January 31.

Then several ANC officials arrived to tell journalists that a claim by

Mr Swanepoel, that ANC members were selling his land for R200 each to new arrivals, was not true.

Mr Swanepoel had a copy of a handwritten offer, but there was nothing to link it to the ANC.

Advocate Matshole Motshekga, a local government expert, said the original offer was Mr

Swanepoel's and it had not yet been rescinded. He was probably correct technically, although Mr Swanepoel has called on the AWB to destroy the "squatter shacks of the 26 000 to 28 000 people who have assaulted me, and barred me from my own land".

Mr Motshekga also said any Swanieville resident might have put up the handwritten notice "to tell others about it".

People going there are desperate. Next door is a sewage plant flanked by a company advertising instant lawn. If they use what comes naturally the claim is probably true.

Round one was when residents boycotted rent payments of up to R50 a month to Mr Swanepoel last year, demanding he fulfil promises of proper homes, enough water, and other amenities.

Round Two was the AWB threat — the Government has warned them to stay out of the fight.

Round Three was the arrests.

Round Four — Mr Swanepoel says residents have also threatened to burn down his indulgently luxurious home where his wife, Joey, wears a ring with a diamond so big that I'd hate to have to swallow it to get through customs.

Round Five will be the interdict application. This fight will go the distance. □

No clouds and no silver lining

③ Gen FM
21/2/92

Just how bad is the drought? A simple test is that it has passed the point where it will be felt by only the 7 000 farmers in the summer rainfall areas, who rely on maize for most of their income, and farmers in the eastern Cape and parts of the Karoo.

Steve Shone, director of the Natal Agricultural Union, says parts of the Midlands and southern Natal have had sufficient rain to ensure good grazing and maize crops. "But everything has stopped growing everywhere else. Stock farmers are having to get rid of their breeding stock, which is creating surpluses and depressing prices. That will lead to financial problems later."

Jan Human, deputy GM of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, says: "It's bad right across the Transvaal. Two weeks ago, Bronkhorstspuit and Delmas (one of the most fertile areas in the Transvaal) looked reasonable, but no rain has fallen since then and we're talking of a 20%-30% crop there now."

SA has been ravaged by many crop disasters over the decades. But this time, with the country in the midst of a political transition, the implications are social as well as economic. And little rain is expected until the next rainy season begins in October.

Food prices will continue to rise sharply. While there won't be a shortage of maize, imports will mean an erosion of foreign exchange reserves. Milk will cost more because it will cost more to produce. So will potatoes — and only those grown under irrigation will come to market. The 17 000 ha dry-land crop in the Orange Free State and eastern Transvaal highveld "appears to be a total disaster," according to the Potato Board's Gerrie de Jager.

Inflation will remain high and so will interest rates as the banks find resources stretched to assist their agricultural customers. All of this is apart from the burden the State will pile on the taxpayers by way of new relief schemes.

The SA Agricultural Union estimates that 1,1m blacks are employed on farms. On average, every worker supports another five people. And when farmers and farm workers are hurting, the villages and towns that rely on the farms for their existence also suffer.

In the eastern Cape, some farm workers are already receiving humanitarian aid. "It isn't just food; they need clothes and medical care too," says Rory O'Moore, GM of the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union. He says many farmers have exhausted their resources and can no longer pay their workers, but are allowing them to stay on their farms until they get other work. But there is no other work and, without aid, they would starve.

Poor whites are appearing in bigger numbers. Some once-wealthy farmers in the western Transvaal are living off mealie meal donated by church groups. Many, unable to

produce a crop this year, face sequestration and the loss of their farms.

Already deeply in debt, they will not be able to repay the credit they raised last year to plant the crop that failed this year.

Lullu de Jager, GM of the Free State Agricultural Union, doubts the maize farmers in the Free State north of Bloemfontein will produce a total of 100 bags (10 t).

He estimates that a third of the Free State's farmers "have big financial problems but can pull through if they get help; another 15% to 20% are heading in that direction, but it's curtains for 10%."

The future of those forced to leave their land will be bleak. They lack the skills needed in an urban environment — and there is no longer a labour-hungry gold mining industry to cushion unemployment. The few choices left include sharecropping on absentee landlords' farms or as foremen for farmers who weather the drought.

De Jager does not know what will happen to their farms. Many are probably bonded to the Land Bank, which repossessed 326 farms last year and resold only 70.

It is possible that black organisations could demand that vacated or abandoned farms be given to black farmers, which



Valley of desolation ... it will take years to recover

would be politically explosive. But how long before that land could be returned to commercial use is problematic.

Farmers' collective debt exceeds R17bn. They owed commercial banks more than R5,2bn at the end of last year. Some of the burden falls on smaller institutions, such as Boland Bank, but an estimated 40% was owed to the Absa group, 28%-30% to Standard and 25%-30% to First National Bank. The farmers also owed R3,5bn to the Land and Agricultural Bank at the end of last year and R3,7bn to agricultural co-operative societies at the end of 1990 (see table on page 67).

O'Moore explains that the extended agricultural credit committees that are being set up in drought-stricken areas to save farmers from immediate sequestration will consider only farmers that have the potential to recover.

They will not recommend that more credit be granted to farmers they believe are either too deeply in debt to be saved or to those whose production records in even the good seasons prove they are incompetent.

The help will be expensive. Farmers will need seed, fuel, fertiliser and pesticides if they are to start producing again. They will also need labour.

That is why it is important that State money must be given up front — and the criteria for its granting must be made public.

No covert aid must be given, nor clandestine deals struck. After all, any State assistance will be with taxpayers' money. Any that the commercial banks give will be shareholders' funds, which means that, considering their existing exposure, they will have to be extremely cautious about any additional aid that they grant to farmers.

Rudi Wilsnach, Standard Bank's senior manager, agriculture, says "droughts and cyclical tendencies of prices are the norm for agriculture and should not be considered the exception." The bank has advised branches in drought-stricken areas "to be sympathetic to their (farmers') problems, provided they are solvent, have the ability to service their debt within a reasonable period and they have long-term viability — given conservative but realistic prices for their products."

Some estimates put the total cost of the drought at about R3bn. Koos du Toit, the SA Agricultural Union's chief economist, regards the figure as unrealistic — it accounts for only the obvious losses.

"If maize farmers are lucky," he says, "they will harvest 3,5 Mt this year. They harvested 7,2 Mt last season, which was not a good one. We need 6,5 Mt. We will have to import 3 Mt this year. That means a R1,5bn loss in potential income to our farmers."

"The 3 Mt we will have to import will land at more than the Maize Board's price to millers and most will have to be transported inland, which will add to the costs. Add losses in grain sorghum, ground nuts, dry beans and fibre and you have your R3bn."

Along with other economists, Du Toit predicted 2% growth in the economy this year. If SA had enjoyed a normal year, agriculture would have contributed half of that.

Now the vast infrastructure established to service and distribute agricultural products will be underused. Like an idle factory, it is not earning anything and costs money to maintain. Industries such as the agricultural implement and tractor sectors that rely on farmers will go through a torrid time.

Du Toit estimates that it will take a decade or more of reasonably good seasons for farmers to recover financially and rebuild their herds and flocks to where they were just two or three weeks ago. It was believed then that the livestock had almost recovered from the 1983 drought.

David Pincus

FM 21/2/92

③ Gen

FARM DEBT FM 21/2/92

Doppler effect ③ Gen

As the drought devastates farming production, a time bomb in bad debt is building up for banks with big exposures to the agricultural sector. Says First National Bank's Viv Bartlett: "Banks reporting later in the year may have to make significant provisions for agricultural debt."

Volkas's Chris Mostert says the bank will make an initial assessment of the damage after the SA Agricultural Union releases the results of a survey next week. But the full

extent of the maize losses in the summer rainfall areas won't be known until August, says Frans Venter of First National's agricultural division — "when the crop is harvested, or not, as the case may be" (see page 68).

Meanwhile, banks are anticipating the problem and attempting to limit the ultimate damage to their balance sheets. The situation is not new and banks have traditionally allowed potentially viable farmers time to recover when they are hit by recurring droughts. But, last year, when the accumulated impact of more than a decade of bad crops hit Petrusburg, 80 km west of Bloemfontein, creditor banks "became pro-active in assisting ailing farms," Venter says.

They gained representation on local agricultural credit committees, launched by the Department of Agricultural Development and chaired by local magistrates. Also represented were other creditors, including local co-operatives, the Land Bank and the Department of Agricultural Development.

"In many instances," Venter says, "we could set up a rescue package, lending them more money for the next season." This applied to farmers ranked as category one or two: those who were solvent and potentially viable given a reasonable season. Farmers with more dubious prospects were ranked in category three. "In this case we liaised with the Directorate of Financial Assistance in the Department of Agricultural Development."

FARMING DEBT SHOCK**How the load is spread**

Year to end June	Land and Agricultural Bank	Commercial banks	Agricultural co-operatives	Department of Agriculture and Water Supply Rm	Private persons	Other financial institutions	Other debt	Total
30.06.79	550,0	600,0	654,3	157,6	450,4	466,9	106,3	3 042,6
30.06.80	633,3	650,1	866,9	173,0	531,3	550,1	121,0	3 525,7
30.06.81	734,1	1 011,0	1 129,7	201,1	590,9	744,9	141,0	4 552,7
30.06.82	925,5	1 475,0	1 367,6	227,8	634,0	734,0	174,0	5 537,9
30.06.83	1 043,6	1 938,9	1 780,2	271,6	640,0	840,0	180,0	6 694,3
30.06.84	1 645,7	2 553,2	2 233,7	391,7	695,0	964,3	198,0	8 682,6
30.06.85	2 136,3	3 009,1	2 754,0	521,8	747,0	992,2	226,0	10 386,4
30.06.86	2 532,5	3 549,9	3 080,7	641,8	836,6	1 259,4	245,3	12 146,2
30.06.87	2 743,4	3 433,4	3 224,1	729,8	932,8	1 450,0	256,8	12 770,3
30.06.88	2 848,7	3 506,1	3 411,7	869,6	944,7	1 500,0	276,3	13 357,1
30.06.89	3 029,8	4 142,4	3 506,9	967,5	1 007,5	1 500,0	294,7	14 528,8
30.06.90	3 309,6	4 857,6	3 780,3	1 008,7	1 076,2	1 300,0	313,0	15 655,4
30.06.91	3 507,9	5 277,3*		1 086,9	1 159,6	920,0	335,6	

*Estimated ABSA ± 40%. Standard ± 30%. FNB ± 30%.

Source: Directorate Agricultural Economic Trends.

Says the directorate's Dirk Henrico: "In such cases we try to negotiate a package that suits all creditors and to keep the farmer in production."

Venter says the scheme achieved "a notable success in Petrusburg," carrying farmers through until the situation was retrieved by September rains and a satisfactory crop. He believes that the scheme can now be implemented on a larger scale should the drought prove as damaging as expected — though ultimately, success will depend on an early return of rain. "We will encourage branches to start liaising earlier than the renewal date

on credit limits and expect things to get under way in about April."

The problem for banks, Venter says, is the overhang of farm debt from previous droughts. "We have not had a really good season since 1981. Since 1983-84, when banks were asked to hold back on sequestrations, farmers have been accumulating debt. Now there will be further debts and at some point there will be a Doppler effect as each wave of debt begins to have an impact on the next."

Those farmers who do manage to produce

crops will benefit from higher prices, which will help their cash-flow situation.

Venter says the nature of farm debt is different now from what it was in the early Eighties, when farmers put huge sums into capital equipment in order to exploit high grain prices. Since then, many farmers have diversified into livestock. This will provide a short-term cash flow when they slaughter stock as grazing crops run out.

Though farming is still capital intensive, farmers have exercised more caution in their decisions on capital outlays. ■

Protest over ^{(3) Gen} farm ^{SI Times} 23/2/92 debts planned

By EVE VOSLOO

FARMERS are threatening to organise a nationwide protest campaign which may include driving livestock into towns and cities to block roads.

The farmers are demanding that their rapidly increasing R1,7-billion debt and interest payments of up to 24 percent be frozen for two years.

Meetings were being organised around the country to mobilise farmers, said Mr Leonard Venter, chairman of Farmers' Crisis Action and vice-chairman of the Potgietersrus District Agricultural Union.

He said if farmers' demands were not met they would consider withholding produce, driving their livestock into cities or blockading roads.

Hungry

The threat was issued after a meeting in Graaff-Reinet this week at which farmers heard that:

- South Africa would have to import nearly five million tons of maize this year. About seven million tons of maize is consumed in SA annually and this year's crop may amount to less than two million tons. If five million tons is not available for import, people will go hungry.

- Eight hundred farmers were being forced off their land every month by liquidations or sequestrations.

- High interest rates were crippling farmers and putting them into debt which they could never hope to repay.

Zambia offering SA rich rewards for aid

By Derek Tommey ^{STAR} 24/2/92

SA stands to gain huge benefits from helping Zambia overcome its problems.

The message was driven home by Michael Sata, the Zambian Minister of Local Government and Housing, in a weekend interview.

He said Zambia wanted to build a million houses a year and planned to denationalise everything the Kuanda Government had nationalised — which amounted to 80 percent of the economy.

When Mr Sata arrived in Johannesburg last Monday hardly anybody had heard of him. But after a series of whirlwind visits to businessmen he had become the talk of the town.

Mr Sata signed two "memoranda of understanding" while here.

One was with Murray & Roberts, which was attracted by the plan to build a million houses a

year. However, Mr Sata also paid a visit to LTA.

The second memorandum was with Investec Bank. It provides for the investigation by Investec of restructuring existing government debt, the provision of finance for infrastructural development and the privatisation of government-owned enterprises.

What is likely to be of great interest to South Africa will be the fate of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM).

Reports from Zambia say it is likely to be split into its previous constituents — Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines and Roan Consolidated Copper Mines — before being privatised.

The new Zambian government, which assumed power only last November, is under pressure to start delivering a better standard of living for its seven million people.

Unless it does so quickly it runs the risk of being dumped itself.

One of its top priorities must be to restore a greater degree

of efficiency to the mines. So it seems that privatisation is not far away.

Since the beginning of November representatives of several major SA and foreign mining houses have been looking at the mines.

At the moment the hot favourites to take them over are Gencor and Anglo American.

Gencor was invited by former President Kenneth Kaunda last August to make a study of the mines. Anglo, through Zambia Copper Investments (ZCI), has a 27 percent stake in ZCCM.

However, neither of these, nor any other company, is likely to rush in blindly.

Any improvement in the efficiency of the mines will require heavy capital investment, not just in the mines, but in Zambia's infrastructure. Moreover, the groups will want some guarantee that they will get back this money.

Some of the problems facing the mines were highlighted in the last ZCI annual report.

Production was hit by a short-

age of trucks and mining and mobile equipment spares caused by a shortage of foreign exchange.

A shortage of locomotives and other problems on the rail network affected movements of copper and inter-mine metallurgical materials.

On top of making good these deficiencies, any new owner would have to tackle the unions which, with government help, have secured a privileged position for their members.

Some guarantee would probably be needed against a change of government in Zambia not leading to re-nationalisation.

The bad decline in efficiency at the Zambian mines after the state take-over is probably one of the reasons why foreign investors are concerned at the prospect of any similar nationalisation moves in SA.

With better times on the copper belt possibly just around the corner, Zambian ZCI shares have risen from 64c to 110c.

They are, however, a long way below their 1989 peak of 230c.

Sanlam urges aid for farmers

Sanlam has called for a special assistance plan to counter the disastrous effects of the drought.

Without a thorough long-term plan, says Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw, the serious consequences of the drought will also impact on food supplies, employment and on the balance of payments.

Sanlam has already announced its own measures to assist farmers.

These include drastic cuts in the assurance premiums paid by farmers for the duration of the drought — while levels of cover remain the same.

In his economic survey for February, Mr Louw also deals with the Minister of Finance's annual budget.

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He concludes that Minister Barend du Plessis will have little opportunity to decrease taxes.

Sanlam estimates that Government income from taxes will rise by about 13,5 percent in the 1992/93 financial year, while the Minister will budget for increased expenditure of roughly 12,5 percent.

This is lower than the expected inflation rate because of attempts to control expenses.

The net result will be a fairly large budget deficit of around R15,6 billion, or about 4,5 percent of GDP.

If Mr du Plessis does intend to lower some taxes, Sanlam says, it simply means he will have to raise other taxes.

Mr Louw's expectations in-

clude: ^{(3) Sen}

● A drop in the top marginal personal tax rate from 43 to 42 percent. Rates at lower income levels may also be decreased — but not enough to counter fully the effects of inflation (bracket-creep).

● An increase in the fuel-price levy, meaning more expensive petrol.

● No increase in the VAT level.

● Increased excise duties.

● Although the Government wishes to scrap the import surcharge, Sanlam doubts that the Minister can afford it.

● No change in company tax, but an extension of investment allowances.

Sanlam expects the Budget to be mildly stimulatory. — Sapa.

Mixed results from Picardi

Finance Staff

The Picardi group produced mixed results in the six months to December, with Pichold pushing up earnings a share 50 percent to 120c, while Picapl's earnings were barely changed at 27,5c (27,1c) a share.

Pichel, which has cash resources of R7,5 million and holds 69 percent of Pichold, lifted share earnings to 122c from 85c.

Chairman Jan Pickard, sen, says improved efficiency and lower interests costs offset Picapl's 13 percent drop in turnover due to product rationalisation and lower consumer spending. But higher tax resulted in barely maintained earnings.

Help the farmers, Sanlam urges

Business Staff

SANLAM has called for a special assistance plan to counter the disastrous effects of the drought raging through many parts of the country.

Without a thorough long-term plan, says Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw, the serious consequences of the drought will also impact on food supplies, employment and on South Africa's balance of payments.

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The net result will be a fairly large budget deficit of around R15 600 million, or about 4,5 percent of gross domestic product.

If Mr Du Plessis does intend to lower some taxes, Sanlam says, it simply means he will have to raise other taxes. Mr Louw's expectations include:

- A drop in the top marginal personal tax rate from 43 percent to 42 percent. Rates at lower income levels may also be decreased — but not enough to counter fully the effects of inflation (bracket-creep).
 - An increase in the fuel-price levy, meaning more expensive petrol.
 - No increase in the VAT level.
 - Increased excise duties.
 - Although the government wishes to scrap the import surcharge, Sanlam doubts that the minister could afford it.
 - No change in company tax, but an extension of investment allowances
- Sanlam expects the Budget to have only a mildly stimulating effect on the economy. As a result, monetary authorities will be able to relax

slightly its present strict policies. A prime overdraft rate of 17,5 percent is foreseen for the end of 1992.

Economic growth is still performing poorly, and Sanlam believes the drought will retard a recovery.

A real growth rate of around 1 percent is foreseen for 1992, as against a real decrease of 0,6 percent in the 1991 gross domestic product.

Inflation may come under upward pressure from the expected increase in the fuel price. The drought may also increase food prices.

However, the inflation rate is still expected to decline gradually in the second half of the year.

At this stage, an average inflation rate of roughly 14,5 percent is foreseen for the year, compared with last year's 15,3 percent.

Waiting for death ... or heavens to open

Sowetan 24/2/92.

(3) Gen

A dried bough, which became entangled in overhead electric wires a year ago while drifting in floods, today hangs like a sentry over a dried river bed that is the Limpopo.

Beneath it, where fish and crocodiles once frolicked and bred and swam infinitely, the caked ground lies cracked in a pattern that signifies the lean years that 1992 is a part of.

The hanging bough is a relic of the years of plenty when the Limpopo river flooded and broke its steep banks, leaving tales of destruction and hanging debris in its wake.

That was then. Today, the Limpopo River fish at the Pontdrift border crossing are long dead. They were the first victims of the ongoing drought that is turning South Africa's rural areas into barren fields that may soon be scattered with carcasses of dead animals and later even (Heaven forbid) of people.

Two hours before we got to Pontdrift and the dead and dried Limpopo, we spoke to 72-year-old Mr Wilson Mathabekge at the Krielgand farm, 40km Southeast of Alldays.

An overseer at the cattle ranch, Mathabekge earns R120 a month supplemented with a bag of mealiemeal.

The cattle he looks after are still far from being affected by the drought, but Mathabekge is a worried man.

"If it does not rain until August, it will be big trouble here. "The white man may take his cattle away to other, better areas and it will be the end for us. I have been working for 10 years here and I have never seen anything like this.

"We pray for rain every day and, when I walk alone in the field, I gaze into the skies to see if the

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

few patches of clouds are coming together and may form rain," Mathabekge said.

Holding a sack of the last seeds he had kept over hoping it might rain, Mathabekge said he had already started eating the seeds.

"I do not know what to do or what I will do when this supply runs out," the father of 10 said.

He said despite claims by the Drought Crisis Committee that farmers and their labourers as well as dependants were being given free food, none had been supplied at the farm. Nor had he heard of any such food deliveries at the neighbouring farm.

The food distribution, mentioned by DCC chairman Mr Willie Lewies in an interview with *Sowetan*, could not be confirmed anywhere we went throughout the Far Northern Transvaal, which is one of the areas hardest hit by the drought.

A common theme among farm workers is their abysmal pay. From Vivo to Alldays, and from Pontdrift through Messina to farms just 40km north of Pietersburg, the pay was the same - R110 to R120 a month plus a bag of mealiemeal.

Even in the best of times, when there is no drought or recession, these people literally scrape through on an existence that can only be believed when seen.

Family men with up to eight children and over 24 years of service to one farmer earn R110 a month. For the workers, the greatest fear right

now is that, with no other home that they know of, if farmers sell off their stock and leave for the bright lights of the city seeking work, they will remain on the farms and starve.

Mr Lekwapa Piet Mokwena, of the farm Ruigedraai outside Pietersburg, has been working on the farm since he was born. He does not know his age, but is emphatic that he has been working there for 65 years.

"If by winter there is no rain, the cattle here will have to be taken somewhere and then I do not know what will happen to us. At a farm nearby, new cattle were brought in last week from, I think, Alldays.

"The new cattle are still safe here but what has happened to the people who used to look after them where they were? This thing troubles me a lot because I can see that it can happen here soon.

"You cannot put your trust in these farmers because, when they see that the farm is going down, they pack up and leave. When you are like me, old and knowing no other job except looking after cattle, where do you go?" Mokwena said.

Mrs Linah Ramoba says she has not contemplated the possibility that the farmer might leave.

"What can we do? We cannot even go to the black areas because you need money to build houses there. With what the men are paid here, you must just forget about that.

"If it happens, I do not know what will happen to us. God will see," she said.

Sixteen-year-old Joey Ramohlale looks after goats and earns R50 a month. He never went to school and, unlike the elders, receives no perks. His fate is signed and sealed, linked to the

fortunes of the farm.

He says the R50 is too little. All he wants is to buy a tape recorder, but worries that he may not be able to maintain it with batteries should he ever save enough to buy it.

The effects of the drought in white farming areas are not yet acute, as the cattle still have water from boreholes and fodder is brought in through help from agricultural co-operatives.

With the white farmers facing financial hurdles on all fronts many institutions, including the Government, are giving them support to stave off permanent ruin.

But there is no assistance for the black peasant farmers who produce the bulk of the food in the bantustans.

With no extra-natural facilities such as boreholes, their crops are purely in nature's hands. If it does not rain, their crops and cattle die. It has not rained and the rivers are dry.

The mealies that were planted have shrivelled under the intense heat of the bushveld. People are facing death as available water is rationed for human use only.

Cattle, on which you can do a skeletal bone count with no problem at all, stand under the withering trees in the summer heat, perhaps also wondering when it will rain.

For these animals, there is no borehole water or imported feed.

And as the urban dwellers grapple with a future of projected higher food prices, out on the farms and in the rural areas, the disaster is not in the future but in the present.

Unless the heavens open up, many a family may soon face the Biblical prospect of the last flour and the last oil which should be prepared and prayers said while waiting to starve.

ADE price freeze may benefit farmers

ATLANTIS Diesel Engines (ADE) will freeze the prices of all its tractor engines until year end, which may help the depressed farming sector, says MD Fritz Korte. *610 day 24/2/92*

Korte said the move was equivalent to a price cut of 32% on ADE models since July 1990. He said ADE was confident tractor manufacturers would pass the benefits of this price freeze onto farmers.

The reduction would result in the engine representing only 15% of the expected retail price of tractors by the end of the year.

3 Gen
Business Day Reporter

This compares favourably to the 17% figure of June 1990, Korte said.

He said ADE was able to implement the engine price freeze because of the success of its current cost-cutting programmes.

While 1992 retail tractor sales forecasts were currently set at 2 800 units, compared with 2 860 units sold in 1991, ADE was confident the market would show a gradual long-term improvement.

R8-m payout to dead - witness

Own Correspondent

STAR 25/2/92

More than R8 million in pensions might have been paid out to dead people in Lebowa because of corruption and inefficiency, the De Meyer Commission of Inquiry into corruption heard yesterday.

Commissioner O A de Meyer heard from special investigator W A Bester that millions more could still be siphoned illegally from the homeland pension fund as control in the department was "chaotic".

Mr Bester said he had looked into four problem areas with pensions. The first was that people who had died long ago were not removed from the pension pay sheet.

He said a sample of 1,6 percent of pensioners' files had revealed that R133 252 had been paid out to dead pensioners.

With 143 000 pensioners presently on the list, calculations had revealed that about R8,3 million had been lost through this method alone.

Drought will push up food prices - warning

By Shirley Woodgate

STAR 25/2/92

Consumer organisations have warned the public to prepare for soaring inflation this year unless the drought is broken soon.

"Food prices will surge to unprecedented levels if the rains do not arrive," said Housewives League president Lynn Morris.

Consumer Union president Lillibeth Moolman said: "Prepare for a crisis if we are faced with soaring food prices combined with the current lack of buying power, particularly among the black people."

Commenting on the latest Consumer Price Index released by the Central Statistical Service yesterday, Mrs Morris warned against false optimism on a slowdown in price rises.

The overall CPI increased by only 1,1 percent in January.

The inflation rate for the month was unchanged at

16,2 percent and food price increases declined for the first time in seven months, down to 0,2 percent, with the price of meat showing a 1 percent drop.

Mrs Morris dismissed the slight decline in food price increases from 28,3 percent to 26,2 percent as insignificant.

"The increases remain above 25 percent, pushing up the overall inflation rate."

The continuing drought would affect meat and vegetable prices, she said.

"South Africa is already preparing to import maize and unless we have sustained rain soon, the summer rainfall region vegetable and wheat farmers will delay planting and the meat sector will struggle to feed its animals.

"Even if the rains come and farmers can plant their crops, there is a danger that people will not be able to afford to buy," she said.

Banks urged to handle farmers with sympathy

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B Day

25/2/92

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Commercial banks and other financial institutions were yesterday urged by government to hold back on forcing debt-ridden farmers into bankruptcy.

The appeal was made, it is understood, at a meeting between bank executives and Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk.

The SA Agricultural Union estimates between 2 000 and 3 000 summer grain farmers are in a vulnerable position and will need "sympathetic" handling by the banks if food production is not to be seriously threatened.

The industry owes about R7bn of its more than R17bn debt to commercial banks.

Van Niekerk also met leaders of the co-operatives, which are owed about R4bn by farmers.

They got the same message: wherever possible keep efficient farmers threatened by drought on the land.

Also yesterday the SAAU's disaster emergency aid committee met to determine the extent of the disaster and the strategy needed to rescue the industry from permanent harm.

The issue of the 1992/93 summer crops was also raised at yesterday's meetings.

Meanwhile Van Niekerk said the bulk of maize needed for domestic consumption would have to be imported.

Government has already given the

Maize Board the go-ahead for the immediate importation of 300 000 tons.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl estimates the crop could fall below 2,5-million tons, necessitating the importation of more than 4-million tons at a cost of about R2,5bn.

Sapa reports that the Transvaal Agricultural Union's Dries Bruwer said SA did not have the capacity to handle the amount of maize imports required, which he put at 4,5-million tons.

Bruwer said it would take almost a year to distribute 3-million tons of grain.

Farmers had to be informed immediately if they would receive any assistance with the planting of winter grain as they needed to begin planning now, he said.

Reuter reports that Sanlam has called for a special assistance plan to counter the disastrous effects of the drought.

Without a thorough long-term plan, said Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw, the serious consequences of the drought would have an impact on food supplies, employment and on SA's balance of payments.

Sanlam has already announced its own measures to assist farmers, including drastic cuts in their assurance premiums for the duration of the drought — while levels of cover remain the same.

Sanlam believes the drought could retard an economic recovery.

Marike to attend summit

PRETORIA — Marike de Klerk, wife of the President, has accepted an invitation to a summit meeting of wives of heads of state on Economic Advancement of Rural Women in Geneva this week, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. *8/10/92 25/2/92*

The ministry said De Klerk was invited by the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The summit meeting is being held under the auspices of the fund.

The Ministry said the purpose of the summit was to mobilise international political will to advance the economic development of the developing world's rural women. — Sapa. *(3) Gen (3)*

Another elderly OFS farmer murdered

By Guy Jepson and Bronwyn Wilkinson

(3) Gen

A farmer was murdered on his farm yesterday as furious Free State farmers were demanding protection from the Government at a Bloemfontein meeting.

Wessel Odenaal (68), who was stabbed to death at a kraal on his Katdoring farm near Reitz, was the seventh victim to die in attacks on Free State farms since December.

Angry farmers believe the attacks are part of an orchestrated terror campaign designed to drive them off their farms.

Police launched a massive search for the farmer's murderers and arrested a man and a youth some 25 km away only hours after Mr Odenaal was killed.

Free State police liaison officer Captain Johlene van der Merwe said Mr Odenaal, who had lived alone on the farm for about 30 years.

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went to a kraal at about 5 pm, where he was stabbed several times and left to die.

The Free State Agricultural Union has demanded that the Government implement a comprehensive security package to protect farmers.

Hundreds of angry farmers from across the Free State, as well as politicians and top SAP and SADF officials, attended yesterday's special congress in Bloemfontein, which had been-

called by the union.

To loud applause, union president Dr Pieter Gous told the congress that farmers were no longer prepared "to serve as targets for terrorists and heavily armed criminals".

Deputy Minister of Law and Order Johan Scheepers was jeered during his address.

The delegates, many of them obviously rightwingers.

● To Page 2

● From Page 1

chanted for Mr Scheepers to sit down when he pointed out that an investigation by the Commissioner of Police had shown that political motivations were not present in the majority of criminal attacks in South Africa.

A number of hard-hitting resolutions were formally adopted at the congress. Among them

OFS farmer murdered

(3) Gen

were:

● That the number of policemen employed in the Free State countryside be drastically increased.

● That the authorities provide farmers with the financial support to buy 24-hour radio equipment and safety fences, to pay

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for farm guards and patrols, and to make it easier for farmers to legally own automatic weapons.

● That anti-trespassing legislation be actively promoted by farmers' associations and more stringently applied by farmers.

● That illegal squatting be pre-

vented.

● That the Government be requested to allow national servicemen who have completed their basic training to do further military duties in their own areas in the countryside.

Deputy Minister of Defence Wynand Breytenbach appealed to farmers to join the SADF's Commando system to help fight crime.

Public warned to tighten their belts

Sowetan 26/2/92

(3) GEN

CONSUMER organisations have warned the public to prepare for soaring inflation this year unless the drought is broken immediately.

"There is absolutely no doubt that food prices will surge to unprecedented levels if the much-needed rains do not arrive," said Housewives League president Mrs Lynn Morris.

Consumer Union president Mrs Lillibeth Moolman said: "Prepare for a crisis if we are faced with soaring food prices combined with the current lack of buying power, particularly among the black people."

Commenting on the latest Consumer Price Index released by the Central Statistical Service on Monday, Morris warned against false optimism over the slowing down in price rises, with the overall CPI increasing by only 1,1 percent in January.

The inflation rate for the month was unchanged at 16,2 percent and food price increases declined for the first time in seven months, down to 0,2 percent with the price of meat showing a 1 percent drop since December.

But Morris dismissed the slight decline in food price increases from 28,3 percent to 26,2 percent as insignificant.

"What is alarming is that the increases remain above 25 percent, pushing up the overall inflation rate.

"Ideally we would like to see food reduced to the same level as the CPI, not 10 points higher."

However, there was now no doubt that the continuing drought would affect meat and vegetable prices, she said.

"South Africa is already preparing to import maize and unless we have sustained rain soon, the summer rainfall region vegetable and wheat farmers will have to delay planting while the meat sector will struggle to feed their animals," she warned.

Moolman said drought-hit farmers would have to realise that the financial crunch would make consumers even worse off than the agricultural sector.

"Even if the rains come and farmers can plant their crops, there is a danger that people will not be able to afford to buy," she said. - *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Free State farmers vote to join labour law talks

(3) Gen

BIDA 26/2/92

BLOEMFONTEIN — The Free State Agricultural Union will join the SA Agricultural Union in talks with government on labour laws for the agricultural industry.

At a special congress yesterday the FSAU authorised its executive committee to form part of an SAAU delegation in talks on possible amendments to the Basic Services Conditions Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act.

The congress's decision reverses a resolution taken at a special congress on June 11 1991 which summarily rejected the application to agriculture of the Acts and prevented the union from taking part in negotiations on their possible amendment.

SAAU chairman Boet Fourie told the congress yesterday the SAAU wanted the authorities to reconsider the legislation and not impose the four Acts on agriculture, but rather to incorporate the principles in an "agriculture-friendly Act" and to abolish the "archaic" concept of a Wage Act that stipulated minimum wages.

Referring to recent attacks on farmers in the eastern Free State, FSAU president Piet Gous told the conference that farmers were no longer prepared to be targets for "terrorist assaults".

He said farmers had come to the conference to tell the authorities and the media that they were not satisfied with the security situation.

The congress was attended by about 300 delegates and observers, some of whom carried arms.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk told the congress that farmers had to be re-established in at least the financial positions they had held before being hit by the current drought.

But it was not only the situation before the drought that had to be considered, otherwise debt would be regarded as being the norm. Instead, a way had to be found to determine the ability of a farmer to survive — although this did not mean a recipe for keeping all farmers on the land, Van Niekerk said.

He said it would take a great deal of government money to get farmers to the position where they could continue farming as before. But if other "role players" in the sector did not play their party it would not matter how much money was provided by the government.

Unconventional ways had to be found to ensure farmers did not incur more debt, he said. — Sapa.

Pre-dawn farm shifts to beat N Tyl heat

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — With record midday temperatures of more than 40 deg C sapping the energy of far-northern Transvaalers, many farmers are opting for a 4 am to 8 am shift to beat the heatwave.

"Well, you know, all a cattle farmer needs to do is check that his bull is okay and that the windmill is working," said Soutpansberg Agricultural Union president Manie Eloff, still displaying a sense of humour despite the heat and drought.

In more serious vein, he said farming operations in the heat of the day were becoming increasingly difficult, especially when it involved lengthy tasks such as the herding, loading and dipping of cattle.

Limpopo River vegetable farmer Cyril Fisher said it made a lot of sense to rise at 4 am and do his most strenuous work until 8 am. Office work

and packing-shed operations then received attention until sunset, when outdoor activity could resume again.

Another border farmer, Willie Esterhuysen, said half his cotton crop simply had to be written off due to the merciless sun.

"I try to avoid going out in the midday sun. Sometimes when I travel short distances on my motorcycle, I can actually feel the hot air stinging my face," he said.

Record maximum temperatures were recorded in the far north this week. The mercury registered 38 deg C in Pietersburg yesterday, the highest in the town for 50 years.

But this was mild compared to Messina's 44,5 and Phalaborwa's 43,5. And the 45,8 degrees at the Tshikondeni coal mine in Venda on Tuesday made it one of the hottest spots in the country this year.

Other places which sweltered yesterday in the unprecedented heatwave were Hoedspruit (43 deg C), Marnitz (42), Thohoyandou (40) and Ellisras (39).

● Free State Administrator Dr

Louis van der Watt yesterday called on businesses to allow employees to attend a day of prayer for an end to the drought tomorrow.

● The South African Agricultural Union yesterday announced the establishment of an emergency fund to assist the drought-devastated agricultural community.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said farmers and their workers would be assisted by the fund, to be managed by a board of trustees in co-operation with the SAAU's provincial affiliates.

● The Vaal Dam is now only 49 percent full, a drop of 22 percent since the start of the summer rainfall period.

The total amount of water in all the dams serving the PWV area is also down from 83 percent at this time last year to the current 68 percent, according to the latest Rand Water Board bulletin.

Only 68 mm of rain has fallen over the Witwatersrand this month, which is well below the 169 mm recorded in February last year.

3 GEN

Switch to dry beans, farmers told

STAR 27/2/92
By George Nicholas

Crop farmers whose livelihoods are exposed to the vagaries of the weather should diversify into dry beans, for which there is an excellent demand, particularly among black consumers.

This point was made by several speakers at a recent seminar on dry-bean production at Potchefstroom.

Professor Piet Nieuwenhuizen of the Rand Afrikaans University's economics department said dry beans were among the best and cheapest foods available for human consumption.

"As a protein-rich food it is an important substitute for meat, which is not always within reach of the broad population of the country".

Nutritionist Renata Coetzee urged that greater publicity should be given to the health value of dry beans. She said the beans lowered cholesterol.

"The black market displays a receptive attitude to dry beans which have been popular with them for centuries.

"White consumers complain about the tendency of dry beans to form gas, but this can be easily avoided simply by soaking the beans in water overnight," she added.

Seed merchant Colin Levy said if the dry-bean markets of Britain and Europe were handled correctly the prospects of exporting South African supplies would be excellent.

3 Gen 10
Marika in
plea to aid
STAR 27/4/92
rural women

Marika de Klerk yesterday committed South Africa to give rural women in Africa "a better place in the sun".

She was delivering an address in Switzerland to the Summit for the Advancement of Rural Women.

Mrs de Klerk urged the international community to help alleviate the plight of millions of women in Africa who live in adverse rural conditions.

Sympathy for the suffering of African women was not nearly enough, she said.

"They need help. In seeing that they get it, I believe that we, the more privileged women of this world, have an indispensable part to play.

"In this context I believe in the wisdom of the Chinese proverb: 'Teach a man and you teach an individual. Teach a woman and you teach a family and a nation'."

She said the answer to many of the problems of Africa and other parts of the developing world — particularly those affecting rural women — lay in helping them to help themselves. — Sapa.

Farmers find no compromise

8/10 day 27/2/92

HARARE — Zimbabwean commercial farmers had reached the end of the road in the search for a compromise over President Robert Mugabe's proposed Land Acquisition Bill, Commercial Farmers' Union director David Hasluck said yesterday.

As food experts called for the immediate introduction of rationing to avoid riots, Hasluck said a meeting with senior government ministers had failed to find a formula for averting confrontation on the plan to expropriate 6-million hectares of the "maize and tobacco belt" from 4 500 white commercial farmers.

Hasluck last week held a three-hour meeting with Mugabe, who proposed shelving the Bill while amendments were discussed.

Yesterday they were presented with some proposed draft amendments which were explained, "and we were unable to negotiate a further coming together for a common cause", Hasluck told journalists at a briefing yesterday. He predicted a disastrous slump in commercial farming confidence and production.

The Bill is expected to pass through Parliament in the next two weeks.

Hasluck said proposed amendments announced to CFU representatives by Agriculture Minister Witness Mangwende, Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa and Attorney-General Patrick Chinemasa

(3) Gen

MICHAEL HARTNACK

would give Mangwende total discretion over what was "fair" compensation.

An innovation was payment of some compensation for assets such as greenhouses or tobacco barns not needed by incoming peasant settlers, but the government still refused to pay market values.

Hasluck appealed to the 147 ruling Zanu (PF) party MPs who dominate the 150-seat legislature to think of the national interest before enacting the Bill.

In an emotive debate yesterday, however, backbenchers claimed the CFU was sabotaging the national economy and Zimbabwe's status as an independent country by continuing to resist plans for resettlement on commercial farms of the 800 000 peasant families from communal lands.

"The land hunger which has been deepening since 1980 threatens to cause a major revolt," said MP Johnson Ndilovu.

In a report issued yesterday, the Southern African Foundation for Economic Research warned that ports and railways would only be able to handle 1,7-million tons of the total 2,7-million tons of food Zimbabweans would need to survive to the next harvest.

Beira Corridor group founder Eddie Cross last week predicted armed men would have to be put on trucks delivering food.

Farmers refuse to be targets

Southon 27/2/92

(3) Gen

FREE State farmers are no longer prepared to be targets for terrorist assaults, the president of the OFS Agricultural Union said in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Farmers had come to the conference to tell the authorities and the media that they were not satisfied with the security situation and what was being done about it, said union president Dr

Piet Gous.

The congress was attended by about 300 delegates and observers, some of whom openly carried arms.

The conference had been called to take binding decisions which had to be implemented. Unless quick action was taken the situation would - in the words of a former State President - be too ghastly to contemplate, he warned.

This was an agricultural

and not a political gathering, it was emphasised.

Referring to accusations against the SA Police and SA Defence Force, Gous called for a show of hands by those who had family members in the SAP and SADF, and who were themselves in the Commandos.

Noting the many union members responding, he said security force members were "our people", and called for accusations against them to stop. - Sapa

SA agriculture 'hit hard by high rates'

PRETORIA — Much of SA's agricultural industry had been hit by declining profitability caused by high production costs and high interest rates, the Commodity Control Boards said.

The boards will table their annual reports to the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) in Pretoria today.

The cotton industry has been pinpointed by the SA Agricultural Union's report as one sector in particularly serious trouble.

Its survival was in the hands of government, which had to make decisions on protection, the report said.

Without protection the textile industry would be further weakened.

The National Cotton Committee has asked for a one-channel marketing system.

According to the Maize Board report, SA will have to put up with regular maize shortages in years ahead, and crops would have to be supplemented by imports.

The fact SA was no longer an exporter of maize meant the marketing system would have to be adjusted.

Profitability would have to improve drastically and producers would need adequate access to production credit.

Continued weakened profitability had resulted in less land being planted to mielies, the Maize Board said.

Causes included the withdrawal of government subsidies to the industry, high inflation and interest rates, producer prices which failed to take production costs into account, and government's land conversion scheme to planted pastures.

Gross value of deciduous fruit produced last year increased 7% to a record R1 177bn.

Production climbed 0,3%. The gross value of fruit exports increased 9% to

8/Jan 27/2/92
GERALD REILLY

R854,1m, with a 3% volume increase.

Declining profitability in the industry was due to high inflation which drove production and export costs up by 14%.

The deciduous fruit harvest is expected to beat the record set in 1991.

But heavy competition was expected from southern hemisphere countries, particularly Chile.

Local market prices would rise by less than the inflation rate due to the unfavourable economic climate and decreased consumer spending.

SA's high inflation rate and resultant fast-rising production and export costs had resulted in a weakened competitive position against countries with lower rates.

SA wool production for the 1990/91 season was estimated at 98,9-million kg.

A price decline of 20% was expected for the season.

Export earnings totalled R618,9m, with prices dropping 31,3% from last season to R6,09 a kg.

SA wool production in the 91/92 season was likely to decline to 88-million kg.

The SA Sugar Association said the crop expectation for 1991/92 was 19,8-million tons — almost 10% up on the previous season.

The 1992/93 crop had got off to a great start with early summer rains, and near perfect growing conditions.

The proposed opening of new cane areas and the establishment of a new mill in the Onderberg region of the eastern Transvaal was the most significant expansion project for more than 20 years.

Total area under cane was likely to rise to 420 000 ha, the association said.

'SA must be competitive overseas'

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was critically important for SA to compete economically overseas. If it did not, the country's political situation would be negatively affected, Trade and Industry director-general Stef Naude said yesterday.

He was giving the opening address at the Free State congress of the National Woolgrowers' Association.

He said SA had the ability to recover economically, provided the country became stable, restored the confidence of overseas investors and became a full player in the international economy.

Despite sanctions and other trade restrictions however, the country had had export successes since the middle 1980s, Naude said.

The association's unanimously re-elected Free State president J A Neethling said the discrepancy that had developed because farmers' producer prices had not kept pace with the inflation rate was one of the main reasons for farmers' poor financial position.

He called on government to make it possible for long-term interest rates to be adjusted in accordance with the income from farmers' capital investment.

— Sapa.

Three-point plan to bail out agriculture

Own Correspondent *3 Gen*

STAR 28/2/92

Bankorp executive chairman Piet Liebenberg has outlined a three-part plan for saving South African agriculture from ruin.

South Africa's farmers are under severe financial pressure due to accumulated debt, made worse by the drought.

Speaking at the Agricul-

tural Outlook Conference '92 in Pretoria yesterday, Mr Liebenberg said South African agriculture was suited to a "debt-equity swop" whereby farms and other agricultural assets would be transferred to companies.

Farmers and farmworkers would then become employees of the institutions concerned. He urged Parliament to examine the legal as-

pects of such restructuring during its current session.

Secondly, Mr Liebenberg recommended a State-initiated job-creation programme in rural areas, linked to the revival of infrastructures.

He suggested that a new water project be considered so that water from the Orange River could reach the Karoo. Neighbouring states might be approached regard-

ing similar water projects so that water from the Zambezi and Congo rivers could be channelled to the western Transvaal.

Thirdly, Mr Liebenberg recommended that a plan be instituted to encourage small business development in rural areas. The Small Business Development Corporation could play an integral role in this.

DROUGHT FM 28/2/92

③ Gen.

Making things worse

If the huge government intervention in agriculture helps farmers at all, it should be to ease the impact of the droughts that hit every few years. But this year's severe drought is focusing attention on the industry's myriad structural weaknesses that were created by government and that are now aggravating the drought's effects.

The drought is certainly a disaster. Instead of exporting maize, SA may have to import R2bn worth, with farmers losing their R1bn investment in production inputs. And the bad news extends to cotton, sunflower (hundreds of thousands of tons of oil and oilcake must be imported), soya, dried beans, sorghum, red meat, groundnuts, tropical fruit and vegetables. The estimated cost to the economy: R4bn.

An expected 3 000-4 000 farmers will be forced to leave agriculture. But this probably won't happen, for once again taxpayers will have to fork out massive amounts in farm aid, adding to a national farm debt that's heading for R20bn. This is the nub of the problem — instead of getting weeded out, the marginal farmers get bailed out while the best farmers are hamstrung by the controls and restrictions that prevent them from doing better.

The El Nino phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, which disturbs global climatic patterns and set off this year's savage drought, certainly would hurt farmers no matter how prepared they were. But a government

hands-off policy for agriculture would certainly lessen the effect.

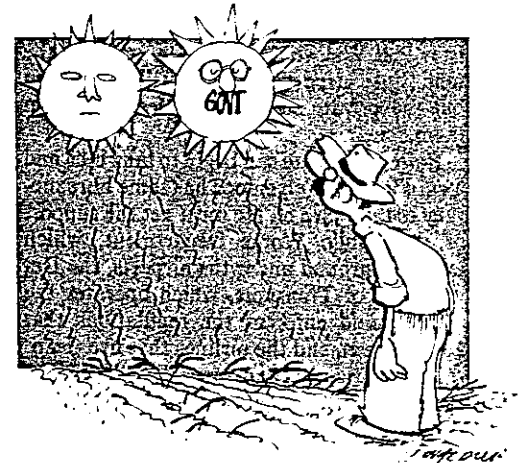
University of Natal agricultural economist Lieb Nieuwoudt says market forces must be allowed to send correct production signals to farmers who still operate their businesses in high-risk areas or grow the wrong crops.

"We need to stop discouraging farmers from using crop disaster insurance, forcing them to accept the risk of farming high-risk areas, such as the western Transvaal and Free State, and to weigh premium costs against the possibility of getting a bumper crop. This would result in more realistic crop expectations, reduced input costs and diversification into lower-risk outputs.

"But, through its massive drought aid schemes, the State effectively rewards farmers for their risk-taking losses. This is wrong — the State should not subsidise the farmer's risk-taking in a drought-prone country," says Nieuwoudt, who studied crop insurance in the US. And comprehensive crop insurance would help prevent a repeat of the past decade's R4bn taxpayer bail-out of struggling farmers.

Other obvious structural deficiencies in agriculture worsening the effects of recurring droughts are the one-channel marketing systems for maize and wheat, as well as the Meat Board's heavily regulated meat scheme that distorts market signals to livestock producers.

Sam Knox, a farmer from southern Natal, says Natal farmers can get up to 5 t a hectare (compared to an average 2 t/ha in the



Free State and Transvaal) — "but we are discouraged by the Maize Board from farming maize."

The reason for this is complex — but also simple.

The board's single-channel marketing system (operated in terms of the Marketing Act) forces all maize farmers to sell and market their crop only through the board, which annually fixes the producer and consumer prices. The difference between the two prices is made up of storage, handling and finance costs at centralised grain silos, as well as projected "export losses" on surplus production beyond the local market need of about 6,5 Mt/year.

Farmers must pay levies of about R130/t to the board to make up these costs. Until two years ago, southern Natal farmers were excluded from this scheme and freely sold their maize to neighbouring consumers in KwaZulu, Transkei and Lesotho. But since they were pulled into the scheme, such sales are illegal — unless sanctioned by the board and subjected to levy payments.

"But, due to our much higher production costs, the board's levies made maize production uneconomical," Knox says. "And we receive little marketing benefit from the board — the nearest maize silo to my farm is about 200 km. Because we are now prosecuted for illegal sales unless we pay the board's levies (used to subsidise upcountry farmers' losses — Natal is a net maize importer) a clear signal has been sent to discontinue production in Natal."

With global climatic change threatening to make maize production in the drier western areas even more of a risk in the future, this system will have to change. The obvious solution would be to deregulate Natal (and

BUSINESS CAMPAIGNS FOR A YES

The business community has launched a campaign for a "yes" vote in the referendum. The intention is to raise several million rands for a fund that will be spent entirely on advertising in print, on M-Net and Radio 702, says Times Media MD Steve Mulholland, who suggested the idea. SABC is not accepting any referendum advertising.

The fund will be chaired by Chris van Wyk, former MD of TrustBank and now a consultant, and George Thomas, the retired financial director of AECI who is now non-executive chairman of Everite.

"There was a feeling that there would be many businesses that would want to support a yes vote but would prefer not to give money to political parties," Mulholland explains. "This private-sector referendum fund makes it possible for them to do so. We have already raised R500 000 today and are going for a few million."

A comprehensive media plan has been prepared by the Initiative ad agency. Times Media will donate its co-ordination services and, like other publishers, offer space at a heavily discounted rate.

"It will be a very intensive campaign aimed at creating widespread interest and awareness," Mulholland says. "The funds will be used only for the referendum and any unused funds will be returned to donors. I believe businesses can justify such expenditure in terms of shareholder interests."

The campaign, due to break within a couple of days, will be totally distinct from the NP campaign being created by ad agency Saatchi & Saatchi, Klerck & Barrett. That campaign starts in the weekend press.

Government is treating referendum advertising as a party political issue and not doing any advertising itself.

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

③ Gen FM 28/2/92

the rest of SA) and allow farmers to maximise production (and profits) and give consumers the benefit of cheaper maize — minus the board's compulsory levies. ■

Growth 'threatened by drought'

B1 Day 28/2/92
PRETORIA — The expected positive growth rate of SA's economy could be "obliterated" in the second half of the year because of the drought in summer crop areas, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

He warned the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) the commodity control boards would have to be privatised in a market-driven economy.

"We cannot privatise the functions of government but we can and must deregulate and privatise the control boards."

This move was aimed at reducing government involvement in the economy and boosting business opportunities for the private sector.

Van Niekerk said that in the development of the present marketing systems some industries had been over-protected, preventing the optimal use of market and business opportunities.

Van Niekerk said much more than the previously predicted 3-million tons of maize would have to be imported during the 1992/93 season.

(3) Gen
GERALD REILLY

If drought conditions persisted, the harvest prospects would weaken to an extent where 4.5-million tons would have to be imported and it would become necessary to mix more than less preferred 50% yellow maize with white maize for local consumption. This would be introduced on May 1.

Van Niekerk said agriculture's net income had declined in the past two years and this year's summer grain disaster would mean a further weakening of total income. The critical cash flow problems of farmers reflected the distressed position of the industry.

Investment in production equipment had decreased sharply in the past two years and this would reflect on the industry's production potential.

Van Niekerk said the continuing increase in consumer spending — which now amounted to R47bn a year — was mainly due to rising food prices and an expanding population.

Bankorp official warns of vast unemployment

B1 Day 28/2/92
PRETORIA — A sharp increase in unemployment would be the most serious of a whole series of adverse consequences flowing from the disastrous drought in the summer grain areas, Bankorp executive chairman Piet Liebenberg said yesterday.

Speaking at the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agricon) he said it had been expected total jobs in the economy would increase by 50 000 this year. "We must now rather expect a further decrease of between 50 000 and 100 000 jobs."

This meant that with 300 000 new workers entering the labour market the number of jobless could rise by about 400 000.

Rural areas would be worst affected.

There was a danger of a large scale migration of homeless families to urban areas, exacerbating the squatter problem.

Liebenberg said drought conditions would have a dramatic impact on virtually all aspects of the economy this year.

Apart from the direct impact of a massive drop in production, the indirect effect on other sectors would be more serious than any other drought since the end of the Second World War.

Although the agricultural sector made up only 6% of the economy, negative effects on it had a ripple effect on many other sectors, including manufacturing, banking and transport.

Agriculture's direct and indirect contribution to the economy was about 10% which made it comparable to gold mining.

Many farmers had come to the end of the

(3) Gen
GERALD REILLY

road and their spending in other sectors would drastically decline.

The drought would have an intense detrimental effect on economic sub-systems of the northern Free State and the western Transvaal.

Liebenberg said low PPI growth was an indication of financial balance and the softening of underlying inflation pressure.

The CPI increase could fall to 12% by the end of the year and about 10% by the middle of next year.

A growth rate expectation at the end of last year of between 1.5% and 2% would have to be scaled down to 0% to 0.5%.

There was also a risk of a third successive year of a shrinking GDP for the first time since the Second World War ended.

On these grounds, banks' lending rates ought to decline by about three percentage points in the coming 15 months.

The downward phase in the business cycle, which started in 1988, had lasted through 1990 and 1991 and had deepened in the past few months, Liebenberg said.

The domestic downswing could not be associated with the political changes of the past two years.

The recession was more likely the result of excessive domestic credit provision and sharp increases in imports in 1988 and 1989 in a framework of financial sanctions and large scale capital outflow, he added.

CONAFEX/AFEX

FM 28/2/92

3 Gen

Moving out of Africa

Activities: Investment company with interests in mining, agriculture and property in Africa and the US.

Control: Conafex 53.1%.

Chairman: D C Marshall.

Capital structure: 3.8m ord. Market capitalisation: R19m.

Share market: Price: 500c. Yields: 5.4% on dividend; 3.9% on earnings; p/e ratio, 26; cover, 0.7. 12-month high, 660c; low, 500c.

Trading volume last quarter, 20 shares.

Year to Sep 30	'88	'89	'90	'91
Turnover (US\$m)	18.7	20.7	32.4	44.0
Pre-tax profit (US\$m) ..	2.5	3.1	2.6	1.9
Earnings (SAc)	68	129	113	17.8
Dividends (SAc)	22.5	23.4	26.3	26.9
Net worth (SAc)	1 037	1 417	1 330	1 372

About the best that can be said of Afex's performance in the year to September is that it successfully continued its stated aim of getting out of Africa, but the profits suffered in the process.

Key statistic, according to chairman David Marshall, is that 43.9% of the company's net assets at year-end were located in the US or elsewhere overseas, compared with 27.5% the previous year.

Major contributor to that swing was that last year Afex got permission from the SA Reserve Bank to transfer to Luxembourg the share portfolio held in SA by wholly owned subsidiary Sussex Securities, through a special dividend in specie. Afex is registered in Luxembourg.

Market value of that portfolio at September 30 was US\$7m. Sales from the portfolio since the year-end have realised profits of \$3,64m which are now in the bank, according to Marshall.

Included in the portfolio is Afex's 26% stake in Zimbabwe gold producer Falcon Mines, which is listed separately on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges. Marshall emphasises the group has no intention of selling that stake.

Falcon is doing very nicely, thank you, even if only a quarter of the taxed profits can be remitted from Zimbabwe in any one year and then at the discretion of the Zimbabwean authorities. The value of the Zimbabwean holdings in Afex's books have been

taken at a conservative figure.

Marshall says he is now happy with Afex's balance of investments in and out of Africa. The group will "play with the chips" with what it has left in Africa, while overseas the aim is to hold investments in blue-chip equities and a property portfolio in America, which at present is concentrated in freehold property in southern California.

However, Afex has not found the investment market in the US easy. The directors' report shows a market value of the US investment portfolio at end-September of \$2,44m, compared with a book value of \$1,6m, but that is after providing \$500 000 against a "permanent diminution in value."

The trouble is that last year's poor profit performance could be followed by a worse one this year. Both SA and Zimbabwe remain in the grip of recessions and the severe drought in both countries will hit Afex's agricultural businesses.

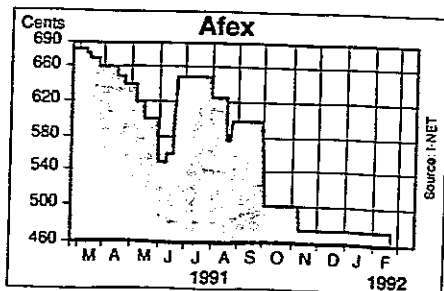
In the US, the property market has been affected by the recession, interest rates are near record lows, and equity markets have done surprisingly well ... so far.

Marshall acknowledges Afex's poor profit performance is of concern but points to the group's asset value as compensation. He feels the share should be viewed as an asset play, which is confirmed by shareholders' taking four-fifths of the 1990 dividend declaration in additional shares rather than cash. That option is available for the 1991 dividend distribution and Marshall expects a similar take-up.

The share has limited attractions for SA investors. Main beneficiaries of the group's operations are the Marshall and Latilla-Campbell families which control it. Only 20 shares were traded on the JSE over the past three months because they are so tightly held and because they are really only half a rand hedge stock.

The future of holding company Conafex is of interest. Its sole asset is the holding in Afex plus some cash. Marshall says Conafex's role as holding company is not really required because the direct and indirect holdings of the Marshall and Latilla-Campbell families are sufficient to retain control of Afex. He says "something may be done" with Conafex but declines to provide details.

Brendan Ryan



YOU may pay for drought!

③
#26/2/92

DAVID CUMMING

DURBAN. — The drought will cost taxpayers in the region of R130 million in interest-rate subsidies if past procedures are followed.

But it could also cost banks, the Land Bank and co-operatives billions of rands in debt write-offs.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the SA Agricultural Union, said he believed huge debt write-offs in the coming months were a strong likelihood.

"In many cases sequestrating a farmer would see the creditor concerned receiving only 10c in the rand. It would make far more sense to write off the debts of potentially efficient farmers.

"This would provide them with immediate relief and keep them in business. It would also mean that at some time they could once more become valued clients of banks and the other institutions."

Dr Du Toit said current agricultural debt was R17 billion, 57 percent of it in short-term loans from commercial banks which were subject to fluctuating interest rates, causing farmers much hardship.

If the State followed past relief procedures, it would institute a five percent subsidy on

Land Bank loans, bringing the effective interest rate down to 12 percent.

Last year such a scheme was introduced subject to a R25 000 maximum. The average farmer who qualified received R8 000 in subsidies and the cost to the State was R126 million.

The same scheme now would probably cost in the region of R130 million.

"However, there have been suggestions that the scope of the scheme should be extended to those who do not have Land Bank loans.

"If they can provide proof that their interest-rate bill is related to mortgage-bond credit rather than a straight overdraft, they too will be eligible for relief. If this suggestion is adopted the cost to the State would be substantially higher."

The increasingly desperate financial plight of farmers has led to a complete overhaul of the State's role, which will see it gradually withdraw as primary supplier of credit to farmers.

In future it will leave this role to the Land Bank, commercial banks and agricultural co-operatives.

Instead, says Dr Frans van der Merwe, superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, it will aim to use the funds at its

disposal to provide farmers with relief from the high interest rates which they are unable to afford — particularly those who have had crops ruined by drought.

To ensure that all concerned play their full role in allocating relief, agricultural credit committees are to be extended to bring the creditors of applicants into the decision-making process. This means such organisations as the Land Bank, commercial banks, co-operatives and the regional representatives of organised agriculture will be involved in assessing a farmer's relief application.

They would meet under the chairmanship of the local magistrate and would ensure that every application was treated strictly on individual merits.

Observers said this week that this would be particularly welcome news for efficient farmers who were merely the victims of economic and climatic circumstances.

There was now every possibility that their skills would not be lost to agriculture because of bankruptcy and these skills would be retained to play a vital role in the new South Africa — supplying the nation with food.

Cracked mirror convinces farmers of 'ANC terror war'

SI Times 11/3/92 (3) Gen (2)

By PETER MALHERBE

WHEN two burly farmers unveiled a cracked mirror in Bloemfontein this week, any doubts that the platteland was at war were swept away.

The mirror, from a house burgled in Verkeerdevlei last week, was daubed with the letters "ANC".

Farmers at the Free State Agricultural Union's special congress on security are convinced the ANC is waging a terror campaign to drive them from their farms.

This week they streamed into Bloemfontein by the hundreds to vent their anger and frustration at what they see as spin-offs of the new South Africa — squatters, crime and murder.

They believe lawlessness has been boosted by the return of political exiles and the early release of convicted criminals.

A top-level police delegation assured them there were no political motives or ANC involvement in the attacks, but the surprise unveiling of the mirror — cracked en route from Verkeerdevlei to Bloemfontein — was all that was needed to strengthen the farmers' views.

The message from congress delegates was: "A war is on — and we won't take it lying down."

They gave the authorities six weeks

to implement a list of demands, which included:

- Financial support for protection measures such as a radio network, security fences around homesteads, farm guards and patrols;
- The use of national servicemen for protection in rural areas;
- An increase in the number of policemen in rural areas.

In the conference centre on the campus of the University of the Orange Free State, security companies snatched the opportunity to display their wares — electric fences, alarms and intricate lighting systems.

At the start of the congress, union president Dr Piet Gous appealed to delegates to "play the ball, not the man".

But, for many, the three government representatives on stage proved a far more appealing target than the issues under discussion.

They were Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk, deputy Minister of Law and Order Johan Scheepers and deputy Minister of Defence Wynand Breytenbach.

Dr Van Niekerk was coolly received, but there was no heckling when he got down to the nitty-gritty of

the government's drought-relief scheme.

As one delegate remarked: "We don't like him or his government, but it doesn't help to bite the hand that's going to feed you."

Law and Order Deputy Minister Johan Scheepers was jeered loudly when he suggested the government's reform moves had led to the lifting of sanctions.

Momentarily losing his cool, he hit back by saying the people should then vote in the referendum.

A representative from the Parys Farmers' Association, Mr Nick Kemp, described the terror campaign as the "final wave against farmers and Christianity".

A speaker from Vrede said the outcome of the battle would decide whether there would still be farmers in the Free State by the end of the decade.

Reflecting the mood of the congress, Dr Gous said the issue was not about solving the murders and attacks on farms, but about the survival of farmers, their families and labourers.

He said farmers were facing a determined and planned attempt to drive them from their land.

"This is a political-military problem which cannot easily be blamed on only economic factors," he added.

Drought dooms top family

3 Gen

By EVE VOSLOO

ONE of South Africa's best-known farming families has been driven off the land by the drought and crippling interest rates.

This week, the 15 farms owned by brothers "Goo", "Bunny" and Dave Cloete, who ran one of the biggest farming operations in the country, were sold by public auction at Adelaide in the Eastern Cape.

Another two giant farming operations in the Karoo are also threatened by the agricultural crisis.

On Friday, 17 000ha of prime land on which the Cloete brothers ran merino sheep, mohair goats and a dairy herd, fetched R4-million.

Their main farm, Malanskraal, comprising 2 719ha, was sold for R425 a hectare or R1,55-million. It included a "walking" irrigation system.

Blakesly, comprising 1 396ha, went for R270 a hectare — a total of R376 920.

S1 Times 1/3/92

Threat

The other farms were sold for between R70 and R135 a hectare.

Last year, farmland in the same area was selling for R1 000 a hectare.

Other Karoo farming tycoons under threat are Mr Teddy Birch and his son, Syd, who farm near Grahamstown, and Mr Flip Murray of Graaff-Reinet.

Both have applied for protection under Section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1966 in terms of which approved farmers with the ability to recover are protected from any legal action for between six months and two years while they reorganise their operations and repay their debts.

LF Birch and Son farm 26 000ha and until recently, were the biggest ostrich farmers in the world, with 13 000 birds, and the biggest mohair producers in South Africa with a herd of 25 000 goats.

Mr Syd Birch said yesterday he had sold all his ostriches except 5 000 and all goats except 8 000.

This allowed them to pay R3-million of their R16-million overdraft with Standard Bank, he said.

Mr Murray — who owns a 80 000ha operation — has the distinction of regularly clipping the most wool in South Africa. He was also the first farmer to produce stock feed cubes for farm animals.

He started buying and selling his own sheep as a child of five and sold his own wool in London when he was 10.

He owes First National Bank about R10-million.

A farmer at the Adelaide auction said this week: "If farming operations this huge are under threat,



HIGH NOON FOR FARMERS ... drought-plagued farmers walk along the sun-baked bed of the Graaff-Reinet dam

Picture: TERRY SHEAN

Boreholes save stricken town

3 Gen

By EVE VOSLOO

OUTSIDE the drought-stricken town of Graaff-Reinet lies a vast stretch of cracked, sun-baked mud.

It's the Van Ryneveld's Pass Dam which has been drying up for two years. This week it was virtually empty — one percent full, according to town officials.

The dam previously irrigated 3 000 ha of feed crops for sheep on farms along the Sundays River.

Graaff-Reinet's town clerk, Mr Fanie du Preez, said this week although the town had a quota of one million litres a day from the dam, it had been unable to draw any water since September 1990 when it began drying up.

The town is being supplied by boreholes tapping underground water, but faces water rationing this month unless it rains.

In Pretoria this week, top-level talks took place between the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, the South African Agricultural Union and representatives of commercial banks on ways to resolve the growing crisis which is forcing many farmers off the land.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief

economist for the SAAU, said the farmers' debt burden had been growing since the 80s.

Because of the drought, this year's summer grain harvest was "a total disaster", and there are between 3 000 and 5 000 farmers in serious difficulties.

Mr Frans Loots, public relations officer for Dr Van Niekerk said income from agriculture in large parts of the country was so low that many farmers were unable to repay the interest on their debts.

The crisis was so bad that the state could not provide the capital to consolidate loans, he said.

This week's meeting was held to decide what help could be given to farmers and which farmers to help.

"Each case will be considered on merit," he said.

Extended agricultural committees had been set up all over the country in which banks and co-operatives, creditors and farmers sat to gather information and quantify the precise position of individual farmers, he said.

One of the possibilities discussed was for the state to subsidise interest repayments "until the situation is manageable".

Three brothers watch as their farms go under the hammer

what's going to happen to the rest of us?"

The Cloete farms were sold by the Bloemfontein Board of Executors and First National Bank "in agreement with the Cloete brothers". The sales are all subject to confirmation and the names of the purchasers have not been revealed.

Family members have refused to comment on their plight.

Bloemboard chief

executive Colin Hickling said yesterday no farmer was immune from the prolonged drought, high interest rates and increased production costs, coupled with depressed prices.

Prices of farmland are low because the drought reduces the farmers' creditworthiness, causing banks to call up overdrafts which many are unable to pay off because of high interest rates and depressed prices for their produce.

Land must be given back - PAC

By Helen Grange

3 Gen
The Pan Africanist Congress was serious about seeing "each and every square inch" of the land returned to the African people, PAC president Clarence Makwetu said yesterday.

Speaking at an Institute for Multiparty Democracy conference held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mr Makwetu said the repeal of the Land Acts had not changed the fact that a minority group owned most of the land.

"How are we to buy it back from whites without the economic resources?" he asked.

STAR 2/3/92
Political democracy without economic democracy was an "empty shell" and people had to be assured not only of a vote, but of land and economic resources.

Mr Makwetu said the PAC would vigorously work for a constituent assembly as an antidote to the illegitimate rule of a minority, adding that majority rule in a democracy did not exclude minority rights.

Commenting on white teachers who have been intimidated and attacked by PAC youths in Reef townships, Mr Makwetu said he was opposed to actions against whites but not actions against

white dominance.

Azanian People's Organisation president Pandelani Nefolohodwe restated Azapo's unwillingness to take part in Codesa, saying constitutional negotiations should be at a neutral venue under an independent and impartial mediator.

Commenting on the pending referendum, Mr Nefolohodwe said: "Before the calling of the white referendum, the reform process was said to be irreversible. But after the announcement, it is doubtful whether the process cannot be reversed by a Conservative Party victory."

Rain boosts level of PE dams

PORT ELIZABETH. — The levels of two of Port Elizabeth's three main water supply dams have risen after hard, penetrating rains in the catchment areas in the past few days, while run-off water is expected to reach the third dam today.

③ CT 2/3/92
The Churchill dam has risen by 2,8% and is now 45,1% full, compared with 42,3% last Thursday, while the Charlie Malan dam has risen by 6% to 28%. And water is still flowing into the dams.

Gamtoos Irrigation Board

spokesman Mr Pierre Joubert said yesterday that although good rains had fallen in the Paul Sauer dam catchment area, no run-off water had reached the dam yet.

The Paul Sauer dam is the city's largest water supply dam and also supplies water to Gamtoos Valley citrus and vegetable farmers.

"With the dam at only 13,8% at present the rise will be quite significant. If we can get a nice strong downpour of about 100mm soon, the level should rise quite

sharply, as there is a lot of moisture in the ground."

Mr Joubert said it was important to note that farmers would not be drawing as much water for irrigation now as they were before the rain.

Mr Joubert said the rain came just at the right time for the area's farmers. "It will help a lot with the citrus crop and many farmers will now be able to prepare their lands for cash crops, something they could not plant for quite a while, because of the drought.

Farmers not to blame for food inflation — economist

8 Day
2/3/92

GERALD REILLY

3 Gen

PRETORIA — Producers were not to blame for rocketing food prices, statistics showed, and the culprits behind food inflation must be sought elsewhere, agricultural economist Johan Willemse said at the weekend.

He told the Agricultural Outlook Conference that producer prices had increased by an average of 5,8% in 1991 against an increase of 19,6% in food prices. Producer prices, Willemse said, had declined steadily since the beginning of the '80s.

The producer's share of the consumer rand had declined from 53% in 1980 to 39,4% in 1991 — which meant the non-producer share increased from 47% to 60,6%.

Sharp rises in food prices in the last two years were not caused by rising producer prices, Willemse said. The reason had to be sought in price margins.

National Chamber of Milling chairman W J de Kock told the conference that stagflation, high interest rates and a weakening international exchange rate would lead to increased costs of capital goods and financing.

One result of this would be higher wage demands from trade unions. De Kock claimed that high food prices were not the cause of high inflation, but a symptom of it.

Chartwell will be voting 'yes'

B/day 2/13/92

REFERENDUM

The voters' mood

LEIGH, a Chartwell housewife, snips irritably at the edge of her lawn with a pair of black garden shears. "Well, I suppose I'll be voting 'yes' in the referendum," she says. "If we vote 'no', we'll all be branded racists again."

Leigh is in her mid-thirties, and spends most of her time at home, barricaded behind two rows of spiked iron railings, scattered armed security warning signs and three small but loud dogs.

Leigh says she resents the way the media turned the recent controversy over a group of several thousand squatters, camped on the Zevenfontein farm next to Chartwell, into what she calls a racial issue.

The squatter problem, she says, is an inevitable consequence of the end of apartheid. But when Chartwell residents protested at having squatters "dumped" on their doorsteps, it didn't necessarily mean they were advocating a return to apartheid.

"What happened before was evil, and I would never vote to return to it — even if the CP could reconstruct apartheid, which it can't."

The mood is reflected by other residents in the quiet, sprawling suburb.

Most of the sounds in Chartwell are of dogs barking, but there is life behind the forbidding gates and long front gardens.

Most residents said they agreed with the essence of President F W de Klerk's reforms, but that specific problems during the transition, like the squatter question and associated security problems, needed to be addressed more carefully.

But was it not inconsistent to vote to support the end of apartheid's racial boundaries on the one hand, and to complain about poor black people moving in nearby on the other?

Several residents replied that the majority of Chartwell residents had not campaigned against the Zevenfontein squatters because they were black, but because they were poor

In the run-up to SA's most crucial vote, Business Day will be taking the pulse of white voters in towns and cities across the country. We start the series today with a look at Chartwell, near Johannesburg — an affluent, predominantly white area which has been at the centre of a controversy over the nearby Zevenfontein squatter camp. **DARIUS SANAI** reports.

and uneducated — that their arguments against the squatters were supposedly "class-based and not racially motivated".

These people, they said, would be voting "yes"; it was the minority of blatant racists who would vote "no".

Lance, a local estate agent, said all Chartwell residents were worried about crime. "Do you think we like living in fortresses with howling dogs?" But, he said a "no" vote would not stop crime.

"A 'no' vote would bring the CP to power, but they won't stop crime. Oh, sure, they'll impose a short-term military solution, but that's not a solution at all, because there'll be a civil war soon afterwards."

Lance says he voted NP in the last general election, and would do so again. He says he agrees with the path De Klerk has taken.

"The only way for SA to get anywhere is through negotiations.

"To stop them now would be to step back goodness knows how many years."

Johan was fiddling with the clutch cable on his Volkswagen Jetta when I accosted him. Unlike Leigh, he opened his gates, restrained his dogs and invited me in to talk.

A researcher with a large mining house, Johan says he voted DP in the last election, and, despite what he calls "a significant shift to the right in my feelings", would definitely vote "yes" in the referendum.

"What the government is doing is a good thing," Johan says. "But there is much accompanying uncertainty, particularly about security."

Johan says his job takes him away for long periods, and he gets very concerned about the safety of his wife and small child when he is away.

Did he not blame government policies for the recent rise in crime rate?

"Oh yes, I'm sure the CP would get security right," he says with a wry smile.

"I have no doubt about that. But what would happen then? The sanctions would mean economic suicide.

"And 25-million blacks have smelled freedom. What does the CP propose to do with them? Shift them to homelands?"

"It would be an impossible situation."

He then articulates an emotion, a reason for his intention to vote "yes", which the other Chartwell residents, all white, reasonably affluent and English speaking, have only hinted at.

"Look, besides everything else, even if we do have to put up security gates and carry guns — isn't it time we gave the black people a chance?"

Farmer's union upset by business stance

GERALD REILLY ³ Gen

PRETORIA — The right-leaning Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) has deplored fund-raising campaigns by business organisations for a "yes" vote.

A TAU spokesman said at the weekend that the TAU was disappointed that some financial institutions were involved in collecting substantial funds to market a certain political direction in the coming referendum. B/day 2/13/92

This "insensitive action" came at a time when organised agriculture was establishing an emergency fund to provide drought-distressed farmers and their workers with basic necessities.

The TAU appealed to all financial institutions, church organisations and sports bodies not to allow themselves to be involved in public and financial support for the furthering of specific political directions. "This shocking action by certain financial institutions ought to be stopped immediately," it said.

Meanwhile, SHARON WOOD reports that SA World Cup cricket viewers will be urged to vote "yes" in the forthcoming referendum when faced with Private Sector Referendum Fund advertising at the matches in Australia and New Zealand.

In what they said was a major coup, the Private Sector Referendum Fund had managed to secure advertising space at three of SA's World Cup cricket matches, fund joint chairman Chris van Wyk said at the weekend. The advertising would appear at the matches between SA and Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe.

The fund, launched early last week to promote a "yes" vote, had been inundated with offers of financial support from all sectors of the business world. It had received about R1,8m by Friday, said the fund's joint chairmen Van Wyk and George Thomas.

"The response has been overwhelming. We have had offers of assistance from all kinds of businesses, ranging from communication companies to printing concerns and finance houses," Van Wyk said.

At the weekend the Private Sector Referendum Fund and the National Party advertised extensively on M-Net and took up full page advertisements in the Sunday Press.

Drought crisis

ARG 4/3/92 (3)

— US steps in

The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — The United States has launched an international relief effort to avert "a major humanitarian crisis" in Southern Africa caused by the drought, and may help by sending millions of tons of emergency food.

State Department spokesman Miss Margaret Tutwiler said that teams would be sent to 10 countries to assess the impact of the drought on food supplies and to determine what help the US, and other potential donors, could provide.

"Preliminary estimates from our missions in the region and from the Food and Agricultural Organisation indicate that food imports to the region could top 7 million metric tons from August 1992 to May 1993, compared to normal importation requirements of 2 million metric tons," she said.

While more than half would be met through commercial purchases of food, primarily by South Africa, "considerable donor assistance will be needed to avert a major humanitarian crisis in the region".

Intensive talks

She announced that the US had begun "intensive consultations with other potential donors to develop a co-ordinated response".

Since early February the drought has been monitored by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the Office of Food for Peace, the Famine Early Warning System, the Agency for International Development's Africa Bureau, the US Department of Agriculture and the State Department.

"Later this month ... we will be in a better position to gauge how we can best respond. We are exploring all available funding options."

Miss Tutwiler said that in some areas the drought was the worst this century and had come at a time when food reserves were already low due to poor harvests last year.

Affected areas, to which teams from the Agency for International Development would be sent, included Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

International aid specialists estimate that the present US budget for food aid to some countries of Southern Africa would have to be greatly increased if there was to be a significant impact.

There is a 1992 budget allocation of about \$138 million (R414 million) for direct food aid to Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

Hard-hit farms battered again

3 Gen

STAR 4/3/92

Staff Reporters

Torrential rains, hailstorms and whirlwinds have caused damage amounting to millions of rands to eastern and far-northern Transvaal areas, further hammering farmers already reeling from a devastating drought.

On Monday a hailstorm destroyed crops and left a trail of destruction through two Tzaneen suburbs.

Tzaneen town clerk Jan de Lang said the storm had caused damage amounting to "a few million rands".

On Friday storms in the Piet Retief district wrecked crops, ripped roofs and windows from buildings, disrupted telephone links and caused extensive damage to many homes.

Farmers in Tzaneen and Piet Retief said they were devastated by the heavy hailstorms, which ruined tomato, banana, orange, mango and tree crops.

"This is the worst thing that could have happened," said a farmer near Tzaneen.

Soya bean crops in Dirkesdorp, Thabo Springs, Klipwal and Trustgebied — among the worst hit areas — were flattened.

Five farmers in Sulphur Springs in Moolman lost 500 hectares of crops, said farm-

Heavy rain and hail wreak havoc — but drought unbroken

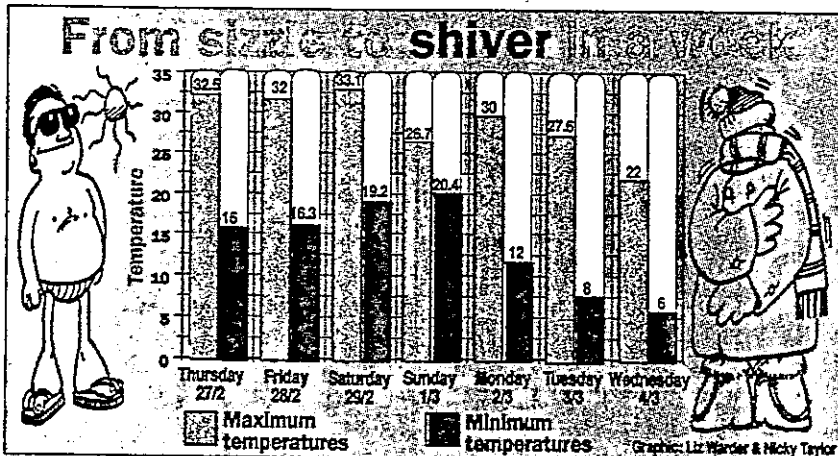
yesterday, municipal workers were still removing large trees

Although rain was desperately needed in the northern Transvaal, many maize farmers did not plant this year because of the unseasonal drought and those who did have suffered irreparable crop damage.

The 35 mm in Pietersburg had not been enough to ensure the survival of the veld.

Rainfall of 92 mm in the Hoedspruit district has flooded the Molohlapi River.

More than 50 mm was measured in the Kruger National Park. Other figures were: Hazyview and Nelspruit



Plummeting temperatures . . . from sizzle to shiver in Johannesburg in a week.

er Wimpie Scheepers.

Rain, hail and wind wiped out the soya bean crop, which was worth about R700 000, he said. Up to 60 percent of the mealies had been knocked to the ground.

Two irrigation systems were also knocked down.

"The extent of the rest of the damage is difficult to assess at this stage. Some damage cannot be assessed. How do you value 100-year-old trees which have been blown over?" he asked.

Only one farmer in the area had insurance while the others had gambled with the weather, Mr Scheepers said.

Although some places recorded up to 100 mm of rain, the Weather Bureau has warned that "the drought has not been busted". The

rain has moved across to Zimbabwe and no rain was forecast in the Transvaal

On Monday night at least 100 houses in Aqua Park and Premier Park in Tzaneen were damaged by hail stones. Roofs of two houses were blown off and low-lying areas were flooded. Power lines were smashed and scores of cars were damaged by falling trees.

Aqua Park resident Shep Lubbe said: "This is the first time in my life I have seen a brick wall completely blown away by the wind."

Up to 100 mm of rain fell in less than an hour, but very little was recorded in the catchment areas of major dams in the district.

Emergency services were busy from 1 am and by late

40 mm, Volksrust 80 mm, Witbank 33 mm, Belfast 37 mm and Witrivier 40 mm.

● Hugh Robertson reports from Washington that the United States has launched an international relief effort to avert "a major humanitarian crisis" in southern Africa caused by drought, and may provide tons of emergency food supplies.

State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said teams would be sent to all 10 countries of the region to assess the impact of the drought on food supplies.

Affected areas included Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, said Miss Tutwiler.

Govt nod for labour laws to cover farms

Biday 4/3/92

ALAN FINE

TWO key labour laws could be extended to cover SA's 1,3-million farm workers by the end of April.

This was one of several agreements reached yesterday at the first meeting between new Manpower Minister Piet Marais and the country's two largest labour federations, Cosatu and Nactu.

"We reached a number of concrete arrangements about addressing issues outstanding since the departure of Eli Louw last November," Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said. "It was a very constructive meeting. It seems it will be possible to achieve a number of new agreements with this Minister relatively quickly."

According to Cosatu, Marais agreed that amendments to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts to farm workers must be urgently processed through Parliament. He undertook that this process would be completed before the end of April.

It was agreed that discussions between the SA Agricultural Union, Cosatu/Nactu and the Manpower Department should be held as soon as possible to iron out problems with the extension of the legislation.

Manpower director-general Joel Fourie, who was present at the meeting, stressed that consultation with the SAAU was an important part of the process envisaged by the Minister.

Organised agriculture indicated last

week it opposed extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and other labour laws to agriculture. SAAU chairman Boet Fourie told a meeting of the Free State Agricultural Union SAAU wanted separate "agriculture-friendly" labour laws to apply to the industry.

A draft amendment Bill published last year provided only for limited special consideration for agriculture, mostly related to the seasonal nature of the industry — for example, longer working hours during peak periods.

Manpower's Fourie said if consensus could not be reached at the proposed consultations, government would have to take a final decision.

The union representatives also briefed Marais on the proposed economic negotiating forum being discussed between the unions and organised business. "He listened carefully and we expect he will convey our views to the Cabinet," said Naidoo.

The extension of labour law to domestic workers was also discussed. Cosatu said Marais agreed to respond by mid-April on progress in processing legislation, including how practical problems in extending the Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation Acts can be solved.

Marais also agreed to convene a meet-

□ To Page 2

Labour laws

Biday 4/3/92

3 ben

□ From Page 1

ing of major labour relations parties to discuss representation on the National Manpower Commission. This issue has delayed restructuring of the commission. Government has proposed that a third of the commission be made up of independent experts. Labour, however, has proposed that only it and business be full members. This would effectively make the commission a negotiating forum, a situation the department is not comfortable with.

Cosatu said Marais undertook that there would be no further delay in decisions on the commission's restructuring.

The meeting discussed establishing a "satisfactory tripartite process regarding the implementation of a national training

strategy. A number of steps were set in motion to ensure this process gets underway."

It also discussed "serious administration problems" in the Industrial Court and it was agreed to set up a joint working group to investigate possible solutions.

Fourie said the main problem was delays of up to nine months in the hearing of cases in those regions that were particularly overloaded with cases.

He said there had been a noticeable improvement in relations between labour and the ministry. "There is more of an understanding of the department's problems on their part, and we have a better understanding of what the unions want."

Winter crop plight eased by light rain

ARC 5/3/92 (3)

TOS WENTZEL
Political Staff

PROSPECTS for grazing and winter crops in the drought-stricken areas have improved slightly, but more rain is needed, says Dr F J van der Merwe, superintendent-general of Agricultural Development.

This year less than 40 percent of the normal maize crop would be harvested.

There had also been an inverted pattern of rain falling in winter rainfall areas, but not in the normal summer rainfall areas.

Last week the Newlands area had 69 mm, Ceres 43 mm and Kirstenbosch 55 mm, while the maize producing and summer rainfall areas such as Heidelberg in the Transvaal had 4 mm.

Dr Van der Merwe said that from August to January rain in the drought-stricken Highveld area was far below average — 230 mm instead of the usual 500 mm.

This had coincided with a heat wave that had led to maize plants not being pollinated and few seeds being formed.

Rain now would not save the maize crop, but would improve grazing.

Farmers in the Free State and Transvaal with winter crops such as wheat would also benefit.

Stock farmers would face a serious grazing and fodder problem later in the year unless there was good rain. There had been too little so far.

Rain was also needed to top up dams.

Dr Van der Merwe said that while the position had improved slightly, the serious drought was by no means broken.

The drought had come unexpectedly after a wet cycle had been foreseen. It was the last straw for many farmers who had been hit by drought and high interest rates in the 1980s.

This was why the government was planning aid programmes at a high level and urgently.

Govt gives R20-m for food aid

Staff Reporter

STAR
6/3/92

The Government yesterday announced that R20 million would be made available for a food assistance programme for farmers and their labourers as a result of the drought.

To implement the programme, the Minister of National Health and Population Development, Dr Rina Venter, yesterday handed a cheque to the value of R20 million to the Federale Vroueraad (Federal Women's Council) which will divide the money between its affiliated associations.

The women's associations will make the funds available to district aid committees which will "immediately" be estab-

lished in each magisterial district to determine the need for food assistance as well as the availability of resources.

If necessary, the district aid committee will apply for funds from the affiliated women's organisations. Farmers in need of assistance can also apply for assistance directly from their local aid committee.

These committees will consist of representatives of the welfare components of the provincial administrations as well as the following departments and institutions:

- The Department of Agriculture.

- The Algemene Kommissie vir Diens en Barmhartigheid (Commission for Service and Charity) of the Ned

Geref Kerk.

- The SA Vroue Landbou-unie (Women's Agricultural Union).

- The South African Agricultural Union.

Dr Venter said that the public could contribute to the assistance rendered by the Government through the SA Agricultural Union Relief Fund, Box 1508, Pretoria 0001. Cash payments could be made countrywide to the Schoeman Street branch of Volkskas (account number 142-049-0815).

Further inquiries regarding the guidelines for the allocation of funds can be made through the Federale Vroueraad in Pretoria.

- Drive for lower food prices — Page 6

Biday 6/3/92
Pact on farm workers denied

CAPE TOWN — Manpower director-general Joel Fourie yesterday denied the National Manpower Commission had reached consensus on extending labour rights to farm workers.

If consensus had been reached between employers and employees it could not usurp Parliament, he said.

Earlier, commission member Dawie Bosch had said government did not have to delay giving farm workers basic legal rights as these had been agreed on.

His remarks followed a statement by Manpower Minister Piet Marais that the Basic Conditions of Employment Act could be extended to farm workers before the end of April, sub-

ject to the commission's consensus.

Marais said this week amendments to cover farm workers would be legislated before the end of April.

However, after meeting Cosatu and Nactu on Tuesday, he said the process was subject to consensus being reached with the SA Agricultural Union, representing farmers.

According to Cosatu, the SAAU had been party to negotiations on the commission, which resulted in the recommendation that existing labour laws be extended to farm workers.

The SAAU has since said it supports a separate body of legislation for agriculture. — Sapa. *3/en*

Govt.gives R20m for drought aid

8/10/92
6/3/92
GERALD REILL (3) Gen

PRETORIA — Government has allocated R20m for a food programme aimed at drought distressed farmers and their workers, National Health and Population Development Minister Rina Venter said yesterday.

A cheque was handed to the Federale Vroueraad yesterday morning. The R20m will be divided among the four affiliated women's associations which will distribute the cash to district aid committees.

The committees are to be established immediately in affected magisterial districts.

If resources prove inadequate the committees can apply for additional funds from affiliated women's organisations.

Venter said the public could contribute to the assistance programme. Contributions may be sent to the SA Agricultural Relief Fund, P O Box 1508 Pretoria 0001.

□ Sapa reports Durban harbour will handle most of the 4,5-million tons of maize to be imported by SA, starting in April. The port will handle 3,4-million tons, Cape Town 475 000 tons and East London 330 000 tons.

Portnet rejected speculation it did not have the capacity to handle more than 3-million tons.

Afrikaner oasis on the Orange

STAR 7/3/92

(A) (A) (B) Gen

AS THE referendum battle hots up one of the options being debated is that of a "white homeland". MICHAEL SPARKS visited the only existing example a year after it was founded to see if has lived up to expectations.

ORANIA, like many rural towns, is not one that sleeps late. The sounds of people working come through the window soon after the first rays of sunlight.

The difference here is that the people doing all the physical work — mixing cement, emptying rubbish bins, sawing wood, hammering nails — are white. The residents would not have it any other way.

They see themselves as pioneers, the vanguard of an Afrikaner Volkstaat they hope will extend far beyond its present 2 700 ha in the northern Cape, 150 km south of Kimberley. At first sight the town seems to be growing rapidly. The original 280-ha town was bought on January 31 last year for R1,5 million and was officially opened in mid-April with 11 people living there. The remaining 2 400 ha was bought in August for R400 000.

Below the surface, lie seemingly intractable problems, easily uncovered by just a few questions.

There are 360 people living in Orania — well up from the first few dozen real pioneers — with more coming in all the time. Town Manager Renus Steyn is convinced that by the end of March there will be more than 400 permanent residents, with nearly 100 attending the school which opened in June.

Water is the key to survival of the town, which lies close to the banks of the Orange River.

For R50 a month residents can have all the water they need. It means the town looks lush and green compared to the dryness of the Karoo just a few kilometres away. Homes can be bought for between R31 000 and R45 000.

Each new family has brought a new skill to the area, resulting in new businesses opening regularly. An ostrich farm, a hardware store and supermarket, a guest house whose owner moved to the town from Hillbrow.

Desiree Adendorff says many people have a misconception of life in the Volkstaat.

"We do not want to chase other nationalities into the sea and suppress the blacks. We are

See Pages 5 and 6

just after a quiet place where the Afrikaner can put his head down — like the other races in South Africa.

"There is a shortage of good labour here, which means you sometimes have to wait a while until the person you want to do the work is free," she said.

At the tiny school, one of the first projects tackled by the emerging state, Afrikaner roots enter the space age as bare-foot kids are taught via a computer-based education system.

The town has its first doctor, but possibly because of the healthy lifestyle, he spends most of his time in neighbouring towns — treating mainly black patients.

"You have to be the first or you don't come at all, because

there certainly is not enough work for more than one doctor," Dr Steph Nel said.

Esther Swanepoel runs a hair salon from her home, which she says is not as busy as it would be in the city, "but that means I have the time to clean the house, and do the washing or the ironing between customers."

None of the small businesses seem the kind that could maintain a positive balance of payments if the dream of an independent Volkstaat becomes a reality.

There is much talk in the town of the need to attract factories to the area, which will provide jobs and in turn attract more people. But although no factory roofs or assembly lines are looming on the horizon, no-one seems too concerned about the economic reality.

Danie van Rensburg, a shareholder in the Orania management service which currently runs the town, echoed the sentiments of many when he said he wanted to turn it into a first world town.

"There is a study group looking at the long-term economic issues, and they see no problem with it. Our own people are warning us against going for big factories, but the potential is there. Compare this with what happened in Israel. We can do it. We need to find something new that we can make which does not exist, which we can export," he said simply.

"If the will is there and the water is there and the land is there, then we can succeed. We have to, we have no option".

US family plants roots in Orania

STAR 713192
YANKEE Doodle has arrived in South Africa and is alive and well living in Orania.

The all-white town, which describes itself as the kernel of the Afrikaner *volkstaat*, a few weeks ago welcomed their first non-Afrikaner family — all the way from the United States.

Tim Vaughan and his wife Brenda immigrated to South Africa with their three children 18 months ago, and another baby has arrived since then.

Mr Vaughan, who has a degree in fruit technology, plans to start a fruit nursery in Orania, which he believes would be ideally suited to the conditions.

"The climate is perfect, the land is inexpensive and for R50 a month you can get all the water you can use," he says, talking in a strange mixture of an American accent, with a strong, guttural rolling of the r's which he has picked up through speaking Afrikaans.

"We are very happy with the school system, and most people are Calvinists like we are or have been affected by the Calvinist ethic," he says.

Mrs Vaughan adds that the people are very friendly and helpful and no one has laughed at their pronunciation of the Afrikaans words they know.

One reason for leaving the United States was that they found life there depressing. "Even homosexuals living together are allowed to adopt kids," Mr Vaughan says.

Danie van Rensburg, a shareholder in the Orania management service, admitted it would be hard for the American family to adapt to life in an Afrikaner *volkstaat*.

"I really can't see them becoming Afrikaners in the true sense of the word, but that is not important. As long as they see how the Afrikaner lives and study it, and see what an Afrikaner is, and then just go for it. If they adopt the Afrikaner view of or approach to life, then it should be okay."

NOT ALL FARMERS FEELING THE PINCH

S. Times 8/31/92
FARMERS and those in related industries make up half of all South Africans earning above R300 000 a year, the 1991 Census discloses. *Ben*

These lucky 2 736 mega-buck farmers and farm managers, together with another 2 821 earners in the "farming and related occupations" outnumbered the 1 000 doctors in the same earnings bracket, the 231 educationists, 71 sportsmen and entertainers and 2 700 managers and administrators. They clearly escaped the bad

times experienced by less fortunate colleagues in farming.

The number of people involved in agriculture has dropped by 27 percent from six years ago. *Ben*

Statistics show 80 percent of farm workers earn under R400 a month. The only category with a lower income are domestic workers.

Ninety percent earn under R400 a month, although 52 "domestic workers" earn above R300 000. They must work for the Oppenheims.

... ..

SALES of commercial vehicles to the agricultural sector are expected to plummet this year as a result of the devastating draught affecting most of the grain producing areas of South Africa.

"It's a very serious situation," says Adolf Moosbauer, board member for commercial vehicles of Mercedes-Benz of South Africa. "Farmers have been hard hit by the drought and they will be pulling out of the market as potential buyers."

He says that farmers, along with the food industry network that emanates from agricultural activities, have traditionally contributed in the region of 15% of sales in the over 7 500 GVM vehicle category.

"I predict their contribution to the truck market will be almost nil this year."

Brand Pretorius, managing director of Toyota Marketing Company, agrees that the drought will adversely affect sales and particularly so in the bakkie sector.

DECISION

"Farmers have always played a very important role in the diesel 1-ton segment of the market. Our past owner profiles show that more than 45% of diesel pick-ups were sold to farmers. This has decreased lately, but it is still in the region of 35% — so sales in this sector will definitely be adversely affected," he says.

Toyota has taken the decision to cut back on the production of diesel pick-ups by 5%. "However, this decision was taken in the light of all influencing factors, of which the drought was one," says Mr Pretorius.

"Not all South Africa's farmers are in trouble. There are still those out of the drought regions who are doing well and who will be buying this year."

As regards the impact on Toyota's medium and heavy commercial vehicle

DROUGHT WILL HIT COMMERCIAL SALES

(3) Gen 8/13/92 [Truck Times]

By PATRICK O'LEARY

sales, he does not see this to be substantial.

"We sell between 25% to 30% of our heavy vehicles to the government and the majority of the balance to fleet owners. The contribution of farmers to medium vehicles sales is more significant, but even here they do not constitute a major portion of our sales," he says.

Of concern to Mr Pretorius, however, is the ripple effect the drought will have on other components of the economy. This concern was echoed by a number of other industry players, including Nico Vermeulen, director of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (Naamsa).

"The effect of the drought is expected to reduce the increase in gross domestic product in South Africa by 0.5%. Inflation is also expected to rise by at least 0.5% as a direct result of the drought," he says.

"Vehicle sales and GDP have traditionally had a close correlation, so instead of, say, a 5% rise in unit sales for the year

ahead, this will only be in the order of 3.5%," says Mr Vermeulen.

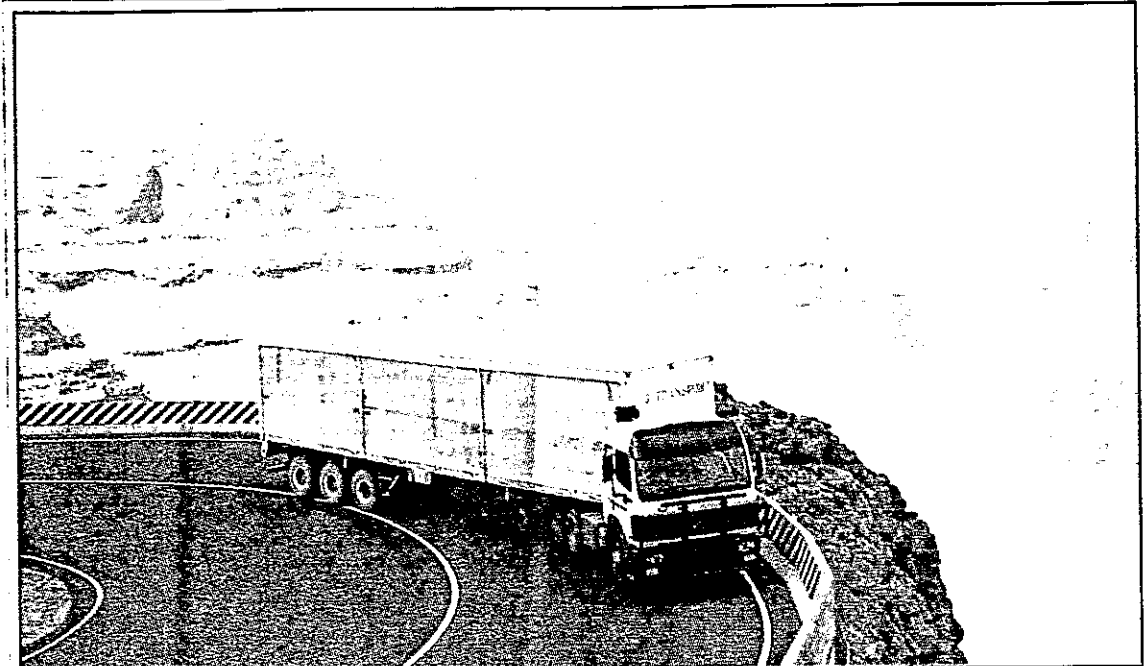
It has been estimated that some R2.5-billion will be spent on importing maize, which will be reflected in the surplus on the current account of the balance of payments.

The concern here is that all this will delay any reduction in interest rates, which is seen as a key input leading towards an improvement in vehicle sales.

SLOW

"Even without the effects of the drought, any recovery in the current depressed conditions will be a slow process and a modest improvement in the various sectors is only likely to occur once interest rates start their long-awaited decline and domestic economic activity levels record some improvement," says Mr Vermeulen.

Another effect of the drought on the commercial vehicle market is that cash-strapped farmers are expected to sell off their existing vehicles.



EASY RIDE . . . now that the access roads to the Katse dam site, part of the Lesotho Highland Water scheme, have been built, contractors such as J&G Transport have switched to vehicles which offer a smooth ride with maximum payload. This is one of J&G's new Mercedes-Benz 2444S/30 Powerliners on its way to the dam construction site

— See Back Page

Drought aid welcomed

PRETORIA. — The South African Agricultural Union yesterday welcomed the government's R20 million drought-aid programme.

The money is being made available for the implementation of a food programme for farmers and farm workers in drought-stricken areas. CI 10/3/92

A further R10m has been granted to Operation Hunger's feeding development scheme.

A cheque for the amount was presented to Operation Hunger director Mrs Ina Perlman by the Deputy Minister of National Health, Mr Fanus Schoeman, at a function in Pretoria yesterday. — Sapa

'White land' policy explained

STAR 12/3/92
DURBAN — The Conservative Party land negotiations started with leaving the self-governing territories and homelands for specific ethnic groups.

Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht told a Durban audience last night that land outside these areas was "white territory", although the CP was prepared to negotiate final borders.

Before negotiating "our people out of land" the CP would, however, go back to the white electorate.

Land outside the homelands historically belonged to whites and that would be the CP's starting point in negotiations with ethnic leaders, Dr Treurnicht told about 600 supporters at the Ex-

hibition Centre.

The CP stood for the modern concept of a commonwealth of nations which would be politically independent and economically interdependent with co-operation in defence and foreign affairs.

The time for black or white domination was past and the CP did not want to dominate black people ... "we want you (blacks) to govern yourselves", he said.

His party would not reimpose apartheid if it came to power, but the principle of self-determination would necessitate the reintroduction of laws such as influx control "to secure our own way of life".

Several khaki-clad A WB members and

(3) Gen
others sporting A WB T-shirts were seen among the enthusiastic crowd, and the organisation's southern Natal leader General Nick Fourie addressed supporters briefly describing the Ystergarde as soldiers who fought for God and white people, not as thugs as the press depicted them.

Earlier, four black students from Natal Technikon who were covering the meeting as part of a project were refused entry to the hall.

Asked to comment later, Dr Treurnicht said it was not CP policy to refuse anyone entry to meetings although with large groups tension could arise. — Sapa.

(Report by C Doonan, 36 Westgard House, Gardiner St. Dbn)

Govt 'hunger' grant enrages rightists

STAR 12/3/92

3 Gen

By Dirk Nel
Northern
Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — The Conservative Party has noted "with dismay" that the Government had donated R10 million to Operation Hunger, CP health spokesman Dr Willie Snyman said in a statement yesterday.

"Apart from the known fact that Operation Hunger has close links with the ANC, it has come to my attention that funds for the organisation are used for purposes other than those intended by its founders," he said.

Dr Snyman called on the Government to appoint a judicial inquiry or a commission representative of all parliamentary parties to investigate the activities of the organisation.

"Should the Government ignore this urgent request

from the CP, the party will regard this as blatant approval by the Government of the squandering of taxpayers' money," Dr Snyman added.

An enraged Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, reacted with an open challenge to Dr Snyman to risk "a very real libel suit" by spelling out, outside Parliament, the so-called "known facts" about her organisation.

She also called on him not to hide behind nuances and hints but to reveal in public his information about funds which Operation Hunger had allegedly used for purposes other than those originally intended.

"Perhaps before Mr Snyman spoke, he should have consulted Werk en Oorleef, a welfare group which is backed to the tune of R30 000 a month by Operation Hunger and where one of the top office bearers is CP MP Kobus Botha," Ms Perlman said.

She said Operation Hunger

was taking legal advice on Mr Snyman's "scurrilous allegations".

● The South African Agricultural Union in a statement to Sapa said yesterday that overwhelming reaction had been received to its recently announced Emergency Aid Fund for afflicted farming communities.

Contributions were streaming in from individuals and organisations throughout the country. SAAU president Boet Fourie said in Pretoria.

Within days of the announcement of the fund contributions had reached nearly R400 000.

The fund would be used to contribute towards the essential personal expenses of farmers, their families and workers who were in financial need.

Contributions may be sent to the SAAU Emergency Aid Fund, Box 1508, Pretoria, 0001. The fund collection number is 022002270005.

Land redistribution is the priority

Sowetan 13/3/92

I HAD hoped the column last week would generate an intense debate on the environment - how we view it and how we integrate it into our programme of action - the fight for truth and justice.

Mr Charles Ndabeni, a member of the South African Council of Churches' Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation has written an effusive response.

He argues that the fight to save our environment must be people-centred and reflect more on people and their relationship with nature. But I will not give myself the burden of translating what he said.

Here is his response:

As rightfully indicated in the article, there is an environmental apathy especially among the majority of the people in this country.

Before any blame could be apportioned to any person or organisation, some serious analysis should be done to identify the primary reasons for this state of affairs.

It should also be indicated that the struggle for environmental justice in the world, and in South Africa in particular, is a process that has been ongoing for some time now. It has been happening without greater public awareness.

Furthermore, land is central to environmental conservation in this country. There cannot be an environmental conservation without addressing the question of land - the 87 percent and 13 percent distribution.

This is precisely why the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), a World Council of Churches initiative, at its assembly in 1983 in Vancouver called on the churches to engage 'in a process of mutual commitment to justice, peace and integrity of creation'.

The problem with such an initiative is putting it into context for particular countries - especially South Africa with its multi-dimensional problems. It also goes with the kind of support it can gain within a short space of time.

But because of the long struggle against injustice by the majority of the people of this country, many structures and organisations already exist and are presently waging a strong battle against unjust laws and practices in all levels of society.

The JPIC process is not intended to operate independently of these, which includes advocacy work on injustice issues, mainly restoration of human rights and distribution of the wealth, land and other resources.

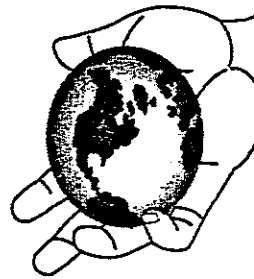
Our country is plagued with injustice, oppression, violence and destruction of the environment, thus the issue of the apathy on the already abused environment, should not be seen as an isolated incident completely divorced from the pursuit for justice and peace in this country.

Because of the disproportionate distribution of land, environmental concern or conservation has been and continues to be the preserve of whites in this country because of their standing relationship to the land.

Let us just pause for a minute and think of the following Act No 73 of 1989: Environment Conservation Act of 1989. There was no consultation for submissions from black people with reference to environment conservation in South Africa.

There is close to more than a thousand conservation, wildlife and general environmental groupings in this

ROOTS AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN



By MUSA ZONDI

country and all are predominantly white-controlled.

There are very few black faces in these organisations.

Surely there are good intentions and reasons for this. The only organisation well-known in the black community is the National Environmental Awareness Campaign which is unfortunately only based in Soweto.

The liberation movements have desks or departments already set up on environmental issues. Surely these are good signs.

But in spite of these well-intentioned efforts towards achieving environmental conservation in South Africa, the result just does not yield as yet what is desired.

This is true as we realise how disproportionate desire and results, or how separate wishes and facts could be. But still, who can stop us from wishing and desiring for a free, safe and clean environment?

JPIC calls for action on environmental issues in this country.

At no point in time than today is the concern for environmental conservation so urgent. But at the same time, we also realise how blatant and devastating our experience of apartheid is.

Maybe part of the reason for our lack of involvement and participation on environmental issues, is that people are presently preoccupied with violence and the unfolding political process, thus not giving much attention to this important issue. But we also know that our people's desire for peace in South Africa is very strong.

Poisoning of the air and water, and increasing loss of soil fertility causes more diseases, hunger and anger. Much of what is happening is the result of the apartheid system in South Africa.

We need to:

- Affirm that God is in charge of creation, and that He has coded a close bond between justice, peace and the well-being of the whole of creation.

- Work towards the creation of unity that seeks to build trust and respect for each other's differences.

- Affirm that all life is sacred and that we shall strive together to stop the violence which our country is presently engulfed in.

- We shall create areas of wilderness as sanctuaries to be preserved for human contact with nature.

Together with many others, we can advance environmental conservation in South Africa. I will certainly go along with a people-centred environmental ethic.

I also agree that our dreams for a new society cannot remain dreams, thus our envisaged freedom and liberation should include the liberation of the present unsafe environment riddled with toxic waste deposits, polluted water resources, extensive deforestation, land degradation and soil erosion. 9

Steel union

Sowetan
13/3/92

THE National Union of Steel and Allied Workers will meet in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, tomorrow to prepare for its forthcoming congress.

The meeting, which starts at 9am at the Atteridgeville Community Hall, will also plan for the Heroes' Day service to be held next Saturday.

Nusaaw general secretary, Mr Ndomane Tibane, said the meeting would also discuss new wage rates for its members in the iron, steel, engineering and metallurgical industries.

Focus on schools

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

THE National Education Co-ordinating Committee will focus on the activities of the mushrooming inner city schools at a meeting in Johannesburg tomorrow.

The meeting will be held at Khanya College and will be attended by parents, teachers and directors of the schools. It starts at 8am.

Mr Sam Mkgantsang, of the NECC, said it was hoped that the conference would set up a monitoring group that would investigate the activities of these schools.

The NECC had identified 40 inner city schools in and around Johannesburg, he said.

"Many of them charge high fees because they are not subsidised," Mkgantsang said.

"Many parents cannot afford to pay these fees and this leads to these schools becoming bankrupt. In some cases they close down and leave thousands of pupils stranded."

He said his organisation had embarked on a campaign to transform these "street academies into proper schools and establish liable management structures to counter corruption and exploitation".

Doornkop land issue

Sowetan 13/3/92

MEMBERS OF the Doornkop 42 community meet in Mosterlus on Sunday to discuss the response of the Commission of Land Allocation to their demands.

Strategies for the continuation of the struggle to reclaim their land will be finalised, as decided at a national workshop at Wilgespruit Fellow Centre on February 23 and 24.

Spokesman Mr Kalushi said Botshabelo committee should also attend the meeting to "share ideas with the Doornkop people".

3 (2) PR/T 13/3/92

Changing land use laws 'will foster secrecy'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

DRAFT changes to the Cape's land use planning legislation will increase secrecy and give greater powers to officials if they are accepted as law, a concerned landowner has told the Ombudsman.

Mr Joh Groenewald, a co-owner of the Groenkant private nature reserve near Still Bay, also asked Ombudsman Mr Justice Van der Walt to consider why Cape planning officials now wanted to give greater powers to the white "own affairs" minister when the tricameral system was being phased out.

Mr Groenewald said the Land Use Planning Ordinance Amendment Bill (Cape) had been tabled in parliament and referred to the white "own affairs" standing committee of the House of Assembly.

He pointed out that the new Bill followed hard on the heels of highly-critical comments by a Supreme Court judge on the secret way in which Cape provincial authorities had dealt with a development application at Langebaan.

Granting an interdict in December preventing Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd., from proceeding with a township development at the lagoon, Mr Justice J H Conradie expressed unease at the "alarmingly secretive" way in which the go-ahead for the development had been obtained from authorities.

Mr Groenewald also reminded the Ombudsman of the controversy over CPA planning permission for a devel-

opment at Ystervarkfontein near Still Bay.

According to the memorandum to the Bill, the minister would be empowered to issue conditions for township development and "the right to appeal is limited", Mr Groenewald said.

The memorandum neglected to point out that the Bill scrapped the requirement to advertise such conditions and delegated increased powers to officials.

The Bill also contained changes to the way in which affected landowners had to be informed and in which the public was notified through the media.

"These (new) definitions mean that an official can decide who will be affected by a land use application, whether he wants to inform such an affected landowner, whether he can or will obtain his address, and how he will inform this affected landowner."

As part of the normal democratic process, the process of land use planning — including decisions, departures, rezonings and changes — required that interested parties were informed, Mr Groenewald said.

However, the Bill scrapped the words "advertise" or "advertisement" in seven places and referred instead to "notify".

This meant that advertisements in newspapers would not be necessary.

The Bill included a clause which allowed officials charged with specific responsibilities to delegate their authority to other officials. This had given rise to several controversies in the Cape.

The Bill also appeared to channel responsibility upwards to the minister away from the Administrator.

FARM DEBT

Swapping out of trouble?

With total farm debt fast approaching R20bn, can a crisis be averted by banks and other creditors taking equity in the debt-ridden farms? In the Eighties, money-centre banks traded much of the uncollectable debt they held for equity in the State-owned companies and other assets of South American countries. Now a similar scheme is proposed for SA's failing farm sector.

Bankorp executive chairman Piet Liebenberg made the proposal at this month's annual Agricultural Outlook Conference in Pretoria. He said the structure of the farm debt crisis suggested that the best way out would be "fairly large-scale debt:equity swaps" between farmers and their creditors, including the Land Bank and farm co-operatives.

"Debt-ridden farmers, together with a consortium of institutions, largely consisting of the Land Bank, co-ops and commercial banks, would become co-shareholders in large, new agricultural companies or several smaller companies," he said. These companies would comprise several farms.

Farmers and their workers could be hired as staff, and farmers, who would still hold a stake in their farms, would play a significant role on the board of such companies and share in profits.

"Such a scheme would reduce (and even remove) the heavy burden of escalating interest on farm debt," Liebenberg told delegates. "Farmers (and their employees) would remain on the land, allowing them the opportunity of starting afresh on a farming career, with no or very little debt."

Creditors would swap their outstanding debt for equity in the companies, with the shareholding determined by their share of the debt.

And, with large institutions then playing a key role in farm management, significant opportunities would be created for "specialisation, optimal utilisation of implements, risk-spreading and tackling important land and farm conversion projects."

Bailing out

The State, Liebenberg added, could issue guarantees that would enable banks to convince depositors that the risks of such a scheme were low. The spin-off for the State would be that farmers would be kept on the land without significant additional demands on the fiscus, he said. Over the past decade, taxpayers forked out more than R4bn to bail out debt-ridden farmers.

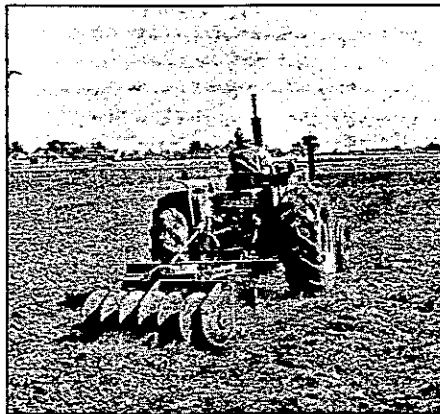
"Necessary legal changes should, if at all possible, be put through parliament during the current session," he said.

Frans van der Merwe, superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development and a member of a State-ap-

pointed committee to study solutions to the farm debt crisis, says the committee has noted Liebenberg's suggestion.

"This is a strange new idea for agriculture, but we have open minds. We welcome this new thinking and will investigate it further." Van der Merwe was to meet Liebenberg this week to discuss his proposal.

Not all agricultural economists are enthusiastic about debt:equity swaps. Frans Venter, First National Bank's chief agricultural adviser, says: "If farming could be done



Down on the farm ... soon he may be working for the company

more successfully by big companies, they would be in there doing it. We prefer minimising our risks by appointing caretakers on the farms we have bought, and then selling these off once the market turns round."

Trust Bank senior agricultural economist Pine Pienaar says that while the scheme would be fine "if it could be implemented, the issue is who would be in charge of the whole operation, especially with various creditors involved."

He adds that local creditor committees, appointed by Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk to investigate farmers' debt problems under the chairmanship of local magistrates, might be the best solution. Forced sales would depress farm values and further harm creditors' security.

SA Agricultural Union senior economist Johan Pienaar says Liebenberg's suggestion needs careful consideration.

"Such a scheme might have merits, especially if a number of farms share economies of scale through the combined use, for example, of costly farm implements that are often under-utilised on individual farms."

Bankorp chief economist Nick Barnardt, who brainstormed the debt:equity swap idea with Liebenberg, says companies could be formed in geographical areas, where the same farming conditions would facilitate

joint control and planning over a large number of farms.

"Farming risk could be minimised by combining farming operations. Now, individual farmers try to do this by running a number of farming operations on one small unit — maize, wheat, sunflower, sorghum, soya, cattle and sheep. Using the corporate approach, economies of scale could be enhanced if some farmers specialised only in maize, others in sunflower and so on."

Is this not Soviet-style collectivism in another guise? No, says Barnardt. Pooling resources to reduce risk is typical of corporate operations in the private sector, where shareholders pool their capital and share profits generated by management and workers. And the scheme would certainly not eliminate competition because thousands of farmers would remain independent.

"Farmers have tried the purely individualistic approach and in many cases it has obviously not worked in SA's high-risk farming environment — farm debt is continually escalating."

To assess whether any farmer could participate in the suggested scheme, the land would have to be properly valued to determine the pro rata shareholding of creditors and the farmer. "For example, if 60% of the land's value is encumbered, this would be the joint pro rata shareholding percentage of all creditors, while the farmer would retain a share in the overall company equal to 40% of his farm value," Barnardt says.

"Co-operation, and not coercion, would be the name of the game. Better management controls and improved economies of scale would add to the attraction of the debt:equity swap option. And a measure of meritocracy would be brought in by allowing the most successful farmers the most say in helping to run the joint operation."

Legal problems to be sorted out would involve the Land Bank, which often holds first bonds and might not be prepared to water down its security. But the Act governing the Land Bank's operations, as well as the Co-operative Act, could be changed, should government decide to support the scheme, Barnardt says.

For his part, Land Bank MD Fanie Hugo says debt:equity swaps should be placed on the table for discussion by all the players in agriculture, though the State's regional debt committees involve the same players and seem to focus in the same direction. ■



Liebenberg

③ Gen
FM 13/3/92

Govt aids farmers and needy whites

GERALD REILLY *3 Gen*

PRETORIA — Five days before the referendum, government has announced payments of R70m to help needy white families pay new compulsory school fees and a R10m concession to struggling farmers.

The R70m will help parents at the semi-private Model C schools which will replace most state schools on April 1. There will be no payments to schools that opt to retain the status quo and levy voluntary fees.

Southern Cape grain farmers are to benefit from a R10,5m interest subsidy on additional carryover debts and on new production credit. *810cm 13/3/92*

Education and Culture Minister Piet Marais also said his department would consider representations to retain the services of key education personnel until the end of the year. Between 4 000 and 11 000 teachers face retrenchment from April 1.

Marais said the R70m aid to needy families would be paid according to a fixed scale. It had been made available under extremely difficult circumstances.

Announcing the aid to grain farmers, Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer said substantial crop losses in the area had been caused by abnormal weather.

Subsidisation of rates on new production credit for 1992 crops would be limited to the difference between 8% and the current Land Bank interest rate. The amount subsidised is limited to R250 000 per producer per year and applies only to those with proven crop damage in 1991.

Fm 13/3/92 (3) Gen (2)

the key to profit. Sentraoes chairman Johan Taljaard notes that 1991's net income of R42m, the best result since the co-op opened its doors in 1970, followed an R11,6m loss the previous year.

The difference in the claims settled between the two seasons exceeded R100m, demonstrating "the unpredictable and uncertain forces that influence the crop insurance business, as well as the need for sound reserve funds and a set policy towards reinsurance." The co-op's record surplus came in a year when the amount of cover extended was down from R2,1bn to R1,8bn.

The decision to repay R10m — beneficiaries included even those who had claimed during the season — was taken after reserves soared to R104m. The directors, says Taljaard, had previously decided that a reserve of R74m was sufficient for the amount of business that the co-op now writes. The solvency margin is 73,3%.

Underwriting crop failures, taken over the medium term, is a sound business because insurance is virtually an input cost to many farmers who face pressure from bankers to take out insurance, particularly if they operate in hail belts. But attempts to persuade farmers to insure against risks other than hail have had only limited success. Taljaard comments: "If one takes into account the vast part of crops not insured, one realises the extent of the challenges that still exist." ■

CROP INSURANCE (3) Gen

Welcome relief (3) Gen

Fm 13/3/92

After a good claims year, co-operative crop insurer Sentraoes has handed back R10m as a discount to policyholders. It's the third time that Sentraoes has made such a gesture.

Dominating the crop insurance market with a share of about 80%, Sentraoes' only serious challenger is Commercial Union, which is in partnership with First Bowring to service the remainder of the market. While there is never a mention of a rate war, CU tends to quote slightly lower rates to compensate for the co-operative advantages that Sentraoes offers farmers.

With CU having declared that it wants a third of the total market, Sentraoes has noticeably stepped up its advertising spending in the last year. CU says that is good for the industry because it heightens awareness of the need for crop insurance.

It's a volatile business, with hail incidence

Farmers and needy whites to get R80m

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CT 13/3/92 Own Correspondent (3) ~~4~~

PRETORIA. — The government has announced payments of R70 million to help needy white families pay new compulsory school fees.

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Southern Cape grain farmers are to benefit from a R10,5 million interest subsidy on additional carry-over debts and on new production credit.

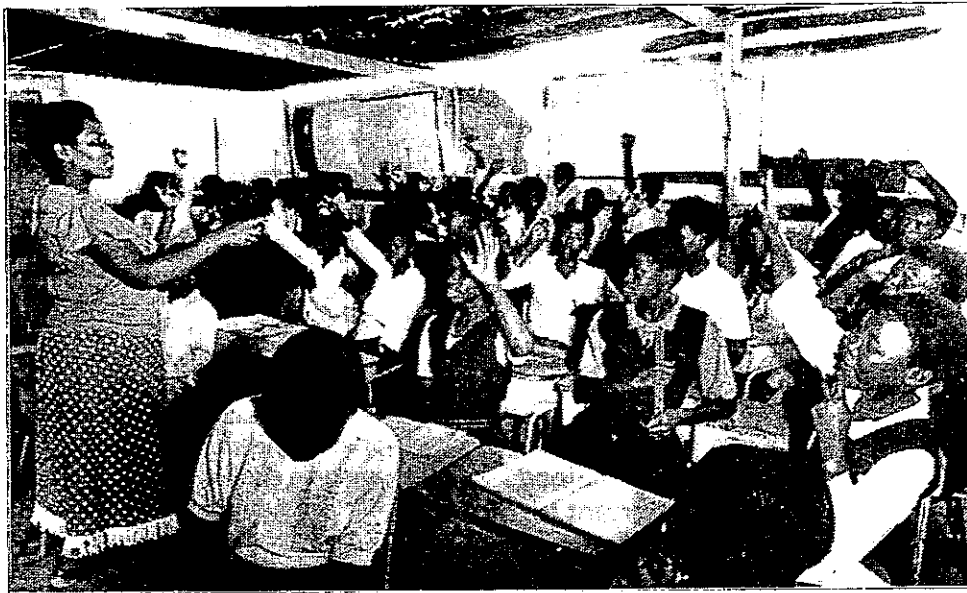
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Eager pupils with their teacher in a makeshift farm school. Since the control over farm schools was shifted from local government to farmers, dozens of these schools have been closed down.

Millions of farm children denied an education

Now Nation (Learning Nation) 13/3-19/3/92 3 Gen

MORE than three million children are living on white farms in South Africa, but only 440 000 of them have access to farm schools according to Ken Margo of the Rural Education Forum.

Margo accused local government of failing to provide education for children living on farms throughout the country.

The Rural Education Forum has urged the government to take control of white farmers' school. Margo anticipates that a number of schools on white farms will be closed before the end of this year because of poor economic conditions caused by the drought.

According to Margo, about 95 farm schools were closed

last year, "leaving more than 10 000 pupils stranded".

There are currently only 5 000 farm schools, which are fully controlled by white farmers.

Margo said the farmers had "total power" over the schools' admissions policy since they controlled both the land and the buildings where the schools were situated.

Preventing

Some white farmers, he said, went as far as preventing teachers who were being paid by the Department of Education and Training (DET) from teaching at their schools.

"It is an anomaly that farmers bear responsibility for the education of black children while others such as

factory owners do not have such responsibilities," says Margo.

He said farm schools were worse than those in the townships.

"There are no standards for the quality of the buildings and commonly teachers are left without any accommodation," he said. "And, it is the norm that a teacher has to teach more than one grade in the same classroom at the same time."

According to Margo, some farm school pupils have to walk more than 15km every day to and from school.

"We are calling on the State to take control of these schools so that farmers cannot prevent access to them or close anymore down," he said.

All's turmoil on the southern

W/Mail

13/3 - 19/3/92

③ Gen

THE turning point for Free State farmer Sakkie Rossouw came a few months ago when his bull terrier savaged the tyre of a young black man cycling past his farmhouse on the Bloudrift Road, outside Virginia. "It was a natural response of the dog," explains Rossouw, pointing to a deep scar on the dog's back. "The week before, a black man had tried to kill the dog with an axe."

Now there was a 19-year-old black man at the gate demanding an apology and insisting that Rossouw fix his bicycle. Such cheek was unheard of in the "old" South Africa, before President FW de Klerk released African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and started with his reforms.

"I told him to get off my property," says Rossouw, "and he replied: 'Julle boere se moere. Julle gaan kak op die plase'." The threat was plain: "Damn you Boers. We will get you on your farms."

Rossouw felt a chill up his spine. He had already faced a growing awareness that De

Klerk's reforms meant a lot more than handing out a few concessions to blacks. It meant a complete breakdown of the old order. The incident with the bicycle confirmed that black people would come to drive him off his land.

Among his neighbours and farmers along the road, he was the last National Party supporter. On Tuesday he will vote no.

"We are already experiencing lawlessness," he says. "I hate to know what will happen if Mandela came to power."

"I don't think people overseas understand our problems out here. These people are going to intimidate us off our land. I don't think there is a future for the white man in Africa."

Rossouw still claims to be one of the most enlightened employers in the area. He lets his men drink coffee before they start work in the morning and stop for smoke breaks during the day, and he pays better than any of his neighbours.

He says he has an excellent working relationship with his foreman, who impresses him with

Trapped between two visions of hell, white farmers are preparing for the worst.
PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK
paid a visit to the frontier of a changing order

his hard work and initiative, his knowledge and love of the land, and his abstinence from alcohol.

But, like many of the farmers on the surrounding farms whose mielie crops are stunted and yellow from drought, there is nothing Rossouw can glean from history or experience that tells him the country is facing anything but disaster.

His conversation whirls from President Robert Mugabe's attempts to take white-owned land in Zimbabwe, to the murder of Piet Retief by Dingaan and the Zulus in 1838, to a recent drunken exchange when one of his workers had his

throat slit "like an animal". And then there was the incident with the bull terrier and the bicycle tyre.

There is a thread that links Rossouw to the middle-class English speakers of Bloubostrand, whose property values plummeted with the prospect of having to live next door to a squatter camp; to the old-age pensioners of Killarney who once voted for Helen Suzman but who can no longer walk to the mall without fear of being mugged; to the white mineworkers of Virginia who travel miles underground each day to a dark and hostile working space.

They are on the frontier of a physically and psychologically changing South Africa.

They are threatened by the Third World poverty and its endemic violence that apartheid helped create on the other side of the fence — the millions of unemployed and homeless engaged in their own grim struggle to survive.

They are jarred by blacks they come across every day who are standing up to them, saying to hell with being sub-people, because dignity is as

front ^{3 Gen}

W/Mail 13/3-19/3/92

precious as a roof over one's head. And they are a lot poorer than they were a few years ago.

Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht is building his campaign for a no vote on the fears and frustrations of these people.

Though his slightly stilted pulpit Afrikaans can be too educated and highbrow for his audiences, Treurnicht is capable of striking the right rhetorical and emotional note, manipulating the fear that grips people's hearts, arousing their indignation at being sold down the river by De Klerk.

"No one has divided our people as much as this man," Treurnicht told a rally at Church Square. "De Klerk is a bender — a man who gives in — to the foreign powers, to the ANC and to the South African Communist Party."

"A yes vote is for a Mr De Klerk who doesn't have the guts to resist a terrorist takeover. A yes vote is for a government that has lost its will to govern."

Yet, by initially catching the rightwing off guard with the referendum announcement and then by limiting the campaign to two and a half weeks, De Klerk has probably given them too little time to build up momentum and mount the necessary organisational challenge to the yes vote.

In Virginia, where the NP was thumped in a by-election last year, the CP has only just started to put up their posters. In both Virginia and Potchefstroom the CP was able to concentrate all its fire on one constituency, sending in MPs canvassing door to door, reaching nearly every voter over a cup of *koffie en beskuit*.

Given the same time to prepare as for the 1960 and 1983 referendums, the no vote might well have won the day. Without the fiddle cards in boxes that tell canvassers more or less how each individual will vote, this referendum result is far less predictable.

The short campaign is merciful because it limits what is increasingly projected as an emotional choice between two hells: the CP's vision of De Klerk's Convention for a Democratic South Africa hell, and the NP's vision of the hell of international isolation and black uprising that would follow a CP return to apartheid.

The only vaguely reasoned debate that I have witnessed during two weeks of campaigning was between Douglas Gibson, of the Democratic Party, and the CP's Kobus Beyers, in the community centre at Virginia.

The DP has quite a few black members in the northern Free State, so the debate was not an exclusively white affair. Beyers consciously directed his rhetoric at the whites in the hall, but the blacks lapped up every word with intense concentration, shaking their heads at the replies that seemed all the more nonsensical because of their presence.

A young boy with the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) triple-seven insignia on his T-shirt sat a few feet away from a group of black DP members.

Next to him sat a large man with pork-chop sideburns whose face mirrored the pendulum of the debate. When Beyers made a good point, the man beamed with satisfaction and smugness, but when Gibson made a telling point in return, a look of puzzlement and doubt crept on to his face, as if Gibson was connecting with some deeply submerged truth.

On the broader stage, the whole campaign has bogged down in mean-spirited attacks and attempts to scare the daylights out of middle-of-the-road South Africa.

De Klerk points with some justification at the CP's paramilitary allies, the AWB, in his attempts to keep hold of the middle ground of the white electorate.

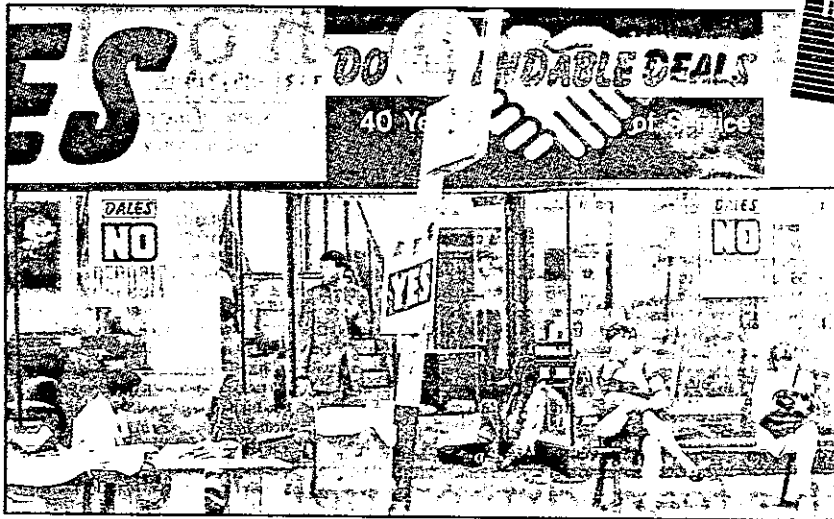
It is not hard to capture the true nature of AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche, the crude mix of menace and buffoonery, particularly when he falls off his horse. Put among the ideological right and party faithful, Terre'Blanche's booming voice, poetic Afrikaans and lurid warnings that a yes vote will mean support for Satan, communism and the anti-Christ are received with adulation.

No one says exactly what will happen next if a yes vote triumphs and the last constitutional avenue is closed to the rightwing. Possibly nothing.

The days of khaki and swastika exhibitionism are drawing to a close. The moment of truth is dawning for the far-rightists to prove that they have the stomach to carry out their threats of civil war.

On the Free State farms where Rössouw and his people go to bed at night with a gun under their pillows, the AWB message of military resistance to a "black takeover" is taken seriously.

"If a man is threatened, you will fight for what is yours," says Rössouw, stroking his hull-terrier.



No deposit, no return...
Downtown Jo'burg people wait for a bus — only one of these people can vote in the poll.
Photo: STEVE HILTON-SARBER

Dunhill brings a new dimension of lightness to the gentle art of smoking

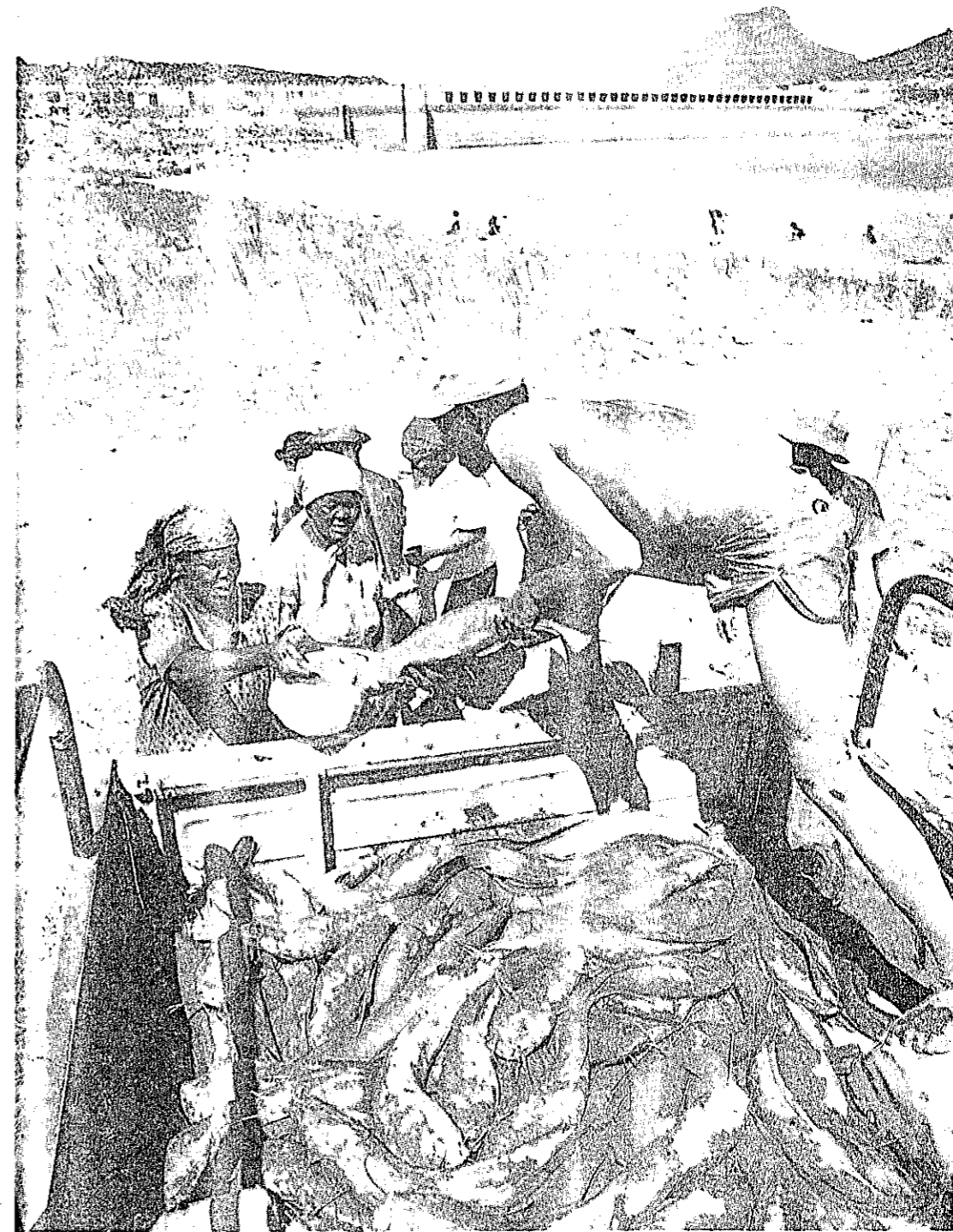
Presenting

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Karoo's lake of death



Thousands of fish struggle for survival

PORT ELIZABETH. — The drought-stricken town of Graaff-Reinet has a problem — thousands of slowly suffocating fish are stranded in a pool of stagnating water, all that is left of the town's supply dam.

The Van Rynveld's Pass Dam has been drying up for the past two years. All that is left is a small pool of dark, smelly water on a vast sea of cracked, sunbaked mud.

In this shrinking pool, thousands of barbel, some weighing as much as 8 kg, are struggling for survival.

The officer in charge of the Karoo Nature Reserve, Mr Peter Burdett, said his staff were doing everything possible to remove the surviving fish before the pool dried up totally.

More than 11 tons of fish had been removed already, but there were still "tens of thousands" in the shrinking pool.

The stench from large quantities of dead

As the drought tightens its grip, the Van Rynveld's Pass Dam is turning into a stretch of sunbaked mud, leaving tons of fish rotting in the heat. **Pat Candido** reports.

fish rotting in the heat was appalling and could pose a health hazard.

Restrictions on fishing in the dam were lifted four months ago.

About 50 fishermen with permits lost their livelihood when people were encouraged to remove as many fish as they liked.

However, fishing the Graaff-Reinet way has little appeal for anyone other than mud wrestlers.

It means wading out in thigh-high black

mud to reach the pool where fish writhe in a frenzy.

Once fish are netted there is a long slog back to dry land where the barbel are loaded on to homemade carts or vehicles.

We saw a small canoe being dragged sled-like across the mud by a crew working for Nature Conservation. It was hard, smelly work under the relentless sun.

Mr Burdett said fish caught by his staff were loaded on to bakkies and distributed to poor people in the townships.

A municipal spokesman said the dam previously irrigated 3 000 hectares of feed crops for sheep on farms in the area.

The town had a quota of a million litres a day from the dam, but had been unable to draw any water since September 1990.

The town is being supplied from boreholes tapping underground water, but faces rationing unless heavy rain falls soon.

CRACKED EARTH: The officer in charge of the Karoo Nature Reserve, Mr Peter Burdett, and his dog walk over the sunbaked earth which is all that remains of the Van Rynveld's Pass dam outside Graaff-Reinet.

CLEANING UP: Department of Nature Conservation staff remove thousands of dead barbel in a truck.

Stop selling state land, says judge

STimes

15/3/92

3 Ben
2/3
2/3

THE head of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation has called on the state to freeze the sale of all land which his committee is to review.

"It is my perception that the state is accelerating the sale of state-owned land in terms of their privatisation policy," said Mr Justice van Reenen this week.

His statement follows his recommendation earlier this month that a public auction of farmland claimed by the Amahlubi community near Estcourt in Natal be halted. The sale was frozen on

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

the instruction of the Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers.

It was the second attempt to auction the land. In November last year a storm of public protest halted an earlier attempt by the government to auction the farm, De Hoek.

This Amahlubi claim dates back to 1873, when the Hlubi chief Langalibalele clashed with the government. His 1 000-

strong tribe was scattered from the land it had occupied since about 1800.

Mr Justice van Reenen, appointed to head the newly formed land committee last November, said various state departments had earmarked about 1-million hectares — 140 pieces of land ranging from 1 000 hectares to two hectares — for the attention of the committee.

This is roughly a third of about 3-million hectares specified as state-owned.

According to the judge, the committee's first public hearing will start within a month.

The land in dispute — 11 plots measuring 250 square metres in the Asiatic Bazaar in the Pretoria business district — is being claimed by six Indian businessmen and an Islamic institution.

Value

The land was expropriated to promote the aims of Group Areas Act from 1968. It is currently owned by the House of Delegates.

The plots, prime real estate, have an estimated value of R75 000 each, according to a legal representative for the businessmen.

Notice of the hearing was given in the Government Gazette on Friday.

Mr Justice van Reenen said investigations into other claims received by the committee, including those from 19 communities represented by the National Land Committee, were still in the early stages.

Claims had been slow in coming and staff were battling to sort through deeds dating back hundreds of years. This was further complicated by the fact that land was controlled by different state departments.

Squatters

"The real job will, however, start when the hearing begins. All sorts of information could be presented that we will have to investigate," the judge said.

Some cases had been further complicated by the arrival of squatters on contested land.

The committee, although it has the go-ahead to recommend the return of expropriated land, is purely an advisory body. Hearings will be public, but its findings and recommendations given to the state president will be confidential.

It has been briefed to investigate claims on state and privately owned land that was removed under apartheid laws or has development potential.

Cruel blue skies parch Africa's battered south

ZIMBABWE'S President Robert Mugabe called it a "national disaster".

In Zambia, the government has raised maize prices though much of the crop has been written off and the memory of bloody food riots that left at least 27 dead in 1990 is still fresh in many minds.

Operation Hunger says three million tons of maize will have to be imported by South Africa.

Zimbabwe must import 340 000 ton of wheat in the next 18 months. *C Press 15/3/92*

Under cruel blue skies, farmers and governments from Namibia and Angola on the west coast to Madagascar in the Indian Ocean have since January been facing up to the "drought of the century".

Zambia's new government has blamed the Kaunda regime for failing to set up strategic grain reserves. "This is a disaster that has been waiting to happen," according to Agriculture Minister Guy Scott.

Famine looms

Local authorities in Bulawayo want to harness the mighty Zambezi River, 450 km away. The city has only 11 weeks of water reserves left.

The scale of the disaster was revealed two weeks ago when the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Nairobi forecast that the region faced widespread famine and would have to import six million tons of cereals compared to less than two million in a normal year.

South Africa's white farmers have been laying off vast numbers of black workers, according to press reports, though no official figures are available.

Namibia, which has seen total crop failure in Ovamboland, is among countries that have begun making approaches to foreign donors for food aid.

For Zambia and Zimbabwe the problem is compounded by their dependence on foreign ports.

Rebels in Mozambique have agreed not to attack rail corridors from the coast, but moving food around that war-devastated country is a perilous exercise. Starving Mozambique itself needs at least a million tons of food. - Sapa-AFP

Jo-Anne Collinge looks at the clash between the NP's and ANC's pledges on property

Land reform v security of title

STAR 17/3/92.

3 Gen ~~1~~ ~~2~~ ~~3~~ ~~4~~

GOVERNMENT land reform programmes and the constitutional protection of property rights sound like different aspects of a single cause, right?

Wrong — easily a dozen times wrong, says the land reform lobby. Nothing is more certain to hamstring Parliament's ability to redistribute land and house people than an unqualified protection of property rights in a Bill of rights.

The ANC, itself part of the land reform campaign, carries a heavy load for protecting the landless and homeless in the constitution-making process.

It would probably like to purge the property clause from a future Bill of rights — after all, some countries get by without one.

But the National Party and the Government would no doubt put all their muscle into opposing this. The assurance to white property-holders that their title is safe has become a virtual refrain of the De Klerk campaign for constitutional change.

Furthermore, the South African Law Commission report not only recommends that property rights

be protected and that compensation for expropriation "in the public interest" be referable to the courts, it sees in the ANC's draft Bill of rights a plan for "naked and arbitrary nationalisation of whatever nature without the courts being able to protect those prejudiced in any way".

The Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies recently convened a conference of organisations who are determined to dismantle the apartheid land legacy. They debated hotly on how a Bill of rights could pass muster with the Nats as regards property and yet serve the dispossessed.

These were some of the moves they proposed:

- That land be treated as a special instance of property and dealt with separately in a Bill of rights. Various lawyers pointed out that "property" had been taken to mean physical entities such as land and housing; and intangibles such as copyrights, employment rights, social security benefits and shares in a company.

Land, it was argued, had particular characteristics that set it apart from most other property —

not least of them its finite quality and its position as an absolute necessity of life.

- That certain forms of affirmative action be specifically related to land rights. The ANC's Albie Sachs noted that a Bill of rights could be employed variously as an offensive and defensive weapon. And several contributors argued that the propertied classes had been outstandingly successful in invoking Bills of rights to defend their property.

In India a property clause that Prime Minister Jawarhalal Nehru — a convinced socialist — regarded as the key to implementing land reform, proved a formidable weapon in the hands of the propertied classes. University of the Western Cape legal expert John Murphy related that India eventually dropped the clauses from the constitution in 1978 "after 30 years of wrangling with the Supreme Court. Before their repeal ... India's judges showed themselves more inclined to favour individual property rights than the imperatives of social reform".

Affirmative action provisions on land would make the Bill of

rights a potentially offensive weapon for the dispossessed.

- That the question of compensation be looked at afresh. Firstly, that it apply not only to those whose land might be expropriated or otherwise removed under the post-apartheid regime, but also to historic dispossession under apartheid. Secondly, that the compensation level be determined in such a way that financial considerations do not become an insurmountable obstacle to land reform.

Those arguing for land redistribution flatly rejected the notion of compensation at market-related prices, which applied for 10 years in Zimbabwe and effectively throttled the process of land reform. The ANC has proposed that a notion of establishing "an equitable balance between the public interest and the interests of those affected" should be the basis of compensation. The Law Commission argues this method defies objective testing by the courts.

- That the constitution be used to redirect judges' attention to forms of land rights other than conventional freehold title. The diversity of "real" land rights — which re-

late to the way people occupy, use and gain access to land — must be placed side-by-side with the abstract notion of ownership embodied in title, argues Unisa's Dr Andre van der Walt. This means a wider range of people would have a claim to land they had occupied — perhaps for generations — without title; and that security of tenure could be guaranteed to such landholders. Dr van der Walt and others propose a land claims court or tribunal as a means of refining "pluriform" concepts of ownership.

The ANC, which found itself under fire from various quarters in relation to its original property clause, is redrafting the land and property provisions in its Bill of rights proposal. Still incomplete, the redraft takes account of many of the above arguments.

It unequivocally protects the homes of all people, rich and poor alike.

It also directs the legislature very clearly to make land laws that will embody the principle of equity and will facilitate "provision of adequate housing for the whole population".

It obliges parliament to set up a land claims tribunal which will, among other things, investigate restoration of land to those subjected to forced removals or appropriate compensation where restoration is not feasible.

A separate property clause is being contemplated. And Mr Sachs hinted that the ANC would not seek State intervention in the area of what he termed "commercial property" — debentures, shares and various business interests. "It's the area least open to constitutionalising," he commented. The Left had learnt that tight government control of markets was not viable. "We think that it should be open."

There is no way that resolution of the land question can avoid hurting somebody — either the homeless and landless will remain so, or someone has to give. What the ANC seems to be calculating is whether, with their homes and their business interests guaranteed, the present ruling group might not be prepared to forfeit a measure of land — against some compensation — in the name of righting wrongs and securing a future society. □

STAR 17/3/92

Farmers to use SADF grazing land

Own Correspondent *Ben*

MARITZBURG — The South African Defence Force is to allow drought-hit livestock to graze on some of its huge properties, the South African Agricultural Union said.

Drought-stricken farmers registered under the Department of Agriculture's drought disaster fund will be allowed to send some cattle to the area.

Initially, the Defence Force areas will be grazed for three months and thereafter on a month to month basis.

District agricultural committees will allocate the areas and the numbers of livestock that will be allocated per farmer.

The SAAU has thanked the Defence Force for the aid which will save many farmers.

Landmark ruling on cash-strapped farmer

Own Correspondent

(3) Gen

STAR 19/3/92

CAPE TOWN — A new precedent has been set in a Cape Supreme Court ruling that has saved a prominent Karoo farmer from ruin.

An application for the provisional liquidation of Stapleford Estates, an 80 000 ha property in the Graaff-Reinet district owned by Haldane "Flip" Murray, was turned down by the court.

Reprieve

This landmark ruling has saved Mr Murray from losing his farm and could lead to the reprieve of many other cash-strapped farmers all over the country.

The court decided that the farm's debts of almost R8 million be suspended and ruled that creditors may take no legal action for between six months and

two years against a farmer judged by the Agricultural Credit Board to have a reasonable chance of recovery.

A certificate of protection in terms of Section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act was placed before the court and the application by First National Bank (FNB) for provisional liquidation against Mr Murray's farm was withdrawn from the roll.

Cover

Regardless of the amount involved, the certificate of protection covers companies and farmers who might be able to pay off debts at a later stage.

The certificate does not protect insolvents.

The Cape Supreme Court effectively re-affirmed its decision when it turned down an application from the bank to reinstitute its earlier action.

Dams levels ⁽³⁾ lower this year except in Cape

ARG 19/3/92

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The prolonged drought accompanied by searing heat has forced down levels in virtually all water systems countrywide to well below last year's figures in mid-March.

At this time last year, dams were 78 percent full, but the figure had dropped to 60 percent by Monday this week.

Only the 27 dams in the Western Cape system are above last year's volume, the total standing at 51 percent which is up from 33 percent in March 1991.

The bleak picture painted by the latest Department of Water Affairs report shows the vital Vaal Dam down to 46 percent and the Vaal River system only 65 percent full compared with 86 percent at the same time last year.

But the feeder Sterkfontein Dam which can be used to augment the Vaal Dam when it drops to 20 percent, is 98 percent full.

Elsewhere in the country, the Upper Orange River system is down from last year's 82 percent mark to 58 percent.

The major dams in this group, the Hendrik Verwoerd and the P K le Roux, have dropped from last year's 90 percent to the present 59 percent and 74 percent to 56 percent respectively.

Eastern Transvaal dams average 59 percent at the end of the summer rainfall period; Western Transvaal dams are down to 46 percent from 74 percent in March 1991; and Natal dams have dropped from 78 percent to the present 75 percent ahead of the rainy period in this region.

The Eastern Cape is worst hit, with last year's critical low of 43 percent now down to the 35 percent mark.

Meanwhile the Durban Argus Correspondent reports that the raft race on the Tugela River, regarded as one of the leading river sporting events of the sporting calendar, will not be held this weekend.

The race has been scrapped because of a low water level which has made the river unsuitable for the event which has been held annually for the last 25 years.

**R1-bn not
STAR 19/3/92
enough, says
(3) gen
farm union**

Finance Staff

While agriculture is grateful for the R1 billion set aside in the Budget to alleviate the plight of farmers, the Government will have to revise its priorities to enable it to make a greater contribution, says the SA Agricultural Union.

And the increase in the diesel fuel price, which was "very disappointing", would cost agriculture more than R50 million a year.

Dr Koos du Toit, the union's chief economist, said it was still attempting to ascertain how much money would be required to prop up agriculture and put it on the road to recovery.

However, preliminary indications were that it would require much more than the additional R1 billion earmarked in the Budget.

Therefore, it was assumed this was merely a preliminary allocation and further funds would be made available at a later date.

The union welcomed the 21 percent increase in the allocation for the SA Police and trusted this would enable the force to restore law and order on the platteland.

Emergency fund for drought

ALLOCATION for drought aid had not yet been determined, but government had proposed that R1bn be set aside as a drought disaster reserve, according to the Budget Review. This would be incorporated in the supplementary estimates. (3) Gen B/Jan

REPORTS: Political Staff, Sept, Business Day Reporter. 19/3/92

Farmers hail drought aid but say it won't suffice

STAR 28/3/92

Own Correspondent and Staff Reporters (3) Gen

Agricultural organisations yesterday expressed gratitude towards the State for the additional R1 billion drought relief announced by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, but warned that the aid would not be enough to save many farmers from ruin.

They also warned that the higher price of diesel, an important production input item, would put further strain on farmers' depleted funds.

National Maize Producers Organisation chairman Cernels Claassen said the drought relief allocation was too little to "handle the problem" efficiently.

"We accept that the R1 000 million is supplementary to the current budget for existing assistance programmes, but even then it will be too little to maintain the food

production potential in the summer planting area.

"Analyses currently being conducted by organised agriculture indicate that much more will be needed to prevent the unacceptable structural damage to the food production potential," he said.

Transvaal Agricultural Union general manager Johan Hartman said the aid was "definitely not enough".

"We are drawing up definitive statistics, which we shall put on the table for the authorities at the end of March."

Reaction from the drought-stricken northern and western Transvaal, where many farmers have been devastated by the drought, was mixed.

Soutpansberg Agricultural Union chairman Manie Eloff welcomed the additional allocation to the drought disaster fund and expressed the hope that many northern Transvaal farmers would benefit.

SA, Zambia to co-operate

SA AND Zambia announced yesterday that they would seek to involve other drought-ravaged southern African states in organising the distribution of more than 10-million tons of imported grain on a regional basis.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha told a news conference yesterday he had discussed with visiting Zambian Foreign Minister Vernon Mwaanga how to organise a co-ordinated response to the worst drought to hit the region in more than a century.

Botha, who was speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before leaving to visit the Far East, spent an hour with Mwaanga, who had just arrived on a five-day tour of SA.

He said he hoped major producers such as the US, Canada and the EC would be prepared to sell grain to the region at reduced prices.

~~2799~~ ~~360~~
DARIUS SANAI

Mwaanga said he had proposed the idea to Botha, who had shown great enthusiasm for such a scheme. All countries affected by the drought "must be seen to respond together as a region" on the problem, Mwaanga said. He was spearheading the effort to organise co-ordinated action, and would speak to senior government ministers in all the other states involved.

Between 10- and 12-million tons of imported grain would be needed to meet the region's requirements. To distribute this grain effectively and efficiently, the whole transport system of the region would have to be rationalised. A co-ordinated plan was necessary, he said. Zimbabwe needed 2-million tons of grain, Malawi 800 000 tons,

□ To Page 2

Co-operation

Zambia 900 000 tons, Mozambique 1,5-million tons, and SA, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho between them between 5- and 7-million tons.

Botha said he hoped the world's major producers would look sympathetically towards the needs of southern Africa. "They must not just look at the former Soviet republics and central Europe," Botha said. "Now is the time for them to prove that they have not forsaken Africa."

Mwaanga said Zambia and SA would

soon establish diplomatic ties.

Botha, referring to his tour of four Asian countries, said he would hold lengthy discussions on trade and political matters with Japan's government and business representatives. He would also visit Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore.

Senior Foreign Affairs sources confirmed there was a "strong probability" that President F W de Klerk would visit the Far East and Pacific Rim countries later this year.

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□ From Page 1

minimum-sized farms of 120 ha-130 ha. In Natal that land would probably cost R5 000/ha, so buying the land alone would cost about R600 000. On top of that the capitalisation to mechanise would push the farmer's exposure up to about R1m. "Unless the property is inherited, that's a lot of money owed to the Land Bank," says Greene.

He believes the minimum income from the property could be brought down to R10 000 net annually. "Most of a farmer's living costs are on their farm's account so that R10 000 is ample for things like clothes and education. Smaller farms would make mixed farming a lot more attractive. In the bargain is that it would be more drought-resistant — the eggs are in more baskets."

He also maintains that it would be a proactive step towards addressing future demands for land redistribution; smaller properties would be more affordable to a larger part of the population. *Steven*

However, Johannes Vosloo, head of the Directorate of Resource Conservation of the Department of Agriculture, rejects these arguments. He points out that the Act followed years of research, and more than 20 reports, dating back to the early Twenties. "Research shows that subdivision of land has been one of the biggest contributors to problems in agriculture because the land is overworked to meet costs. There is a direct correlation between the size of a farm and degradation, particularly in the drier parts of the country."

Vosloo points out that only 3% of SA is high potential agricultural land (1% is very high potential). This high potential land is being lost — more than 1m ha in the last 20 years in the PWV area alone — at a rate which the country cannot afford. Much of it has been taken up for housing.

He also rejects the redistribution argument, stressing the folly of risking the destruction of fragile agricultural land in a vain attempt to redress wrongs of the past. ■

LAND USE FM 20/3/92

Sowing a future *Steven*

Are SA's farms too big? Some argue that their sheer size is contributing significantly to the financial problems being experienced by many farmers and that they could be a political liability.

While conventional wisdom holds true — that big is more efficient in agriculture — some land specialists argue that, were farmers able to subdivide their land, there would be greater crop diversification in areas like the maize triangle (in the OFS and Transvaal). Farmers would then be less vulnerable to single-crop failures in times of drought.

There could be other advantages as well, according to this line of argument. For instance (and no doubt controversially), smaller farms would stimulate and ease the process of land redistribution before it is thrust on farmers by a new régime. It should also help stem the urbanisation tide — by creating more employment on farms and in towns and villages. Selling off some of the land would ease many farmers' financial burdens.

As things stand, however, it cannot be done. Maritzburg land surveyor Owen Greene, who is Natal secretary for the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors, explains that in terms of Act 70 of 1970, agricultural land cannot be subdivided into units smaller than the Department of Agriculture's "economic unit," that uses a minimum net income of about R45 000 a year as a guideline. The department is adamant that the status quo should be maintained.

Greene argues that this economic guideline invariably results, with arable land, in

SA and Zambia in grain scheme

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa and Zambia said yesterday they would seek to involve other drought-ravaged Southern African states in organising the distribution of more than 10 million tons of imported grain.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said he had discussed with visiting Zambian Foreign Minister Mr Vernon Mwaanga how to co-ordinate a response to the worst drought to hit the region in over a century.

Mr Botha was speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before leaving to visit the Far East.

He said he hoped major producers such as the US, Canada and the EC would be prepared to sell grain to the region at reduced prices.

Mr Mwaanga said he had proposed the idea to Mr Botha, who had shown great enthusiasm. He added that Zambia and SA would soon establish diplomatic ties.

③ CT 20/3/92
PRETORIA. — Weighty matters of state briefly made way for light banter yesterday when Mr Pik Botha was asked what he thought of Marlon Brando portraying him in a television series. Mr Botha replied: "What can I do? "If I say I don't like it he'll portray me in an awful way."

Amused aides remarked the minister either needed to put on a lot of weight or Mr Brando should shed flab for them to resemble each other. — Sapa

BETTERMENT FEES

Sapoa fights back

FM 20/3/92

~~3 Gen~~ 3 Gen

Cape Town City Council has recommended to Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring the reintroduction of betterment fees. These are payable by property owners when their land increases in value because of rezoning.

The move could increase considerably the cost of developing land and is opposed by the SA Property Owners' Association (Sapoa).

In addition, council officials are currently preparing a proposal for cost-related fees for rezoning which will push up development costs even further.

Until 1985, betterment fees were levied under the 1934 Townships Ordinance at a rate of 50% of the increased market value of the land as a result of rezoning. The measure was scrapped when the Land Use Planning Ordinance (Lupo) was introduced in 1985.

If it is re-introduced, it will mean, for example, that if a piece of land is rezoned from residential to business and the value is deemed to have increased from R100 000 to

R500 000, the owners will be liable for a betterment fee of R200 000.

Council officials argue that the current system is inequitable. Lupo abolished betterment fees but retained the concept of payment by the city council of compensation for the loss of development rights when, for planning reasons, it wishes to restrict owners who want to develop zoning rights to their full extent.

But Sapoa Western Province regional chairman Lori Colussi says the scrapping of betterment fees was a trade-off to the industry in return for the acceptance of the lapsing of all existing zonings not utilised, in 2001.

"Sapoa will regard any attempt to reintroduce (betterment fees) as a breach of good faith on a deal that was negotiated during the early part of 1980, culminating in the acceptance of Lupo by all concerned."

He says it was accepted at the time by investors and local government representa-

tives that betterment fees were a "most undesirable," unfair and unreasonable form of tax. "The development potential of a site is invariably already discounted in the value of the site at any given time, so it is unfair to impose tax at a specific time chosen by the authority based on an 'enhancement' as a result of rezoning — a possible change in land use would always have been on the cards."

Colussi says the "trade-off" assisted local authorities in ridding themselves at no cost over 15 years of zonings considered undesirable (previously they had existed *ad infinitum*). He says the council's proposal is contrary to all free-market principles and the decision should be rescinded.

According to provincial officials at the time, betterment fees were scrapped to "reinforce the market mechanism" and remove "distortions" from the property market.

But in a report to the council's town plan-

continue →

PROPERTY

FM 20/3/92

~~3 Gen~~ 3 Gen

consequent disparities in land values between different zones.

Riley said the levying of betterment fees would allow local authorities to be more "courageous" in curbing undesirable development and, if necessary, paying compensation. He acknowledged that betterment fees would add to capital and holding costs, possibly discourage investment in Cape Town and cause disputes over the extent of increased values.

The proposed introduction of cost-related fees for rezonings and other council services, such as subdivisions and departures from town planning schemes, is in line with a recent amendment to Lupo.

Riley said the cost of processing a simple application ranges from R1 000-R2 000, but can be as high as R100 000 for a large and complex application, at council's expense. ■

ning committee, city planner Neville Riley said expectations that Lupo would eliminate "sudden jumps" in value due to rezoning had not been realised and "substantial windfall profits" were being made from successful rezonings.

Riley said "theoretical suppositions" relating to the operation of a free market in urban land were "highly simplistic." It had been shown internationally that it was extremely difficult to eliminate the "windfall and wipeout phenomenon" which went hand-in-hand with a development control system based on zoning.

But unlike systems operating elsewhere in the world which contributed to the smoother functioning of the land market, Lupo was based on the concept of "Euclidean zoning" (separation of land uses) which inevitably leads to situations of relative scarcity and

Poor-white farmers face ruin as rains fail to fall

② Gen

STAR 21/3/92

E Cape droops under 7-year drought

NO WATER, crop failure and high interest rates are driving farmers from the land. PAT CANDIDO surveys a land at nature's mercy.

PORT ELIZABETH — A serious "poor white" problem is emerging in the drought ravaged eastern Cape where, in some areas, hardly any rain has fallen for seven years.

Farmers who only six months ago were considered financially secure are being driven off the land because of the lack of water, failure of crops and high interest rates.

To qualify for aid under the Government's stock reduction scheme, flocks have been cut back up to 50 percent and there is no money to buy new breeding stock when the drought breaks.

Many farmers have sold their holiday homes, surrendered insurance policies and annuities, and drawn savings. They look ahead to old age with trepidation.

Dalene Ritter, social worker for the Christelike Maatskaplike Raad in Steytlerville, the eastern Cape's worst-hit drought area, said there was no doubt a serious poor-white problem was developing. Large wealthier farmers were now just as susceptible as smaller farmers.

Poor prices

She said a high percentage of farmers had cash-flow problems because of the drought.

Poor mohair and wool prices had aggravated the situation and farmers were still desperately trying to keep labourers on their farms so that they were not tempted to squat in the cities.

She said aid applications were coming from farmers considered to be well-off.

National Party chairman Albie Jacobs, who is a member of several agricultural committees, said he estimated that a third of the farmers had gone, leaving their farms

abandoned or in the hands of labourers.

House after house in the district stood empty, abandoned until rain produced an incentive for the owners to return.

He said several businesses had been forced to close, including two clothing boutiques which had become redundant after women started making their own clothes.

Steytlerville's high school had closed and the primary school had lost seven teachers and the principal. Only nine boarders remained in a hostel for 90 children.

The community could no longer support their church minister, who had left, but the congregation was trying to generate enough funds to employ a young minister who was not yet ordained.

Jacobs said sequestration was becoming a very real threat for many farmers.

Recent rain had given the area a veneer of greenery but it would take good, heavy rain over two to three years for the land to recover.

There was little ground cover, and weeds, which died quickly and were of little nutritional value, were the first to appear.

Jacobs said extended agricultural committees

had been set up to quantify the position of individual farmers.

Farmers' only present hope was possible State subsidisation of interest repayments until the situation returned to normal.

It was difficult for farmers to adopt alternative farming methods because the area was suited only to angora and wool production, and the bottom had fallen out of both markets.

Others farmers pointed out that some of the best-known farming families in the area were being driven from the land.

Recently the Cloete family, who owned 15 farms in the Adelaide district, had their properties sold by public auction. Brothers Goo, Bunny and Dave owned one of the biggest farming operations in the country.

About 17 000 ha of prime land, on which they ran merino sheep, angora goats and cattle, were sold for R4 million.

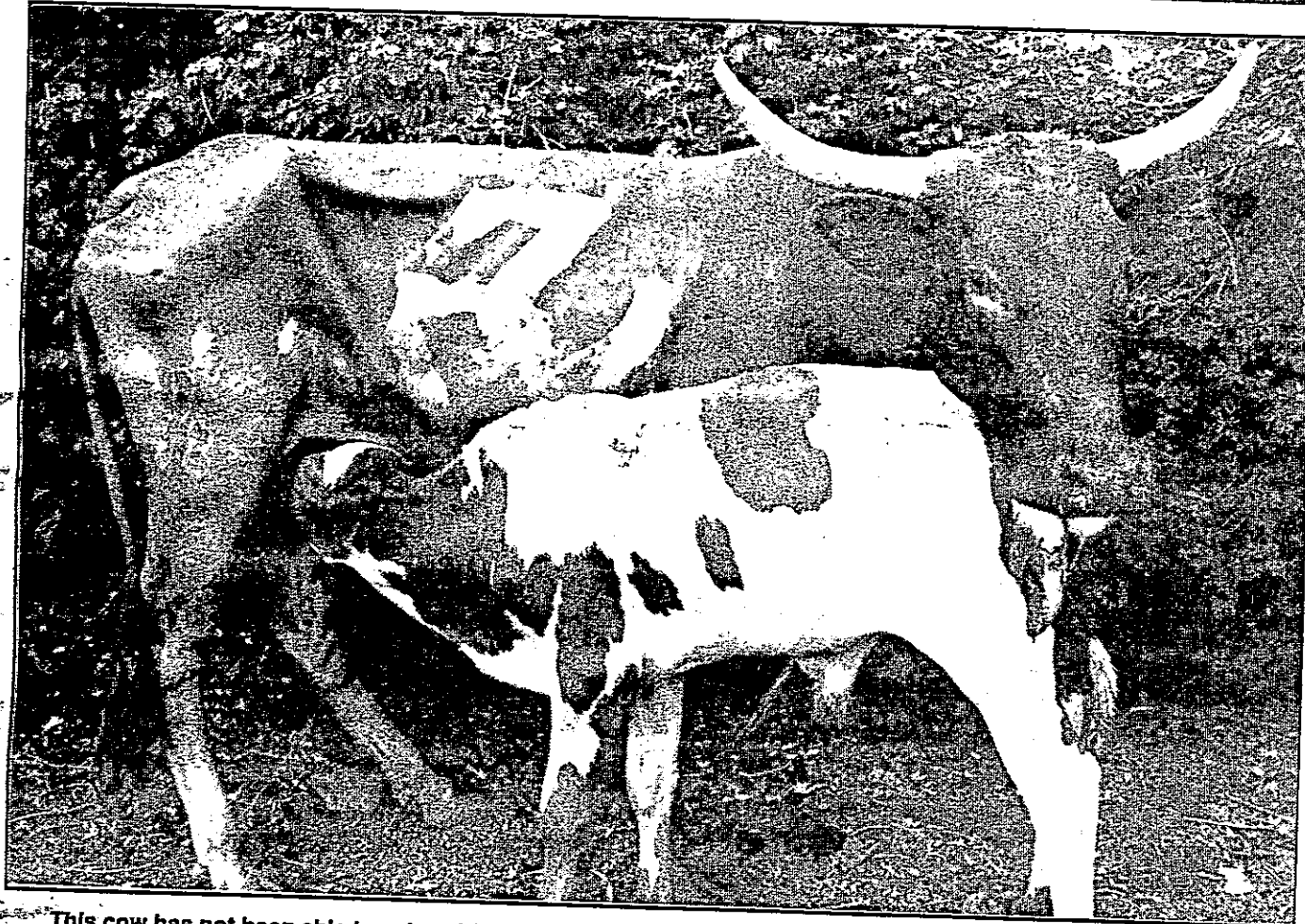
The prices for land which last year reached R1 000 a hectare dropped to R70 and R135.

Protection

In Graaff-Reinet, Flip Murray has applied for protection under section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1966. Approved farmers with the ability to recover are protected from any legal action for between six months and two years while they reorganise and repay debts.

Murray, who has a 80 000 ha farm, had the distinction of regularly clipping the most wool in South Africa. Farmers feel that if such huge operations are under threat, there is little chance for the small man.

But the question worrying people like Jacobs is: how many of those who have left for the cities will ever return to the hard life of farming in the Karoo.



This cow has not been able to eat or drink and is dying a painful death since rightwingers hacked its tongue.

AWB ⁽³⁾ _{GEN}

terrorise farmers

Sowetan 23/3/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

SUSPECTED far rightwing whites last week sliced the tongue of a cow belonging to a black family and painted the AWB sign on its sides, leaving it unable to feed or drink.

The horror incident occurred last Tuesday at Mafarana village near Letsitele, outside Tzaneen. A cow and a bull calf, also belonging to Mrs Cheyeza Shingange, were emblazoned with "NEE" on each side.

Sliced tongue

One was also stabbed several times in its body and nose. The sliced tongue now hangs loosely outside the mouth of the cow and cannot be stitched back, according to Gazankulu Senior Animal Health Officer Mr Johan Zandamela.

The family said they found the cows on Wednesday morning, the day after the all-white referendum in which the far rightwing had campaigned for a No/Ne

● To page 2

Time now for land tax, says Bank economist

3 Gen

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The time for a speedy introduction of a land tax in SA has probably arrived, says Reserve Bank economist Mike Lamont.

Lamont said at a land tax conference at Pretoria University at the weekend, however, that for any degree of effective land taxation there had to be some minimum political support and an administrative capability. A national land tax was suggested to the Margo Commission, but investigation of the tax by local authorities was expressly excluded from the commission's brief.

"The reason why the commission did not consider a land tax on a national or central level remains a mystery," he said. Nevertheless, Lamont said, the fact that SA had no general form of wealth taxation gave ample reason to consider the introduction of a land tax.

BID by 23/3/92
The increasing utilisation of indirect taxes, the shrunken income tax base and heavy reliance on loans also supported its consideration. Of the Margo commission, Lamont said a stage had been reached where the system was seen as being too complicated, unfair and as interfering with economic growth.

Drought takes its toll

(3) Gen
Sowetan 24/3/92

THE drought is taking its toll in Venda, where 84 villages are running short of water and authorities fear the Vondo Dam will be dry by June unless there is significant rain soon.

A statement from the Venda military government yesterday said the agricultural sector in the homeland had been seriously affected by the drought, which could damage the economy considerably.

The government yesterday declared Venda a drought-affected area and intended to apply for emergency relief aid from the South African Government, the statement added.

The Department of Water Affairs was already supplying villages with water from road tanks and had bought an additional 4 500 litres for seriously affected villages.

Additional water purification plants and the repair of boreholes were among the government's contingency plans to ensure the water was fit for human consumption.

Attempts to organise emergency fodder schemes for cattle; and a food development programme to provide emergency feeding to needy people were also being made, the authorities said. - *Sapa*.

R1-bn drought aid going to farmers who need it most

STAR 24/3/92 (3) Gen

By Peter Wellman

The additional R1 billion allocated to the Government's drought relief fund in last week's Budget would be paid out to individual farmers as soon as the Department of Agriculture knew who had suffered most, a Department of Agriculture spokesman said yesterday.

"It will go to farmers on individual merit; it won't be done on a blanket basis," he said.

A "task group" of organised agriculture and banks was liaising with the department to establish who needed help most.

Once this had been done, farmers would be assisted as speedily as possible, he said.

Countrywide briefings with creditors and farmers' organisations would be held by the depart-

ment from Thursday until mid-April.

The spokesman said drought relief would not be limited to summer-cropping areas only.

Compromises by creditors, as well as Government assistance, would be examined to see how best to keep farmers in business.

Compare

Two major farming unions indicated the R1 billion might not be enough, but Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), said this did not mean it would be impossible to get any more money out of the Government.

"We must look at what we have to ask for, and compare that with what is available."

Dr du Toit, who is part of the task group, said the SAAU was gathering information from various sources, including

specialist areas such as red meat producers and timber growers, to identify the extent of the drought damage, and therefore the help that was needed. This should be completed by the end of the month, he said.

"We are probably going to have a terrible winter, and the amount allocated is probably not enough to alleviate the problem once and for all," he said.

"But it is something to be going on with, and if more is needed we can go to the Government on this matter in a responsible way."

Johan Hartman, general secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said the R1 billion would not be enough.

He would not comment on how much more was needed because "organised agriculture is still quantifying farmers' needs. We expect to have details for the Department of Agriculture by the end of the month."

R1 bn drought relief soon ⁽³⁾

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The additional R1 billion allocated to drought relief in last week's Budget will be paid to individual farmers as soon as the Department of Agriculture knew who had suffered most. 24/3/92

A spokesman said a task group of organised agriculture and banks was helping to determine the worst sufferers. Farmers would be assisted as speedily as possible. ARG

By MONK NKOMO

MORE than 50 percent of South Africa's blacks are below the age of 20 and about the same percentage are illiterate, thereby fuelling a vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty.

This is the view of the Foundation for Research Development in their latest position paper on "Rural Poverty".

The plight of about 13 million illiterate and poverty-stricken people living in South Africa's vast rural areas, the FRD said, was now compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

The FRD outlined major issues on how rural inhabitants could be empowered to create a better future for themselves and their children.

The individual income of blacks in rural communities revealed a depressing scenario, according to the FRD.

"In fact it has been estimated that 50 percent of South Africans live below the minimum living level and in the black population, this percentage rises to approximately 66 percent.

"In rural areas, almost four fifths of the population live below their survival threshold."

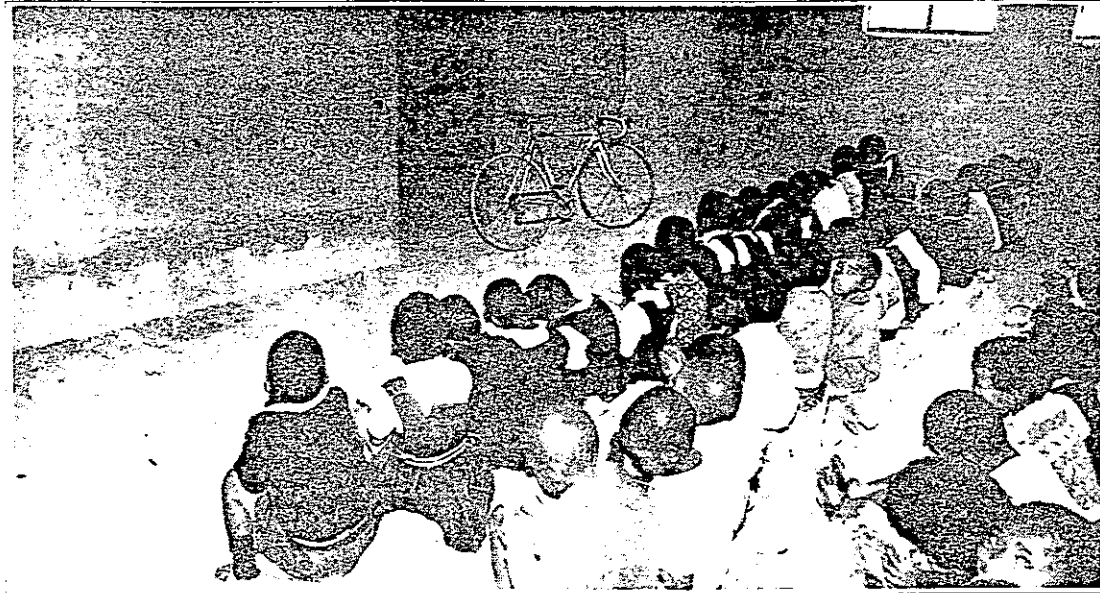
The FRD also revealed that people in rural areas faced serious housing problems.

"Poor communities have largely been left to design and build their own houses, often from scrap material."

For many of the children in rural areas, depressed socio-economic conditions, widespread environmental degradation and an impoverished education

Urgent need to upgrade and educate rural poor

3 Gen
Sowetan 25/3/92



Children huddle on the floor of a bare classroom in Winderveld.

system "put paid to what little hope there is for self-actualisation or productive adult career".

The FRD believed that science and technology would play a vital role in the creation of wealth and upliftment of the poor in this country.

Investigations have revealed, however, that only one in every 10 000 black school entrants matriculates with university entrance qualifications in mathematics and science.

"The reasons for this alarmingly low pass rate can again be sought in political problems, poor teacher training, inadequate facilities, overcrowding, inappropriate curricula, and the absence of role models who stimulate interest in science and mathematics."

The FRD's president, Mr RR Arndt, said most of these 13 million inhabitants were "forgotten people" who were struggling to survive in a degraded environ-

ment with minimal empowerment.

He added: "The Verwoerdian dream of separate development has been shattered.

"It's legacy of illiteracy, violent crime, poverty and disease is all too apparent in the satellite shanty towns surrounding most of our cities."

The FRD, Arndt said, firmly believed that science and technology had a major role to play, "along with education and training, in

ameliorating the impact of poverty on our rural communities and in empowering the people to solve their problems."

The Government's family planning programme, the FRD said, had been a failure in rural areas and had little or no credibility among the black population.

"In fact, less than 26 percent of blacks are even aware of the programme."

The FRD supported the proposal that drastic meas-

ures, such as a two-child family norm, be a priority. Contraceptive services, education and counselling must become available to everyone and a nation-wide high quality sterilisation programme should be offered by every hospital.

"These measures should be accompanied by the acceptance of more liberal abortion laws."

The FRD warned that the South African population was faced with potentially grave risks which could re-

sult from the spread of the Aids disease.

Health services among the rural poor remained critical.

The training of district nurses, the FRD said, should be upgraded to allow them to dispense a wider spectrum of drugs and undertake minor surgical procedures.

Networks of small clinics and district medical personnel needed to be firmly established with good communication systems, the efficient supply of medical materials and the means to cope with emergencies.

The FRD said water was a very scarce commodity in most rural areas in South Africa and the pollution of existing supplies was increasing.

"The whole infrastructure needed to support village life, such as clinics, schools, co-operatives and recreation sites, relies on a dependable water supply," the FRD said.

They warned that contaminated water caused illness which further reduced the economic activity of an extended family.

The FRD said their analysis had clearly revealed that science and technology had a major role to play in the upliftment and empowerment of the rural poor.

"There is scarcely any activity among rural people which cannot be improved by introducing appropriate technology.

"Improved agricultural practices, the breeding of new cultivars, manufacturing appropriate machinery for small-scale agriculture, provision of clean water and appropriate irrigation systems, preventive medicine and family planning, improved roads, business opportunities, communications, energy supply and transport are but a few examples."

**Sowetan
Correspondent**

PREPARE for a wide range of food price increases; drought has struck down summer grain and oilseed crops so much that imports and higher costs are inevi-



Higher food costs inevitable

table.

Although the South African Agricultural Union would not confirm that higher food prices are in the pipeline many in agriculture say that consumer prices must rise.

The Meat Board predicted at a recent agricultural conference that beef

would fall slightly in April but thereafter it would go up month by month.

Sheep and pork prices would continue to rise month by month, without any hiatus in April.

The cost of imported maize on the Witwatersrand will be about R520 a ton, which is

nearly R200 more than that of local maize.

Maize is the main feed for poultry and pigs and is needed for efficient milk production. The grain sorghum crop - some farmers use sorghum as a partial replacement for maize - will be down to 94 000, which is about half of the

human consumption of the country.

The cost of imported sorghum is expected to be about R450 to R515 a ton on the Witwatersrand, which is considerably more than last year's floor price of R295 a ton for local grain.

The sunflower seed crop is about 170 000 tons, roughly 70 percent lower than the previous year's 588 000. Sunflower oil is widely used in catering.

Grain processors have in the past said that South Africa's internal grain price

was lower than the world price, but the prices South Africa now has to pay for its grain imports seems to give the lie to this argument.

The soya bean crop is expected to be 40 percent lower than last year's 125 000-ton crop

An above-average peanut crop was expected but the predicted crop will be about 80 000 tons, which is about the same as the previous season. Eating peanuts will make a smaller percentage of the total which can mean a loss of income because nuts used for oil

expressing command a lower price.

The Oil Seed Producers Organisation of the South African Agricultural Union has asked the union's disaster and emergency aid committee to consider the precarious situation of oil seed producers when planning aid schemes.

Inputs were higher than for last season's crops and income will be far lower.

Mr Gerhard de Kock, chairman of the Oil Seeds Organisation, said that producer prices of sunflower seed, soya bean seed and peanuts increased by an average of 10 percent; 9 percent and 12 percent a year over the past 10 years.

Sowetan 26/3/92 (3) Gen

THE DROUGHT

FM 27/3/92

③ Gen.

Divvying up the relief fund

In a country where government aid is popular but drought insurance is not, the agricultural industry easily has agreed that the R1bn in drought aid included in the Budget is not enough. It will have a harder time agreeing on how to share out the money.

The Farmers' Aid Task Group, appointed by the SA Agricultural Union to investigate the drought damage, will meet in Pretoria on Monday. One of the main topics it will discuss will be how to use the R1bn. This week, the group is gathering facts from all the bodies that can give any meaningful input.

"They may ask for an open-ended commitment," says Koos du Toit, the union's chief economist. "SA is facing a disaster of catastrophic proportions. And the drought could worsen significantly in the next two to three months.

"Much more than R1bn will probably be needed to repair the damage that has already been caused, help farmers to produce a crop next year, when, hopefully, agricultural conditions will be more favourable, and keep some farmers and their labourers alive.

"If we don't get rain in the next two to three weeks, we will be in the middle of one of the worst disasters SA has ever experienced," he adds.

"Not only dryland farmers (who produce the bulk of maize and other summer crops) but all farmers, including fruit, vegetable and dairy farmers, will suffer."

Wheat Board GM Ivan Hemingway concurs: "The planting season in the summer wheat-producing areas (the eastern and western Free State) is on our doorstep and there is no moisture in the soil.

"Those farmers should already have prepared their seedbeds, but they haven't because the ground is too dry. They won't be able to plant until at least 150 mm of rain has fallen, preferably during April. At this stage, the possibility is remote."

They have until May to get their crops in. The later they plant, the poorer the yield. "If they don't get rain in April, there won't be a crop in the summer rainfall areas, and we will have to import wheat," he says.

Hemingway is scathing in his criticism of how government subsidises farmers' debt and taxes their production costs. That aggravates problems instead of solving them, he says.

"Had farmers been able to insure their input costs, as they can in Canada, where the government pays 60% of their premiums, they would have got those costs back and have been able to start again next year without the haphazard help they get from government.

"Input insurance was tried in the southern Cape this year, for the first time, and it

worked. The weather damaged the crops, but farmers got a portion of their input costs back and can plant again next season. Input cost insurance should not be compulsory, but banks and other institutions should refuse to grant loans to farmers who have not insured."

Du Toit says government's R1bn will be used to help all farmers, including blacks on smallholdings and timber growers. But no part of the aid will go to the independent states, which have their own budgets.

He stresses that until the task group correlates all the information it is collecting, "we don't know the real extent of the problem; how many farmers can continue farming if they get help; how many will have to stop farming because they are too deep in debt to benefit from any help. And we don't know what will happen to them, their farms, or their labourers if it is decided that there is no point in letting them continue farming."

Some of the money might be used to let them and their labourers stay on their farms until their plight can be resolved.

"They will be helped to stay alive," Du Toit says. "We cannot simply tell them to get off the ground. That would cause famine. Neither they nor their labourers would find work very easily, and would we get anyone to take over their farms in the middle of the worst drought in living memory?"

Most of the R1bn will probably be used to ease the farmers' interest burden, to help them get credit to produce next season and to supplement the incomes of labourers whose employers can't pay them their full wages.

Fanie Brink, an economist with the National Maize Producers' Organisation, says the latest crop estimate of 2,1 Mt "is the lowest on record, but it won't all be delivered to the Maize Board."

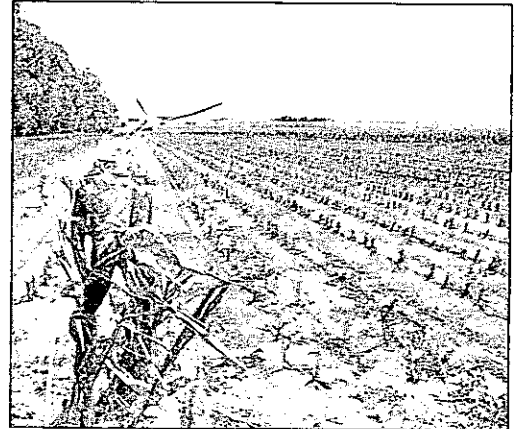
"Farmers lucky enough to have produced a crop will retain some for their own use," he says. "They are already buying from one another and whatever the board can spare from last year's crop.

"I doubt whether the board will get more than 1 Mt. We consume 6,4 Mt. We'll have to import more than 5 Mt. Taking transport and other costs into account, it costs between R580/t and R600/t to import maize."

Brink says that if past form is followed, the R1bn will be lent to farmers.

The board's deputy director-general, Hans Swart, says the board this week determines the year's producer price for maize, but the price is certainly not going to be anywhere near the cost of imported maize, even though drought has ravaged agricultural production for three of the last 10 years.

The board's view is that the higher the



Long, hot summer ... the costs are piling up

domestic price, the more chance there is of maize losing market share to other crops, such as wheat, for animal feed and bread.

The price, Swart says, is based on what the market can bear. Production costs play no role in determining it. "Farmers cannot simply pass on production costs to consumers." ■

Racial tension rocks 'no' land

S/ TIMES 29/3/92

(3) Gen

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

BLACK people living in the only region to lodge a "no" vote in the referendum are feeling the ugly consequences of the result.

Right-wing harassment against them has increased and now blacks living in and around Pietersburg in the Northern Transvaal are threatening a consumer boycott of the town.

In a resurgence of attacks on the rural black community and its livestock, a cow and her two-month-old calf were spray-painted with AWB swastika symbols on March 17, the day of the poll.

The words "nee" and "kaffir" were also painted on seven cattle outside Mafarana village on the road linking Lydenburg to Tzaneen. The cow, which was stabbed and had its tongue slashed, was slaughtered this week after its mouth became septic.

Its owner, pensioner Catherine Cheyeza, said she had heard of neither the referendum nor the "no" vote and was puzzled by the attack.

Gazankulu senior health officer Johan Zandamela said that since last July, about 190 cattle had been shot dead in communal grazing camps along

the same stretch of road. In Pietersburg, businessmen and community leaders are scrambling furiously to ward off retaliatory threats of the consumer boycott.

Pietersburg mayor Janie Moolman said: "The 'no' voters are in the small towns and farms. Pietersburg has a National Party council. We are not a conservative backwater, we are a progressive town that voted 'yes'."

Black-bashing was little heard-of in Pietersburg, but could occur in rural areas, he added.

Chamber of Commerce chairman Laurie Searle, who has good relations with black businessmen in the area and whose children attend a multiracial school in Pietersburg, said: "Unfortunately, we are being lumped with people who still have the same values as their forefathers from the Great Trek."

Angry

But ANC regional spokesman Stan Mthimela said the black community — which comprises 97 percent of the region's population and which paralysed white business with a

series of boycotts last year — was demanding action.

"People are angry and shocked by the Pietersburg result. Last year we boycotted because of white harassment. Our aim is not to punish those who voted 'no', but those still clinging to racist attitudes," he said.

Lawyers for Human Rights regional director Seth Nthai said his organisation received weekly reports of isolated attacks on blacks. Many people were afraid to be in the streets of some towns after dark.

"People are worried that these 'no' voters might take their fears and frustrations out on them. They have to think of defending themselves," he said.

LHR had taken on 10 new cases since January,



AWB STALWART:
Hennie Breytenbach is 'prepared to go to war at the first hint of black government control. We will never negotiate with communists or the anti-Christ'

but these represented only a fraction of the incidents in a vast area where black people had little access to transport and communication and feared police collusion, he added.

News of the cattle mutilation spread like wildfire through the Northern Transvaal this week, shocking even those blacks long used to late-night harassment from right-wingers. They said they were not surprised by the 57 percent 'no' majority in the region.

In Tzaneen, hub of a tourist area, black hotel staff said they feared walking home late at night and would not work late shifts unless transport was available.

A Tzaneen waiter who has been harassed twice this year said: "As a white man, you can walk around town all night unharmed, but no black man can take that risk. Friday and Saturday nights are the worst."

Pietersburg prostitute Lulah, who has only white clients, said she was now reluctant to approach cars because "you don't know if it is business or if they want to beat you up".

Tzaneen farmer and

AWB stalwart Hennie Breytenbach freely admitted that "kaffirs are donnered" in the streets of some Northern Transvaal towns, but vehemently denied his organisation's involvement in the cow attack.

He said: "I know every AWB member in the district — we farmers love our animals too much to do that. I'll bet the ANC did it after learning tricks in the Rhodesian bush war."

War

Mr Breytenbach — who says he would like to shoot President De Klerk — said he and other farmers in the district were prepared to go to war at the first hint of black government control.

"We often have target practice here — we are all good marksmen. We will never negotiate with communists or the anti-Christ. The war is just one phone call away," he said.

Major Isaac Ntisi, Nokowanakowa police station commander, this week launched an investigation into the attacks on the cows, but said he could not rule out the possibility of a smear campaign against the AWB.

Black states^③

turn to SA

ET 30/12/92
HARARE. — Leaders of seven black African states turned to their long-time nemesis, South Africa, at the weekend for help in surviving a devastating regional drought.

After a one-day summit here, presidents of the frontline states surrounding South Africa said that country should play a major role in drought relief.

They called on the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference to meet to co-ordinate regional relief efforts. A delegation should then visit South Africa to "secure its co-operation in this endeavour", they said. — Sapa-AP

African states turn to SA for drought aid

HARARE — Leaders of seven black African states turned to their long-time nemesis, South Africa, at the weekend for help in surviving a devastating regional drought.

After a one-day summit in Harare, presidents of the Frontline states said South Africa should play a major role in drought relief.

ETAK 30/3/92
They called on the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference to meet "as soon as possible" to co-ordinate regional relief efforts. *3*

A delegation of SADCC officials should then visit South Africa to "secure its co-operation in this endeavour," they said in a joint statement.

The 10-nation SADCC was established in 1980 to try to reduce dependence on trade with South Africa.

South Africa's modern rail and transport network is regarded as vital in plans by most southern African nations to import food from Latin America and the United States to avert mass starvation. — Sapa-AP.

R1-bn for drought aid 'not enough'

STAR 31/3/92

3 Gen

By Peter Wellman

The Government's chief drought relief negotiator last night admitted that the Budget's R1 billion for stricken farmers was not enough to save them from disaster.

Dr Frans van der Merwe, superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, told The Star that farmers had given his team "terrible" statistics of the effects of the drought, described as the worst for decades, during day-long crisis talks in Pretoria.

He said he would give details to Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk today.

The purpose of yesterday's talks, he said, was to establish exactly how hard farmers had been hit by the drought.

The two sides were led by Dr van der Merwe and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU). Farming delegates said there was no conflict between the Government's aid offer, as outlined in the Budget, and the fact that organised agriculture needed more cash to survive the drought.

Dr van der Merwe said the emphasis on Government aid would go to "the survivors" — the farmers who had simply done better with their land than others.

Points he would put before the Minister today included:

- Eighty percent damage to summer crops, and resultant food shortages.
- The need for imports of maize and protein supplements for winter animal feeds.

● The ripple effect of the drought on the economy.

The R1 billion allocation has boosted the total available for drought relief to about R1,5 billion, including R20 million for emergency food aid announced recently by Health Minister Dr Rina Venter.

But this does not mean every farmer will get a payout. Associate professor of agricultural economics Gerald Ortman, of Natal University in Maritzburg, said his understanding was that those who were judged to be survivors would be favoured.

While the SAAU gave the R1 billion a qualified welcome, the Transvaal Agricultural Union has said bluntly it was not enough. The National Maize Producers' Organisation estimated losses in its sector alone were about R1 billion.

Rain was reported for the third night yesterday at various places in the country.

Hendrik Verwoerd Dam got 32 mm. At Bethulie, 30 mm fell during a hailstorm, and Lady Grey received 21 mm.

Jagersfontein, Hopetown and Edenburg all received 20 mm yesterday morning.

Springfontein had another 17 mm, Aliwal North 16, Koffiefontein, Petrusburg and Wes-selsbron 12, Brandfort 4 and Hoopstad 2.

Economist Tony Twine of Econometrix said agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, produced about 5,5 percent (R16,5 billion) of South Africa's gross domestic product.

If the maize crop were wiped out, which some experts had claimed could happen, that alone would take R2,64 billion off the GDP — and maize fodder was needed for winter.

R17-m help scheme for drought city

PORT ELIZABETH. — A R17 million emergency water scheme to supply water from the Orange River to Port Elizabeth comes into operation today.

③ 11/4/92 HRC
Restrictions on water usage will not be relaxed, however, as there will be a corresponding cut in supply from the Paul Sauer Dam, the city's main supply dam which is now 14 percent below capacity.

The temporary emergency scheme is already in operation in Uitenhage and Despatch.

Assistant city engineer Mr Tom Proudlock said the two towns had received water from the project from early March.

He said there had been some mechanical problems as well as complaints about the high chlorine levels in the water, but this was necessary as the water "had to be properly disinfected".

The scheme was completed after continuing drought reduced the city's main supply dam levels considerably. Ecna.

Agricultural council breaks new ground

By George Nicholas
Agricultural Correspondent

A new agricultural organisation of considerable extent, with assets amounting to more than R500 million and employing nearly 5 000 people, starts functioning officially this morning.

The Agricultural Research Council was inaugurated in Pretoria yesterday by Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Nie-

kerk to serve the interests of farmers and consumers.

The council has taken over all the research functions of the Department of Agriculture, as well as a network of research farms and research institutions.

The minister said about 4 700 people had been transferred from the department to the council.

The objective of the council, he said, was to promote, through research, the sustained

profitability of all agriculture.

The council had a mandate to provide a service not only to commercial farmers but also to subsistence farmers.

The minister emphasised that the council had the added responsibility of ensuring that the utilisation of the country's natural resources for agricultural purposes was to the benefit both of the environment and the sustained production of food and fibre.

Soil to sea 'our greatest export'

3 Gen
STAC 11472
Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — Handle the land properly or face greater food and fibre shortages, a soils expert has warned.

Dr Dries van der Merwe, director of the Soils and Irrigation Research Institute in Pretoria, said future food and fibre shortages could become commonplace in South Africa if people believed production could be increased merely by cultivating more land.

While 0,4 to 0,5 ha was needed to produce the food and fibre for each person, by the year 2050 less than 0,2 ha would be available if there was no halt to the rapid population growth.

Dr van der Merwe said the perception that land was an unlimited resource to be used without proper conservation would spell disaster, as had already been shown in several parts of southern Africa.

"Horizontal expansion of production can no longer take place and greater production must take place vertically by producing more per unit area.

"High-potential land will thus have to be reserved for agriculture and soil retrogression will have to be tackled pro-actively.

"Soil erosion is the greatest cause of retrogression — and South Africa's greatest export is soil into the sea.

"Soil compaction, crust formation, acidification, brak formation, drowning and pollution are serious problems which must be stopped."

Lack of water in the soil was the most limiting production factor in large parts of South Africa, he added.

Two more apartheid pillars go

Political Staff

THE Development Aid Department and the South Africa Development Trust cease operation today following a process of rationalisation and an attempt to rid South Africa of apartheid administration.

All the staff, functions and assets have been transferred to the self-governing states, central government and provincial administrators.

Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Jacob de Villiers said at a briefing yesterday the abolition of the Development Aid Department and the SADT brought to an end a historic era — started in 1910 “to cater for all the material, moral and social well-being of black people”.

President FW de Klerk announced in October last year that the department and the

trust were to be abolished after recommendations by the Commission for Administration.

The department has worked flat-out since then to transfer 3 million hectares of land to the self-governing states and the final 1,2m hectares still left over are to be transferred to Public Works and Regional and Land Affairs, Mr De Villiers said.

The 11 proclamations and

three government gazettes published yesterday affect one hundredth of South Africa's land that will now be administered without racial discrimination. ③

All the development and related functions rendered by the SA Development Trust will now rest with individual line function departments and administrations, Mr De Villiers said. CT114/92

Research council to aid black farmers

THE newly constituted Agricultural Research Council had a mandate to serve the estimated 700 000 black subsistence farmers, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday. *3 Oen*

Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the council, he stressed technologies would have to be developed to suit the capital-deprived sector of the industry and small scale farming.

8/24/92
GERALD REILLY

Van Niekerk said 13 research establishments which served all the important agricultural sectors had been transferred to the research council.

Total value of transferred assets amounted to more than R500m.

The council would have a research structure which would be one of the biggest and best equipped in Africa.

Moutse will not become homeland territory

Political Staff

(20/11) (11/11)
All three sections of the Moutse district in the northern Transvaal are to remain under control of the South African Government and will not be transferred to either KwaNdebele or Lebowa.

This was announced yesterday by Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Jacob de Villiers in a statement accompanying the tabling in Parliament of the 1989 Rumpff Commission Report.

Mr de Villiers stressed that the small area of

Moutse 2 would not be included in KwaNdebele, although the commission had recommended it be incorporated. In this decision the Government had been guided by the wishes of landowners in Moutse 2, he said.

The announcement brings to a close years of vacillation over the jurisdiction of Moutse, an area with about 120 000 residents. The territory was excised from Lebowa and in early 1986 was incorporated into KwaNdebele against residents'

wishes. This triggered protracted resistance.

Eventually, the incorporation was declared unlawful by the Appeal Court.

(3) Gen
But this judgement, which returned Moutse to central government administration, was subject to the findings of Mr Justice F L H Rumpff who was appointed in 1988 to look into the issue. STAR 2/4/92

In December 1990 the Government indicated it would support Mr Justice Rumpff's principal

recommendations — that Moutse 1 and 3 remain under central government jurisdiction for 10 years, when the constitutional problem would be considered, and that Moutse 2 be incorporated into KwaNdebele.

With the tabling of the report yesterday, the official position on Moutse was revised.

The Government had also not accepted the commission's general recommendations on the determination of boundaries, the Minister said.

Minister Kraai to visit N.T.V. Gen

30/11/92
Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk is to visit the drought-stricken areas in the northern Transvaal on Thursday and Friday next week at the request of the Transvaal Agriculture Union.

He is to visit Warmbaths, the Springbok Flats, Potgietersrus, Tzaneen, Ellisras, Thabazimbi and the area behind the Soutpansberg. —Sapa.

Widespread damage to fertile soil threatens world food supply

STAR 3/4/92

UNITED NATIONS — The world's future food supply is threatened by damage done by mankind to more than a tenth of the Earth's fertile soil since 1945, an area the size of China and India combined, a new United Nations report says.

Overgrazing by livestock, inefficient farming practices and deforestation are about equally to blame for the loss of fertile land, the UN Environment Programme study found. Urbanization

and pollution are other factors:

Environmental scientists fear that as the Earth's population grows from 5,5 billion now to 10 billion by the year 2050, the loss of fertile land will lead to a permanent global food shortage.

"As land becomes scarce, how are we going to make sure that the common man in a developing country is able to get the food that he needs?" asked

Visvanathan Rajagopalan, a World Bank vice-president who heads its consultative group on international agricultural research.

"We are going to have to feed an increasingly large population on a finite base of arable land," soil researcher Dirk Bryant said. "A conservative assessment is that you try to save that base."

About 1,2 billion hectares of land have sustained moderate

3 sen

to extreme degradation since 1945, accounting for 10,5 percent of the planet's fertile land, an area the size of China and India

Of that land, 300 million hectares are severely degraded. Most of the rest of the degraded land has lost some fertility, but can still be used for some agriculture, the report says.

But even that land is threatened. If it is not improved, "one may fear that at least part of it may become strongly de-

graded in the near future".

Worldwide, about 25 billion tons of soil were lost each year due to erosion and other damage.

The vast majority of the damaged land is in Asia, with 453 million hectares, and Africa, with 321 million hectares,

Central America has the highest proportion of damaged land — 24 percent of its total. About 17 percent of Europe's land, 14 percent of Africa's and

12 percent of Asian's soil is degraded.

Only 4,4 percent of North America's soil has been damaged or lost.

Although the use of fertilisers and high-yield crops has helped offset the loss of agricultural land and prevented food shortages so far, ecologists warn that the dual trends of declining farmland and increasing world population will eventually lead to a supply crisis. — Sapa-AP.

Plan to put jobless whites on farms

STAL 3/4/92
The organised agriculture sector and welfare organisations are launching a project to settle unemployed white people on farms, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

Mr Bruwer emphasised that black farmworkers would not be dismissed, but that the relief programme was aimed at people who could not provide for themselves.

If a farmer needed labourers,

he would contact the TAU. Payment would be entirely up to the farmer, Mr Bruwer said.

The only conditions were that people had to be prepared to work and that women in particular should be able to adapt to farm conditions, Mr Bruwer said.

People wanting to apply for this kind of assistance should contact the Transvaal Agricultural Union's office in Pretoria.

— Sapa.

LAND FM 3/4/92

Opening up (3) can

About 1,2m ha of rural land owned by the SA Development Trust is to be transferred to the Department of Land Affairs for possible allocation to black farmers. The transfer forms part of a reform package announced in Cape Town this week by Regional Development & Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers.

The package includes the immediate abolition of the SADT and the Department of Development Aid, and repeals about 20 proclamations, government notices and laws regulating black affairs.

The trust was the instrument through which land earmarked for homeland consolidation was channelled. Development Aid effectively administered black affairs in rural areas. Various government departments, provincial administrations and homeland governments will now do this work.

De Villiers says the Advisory Commission on Land Affairs appointed by government last year will play a leading role in negotiating the future of the land. The range and complexity of some of the measures to be scrapped make it difficult to assess immediately the impact of the package. It is possible that aspects of it will be regarded as retrogressive rather than reformist.

In general it is seen as an important move to build up a black commercial farming sector and to defuse the campaign for redistribution.

It's possible that the trust land will be carved into farming units of varying sizes depending on demand. Farmers could either buy the land or lease it with an option to purchase. It has also been suggested that the land could even be transferred to successful farmers without charge after, say, 10 years.

Black farmers would have access to the same support systems as their white counterparts, including finance. ■

naval vessels were all lit up in Cape Town harbour last night for the SA
sary celebrations. In the harbour today a fleet review by President F W De
d by a gun salute from the S A S Drakensberg. Picture of parade — Page 7.

Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

Farm plan for jobless whites

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A scheme to re-
settle hundreds of jobless whites on
farms has been launched, Transvaal
Agricultural Union president Mr
Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

Mr Bruwer said there were many
desperate people who were out of
work as a result of the drought and
particularly because of economic con-
ditions, which he blamed on political
instability.

He said the scheme had been initiat-
ed by the organised agricultural sector
and welfare organisations, and had
been launched in response to "end-
less" requests.

It would not be easy for people who
were not used to rural ways, he said.
"It will be difficult to adjust, especial-
ly for women, because there are not
many facilities in the rural areas.
Farm work is much tougher than city
work, but when people have no food to
eat, they must do something."

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Jobless whites to be settled on farms

610cus 3/4/97
A SCHEME to resettle hundreds of jobless whites on farms had been launched by the organised agricultural sector and welfare organisations, Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Bruwer said yesterday. *(3) 30an*

Bruwer said there were many desperate people who were out of work as a result of the drought, and particularly because of economic conditions which he blamed on political instability.

The project had been launched in response to "endless" requests.

Bruwer said he did not imagine it would be easy for people who were not used to rural ways.

"It will be difficult to adjust, espe-

KATHRYN STRACHAN

cially for women because there are not many facilities in the rural areas. Farm work is much tougher than city work, but when people have no food to eat, they must do something."

A relief programme, run by the TAU and the Transvaal Youth Trust, to distribute food at schools was already in operation.

Bruwer said farmers had responded positively to the requests, but he did not believe they would pay their new labourers any better than they paid black workers.

He emphasised black workers would not be dismissed.

Border farmers vow revenge

THREATS of hot-pursuit "com-mando" raids into Transkei have been made by border farmers alarmed by a series of terror attacks they claim the police are powerless to prevent.

"If this doesn't end soon the boys will shoot," said Mr Hans Myburg, whose 90-year-old homestead bordering Transkei's Herschel district was destroyed by petrol bombs 10 days ago.

The Myburg family, who were staying elsewhere that night, lost everything — including their pet Maltese poodle whose charred body was found in the ruins.

The attackers found sanctuary in Transkei — where the South African police are forbidden to go.

The attack came barely a week after Zastron furniture store assistant manager Stephanus Smit, 33, was shot dead and a colleague injured after slowing down at a bogus police roadblock on the road to Herschel.

Several men opened fire with AK-47 rifles, killing Mr Smit and seriously wounding Mr Deon Maartens.

Mr Fanie Schlebusch, a neighbour and friend of Mr Myburg, recently survived a night attack at his farmhouse which he found chillingly reminiscent of tactics used in the Rhodesian bush war.

Target

Shots were fired into his bedroom and, when he leapt up, he saw a bakkie parked in the yard. It belonged to Hans Myburg and had been petrol bombed and was burning fiercely.

"I ran outside and tried to fight the fire. It was a very stupid thing to do as I was an easy target. Fortunately I first switched on my outdoor floodlights and this must have scared them off," he said.

Early in January the police barracks at Lady Grey, which borders on Herschel, was damaged by a grenade blast.

REPORT and PICTURE by BILL KRIGE

Further east, towards Elliot, in an area sandwiched between Lesotho and Transkei, strong police patrols have been active for six weeks trying to turn a tide of stock theft so serious it has driven several farmers off the land.

Said Mr Freek Myburg, elder brother of Mr Hans Myburg and also a border farmer: "People are really angry and I just hope they don't take the law into their own hands.

"It's become so bad that none of us dare travel around unarmed anymore. If a dog barks at home and my wife goes outdoors to see what it's about, she takes a pistol with her. If we watch TV we keep a gun handy. One can't be too careful," he said.

He travels with a pistol

and a shotgun in his bakkie.

The problem was made worse by the ban on the police crossing into Transkei, no matter how serious the crime, without long delays caused by negotiations through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Scent

"The morning that Hans's farm was burnt, the police were here with a dog to investigate. It picked up the scent early on," said Mr Freek Myburg.

"We followed on a bakkie to the border fence some two kilometres away and there the police had to stop. But the dog didn't want to. It had to be dragged away. The people who did this may have been laughing at us from the other side of the river,

Chilling reminder of bush war tactics in Rhodesia



RUBBLE ... Hans Myburg and his brother Freek in the ruins of his homestead which was petrol bombed 10 days ago

for all I know," he said.

The Myburgs, both fluent in Xhosa, have farmed on the border for generations although Mr Hans Myburg has only occupied his present property, Wilgespruit, for 30 months.

"I have never had problems except with stock theft, which is normal," said Mr Hans Myburg.

Said Mr Schlebusch: "There's going to be a tragedy unless something is done. I'm worried about the old folk who live alone and still think we're in the good times when you could leave your house open day or night."

Today he has mesh wire covering his windows to deflect petrol bombs.

In a message faxed to Mr Japie Pretorius, MP for Aliwal North, and forwarded to Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel, Mr Hans Myburg said part of his military service was done

in Angola. "If a bomb or grenade was thrown at us, we followed up immediately and irrespective of the international boundary to arrest or eliminate the culprit.


Urgent

"What must we do in our own country and at our own expense to protect an international boundary? If this matter does not receive urgent attention it's going to create an unacceptable situation on our border," he said.

The District Criminal Investigation officer in Aliwal North, Colonel Piet Myburgh said: "We have stepped up patrols and give advice to farmers. As individuals there's nothing to stop them crossing the border. We can't do so, not easily anyway, but that's something I don't want to go into," he said.

PAC retains its position on 'return of the land'

STAR 7/4/92

3 Gen 

Staff Reporters and
Own Correspondent

The Pan Africanist Congress yesterday reaffirmed its hard-line position on the "return of the land to the people" at the end of its third national congress at the University of Transkei in Umtata.

In his closing address, re-elected president Clarence Makwetu said "The land was taken from our forefathers by the sword and it is kept by the sword."

"Before resolving this issue, we cannot even dream of self-determination."

He said the congress had agreed Codesa was undemocratic and could never ensure a just transfer of power.

However, the congress mandated its leadership to enter into preliminary talks with the Government on the issue of a constituent assembly.

Mr Makwetu, first deputy president Johnson Mlambo, and second deputy president Advocate Dikgang Moseneke, were re-elected unopposed.

Secretary-general Benny Alexander retained his position, winning over national organiser Maxwell Nemasivhanani, who was re-elected to his position unopposed.

Barney Desai is secretary for information. His re-election comes after speculation that he had been sidelined for being pro-Codesa after he took a break recently on doctor's advice.

Mr Desai, Mr Moseneke and Mr Makwetu have been dubbed the pragmatists within the leadership that represents the more cogent and reasonable core of the PAC.

They would almost certainly be part of a delegation to meet President de Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha in Abuja, Nigeria, later this week.

The weekend elections bring to an end the practice of dividing leadership between the exile and internal wings of the PAC and might consolidate the movement.

Omnia stronger despite drought

BIDON 7/14/92
MICK ELLINGHAM

DROUGHT conditions should not affect seriously Omnia Holdings' 1992 profits, group chairman Dr Joachim Winkler said in an interview last week. *(2) Gen*

Any losses which might be sustained by the group's core fertiliser division would be made up by the expanding seed, explosives, industrial chemicals and international trading businesses, said Winkler.

He said the group's balance sheet had strengthened considerably, with an 18% increase in shareholders' funds and a further repayment of long-term debt combining to reduce gearing to 23%.

Net asset value per share grew by 18% from 261,39c to 308,60c. The dividend was increased by 17% to 35c a share (30c).

Operating income increased by 23% to R60,7m (R49,2m). Higher financing costs absorbed R4,7m of the increase, as a result of a high level of investment in fixed assets and competitive credit terms.

A 26,6% return on shareholders funds was achieved, with the average margin at the operating income level improving to 13,8% (12,9%).

The average tax rate for the year was 9,3% with the company moving into a taxable position for the first time since 1981, with assessed losses having been largely utilised.

Winkler expected Omnia to improve its earnings in 1992, in spite of an anticipated rise in its tax rate to 25%.

Rightwing harass white garage owner

Sowetan 7/4/92
By MATHATHA TSEDU

A NABOOMSPRUIT garage owner is the target of a consumer boycott by whites because he helped a black man buy a farm in the area.

Mr Ben Steenkamp, owner of WTS Motors, said far-rightwingers had also launched a campaign of harassment against him and his family, threatening him with death and bombs.

Suspected extremist rightwingers on March 1 bombed the house at Verloren farm bought by Mr Lawrence Maapola in February this year.

No one has been arrested in connection with the bombing, police said.

Steenkamp said the boycott had led to a drop in his

sales of over 10 000 litres a week.

"I helped Lawrence to buy the farm and soon thereafter I started hearing accusations that I was helping blacks to take white land.

"Then there were telephone calls and suddenly no local whites were buying from my garage and another shop.

"I take the threats seriously because they can also do it to me as I also stay at a farm," Steenkamp said.

He said he was helping another black family to acquire land in the area.

He said while he took the

threats seriously, it was the financial loss that was worrying him more.

"Please tell people that I am now being boycotted by whites because I helped a black man to buy a farm," Steenkamp said.

Police spokesman Major A Vogel said at the weekend that the type of explosives used in the Verloren bombing was still unknown.

He said investigations were still on but no arrests had been made.

Two men who were sleeping in the house escaped with minor injuries when the explosions ripped

through the isolated farm.

Other blacks who bought previously white owned farms and houses in the Far Northern Transvaal have been victims of similar acts. In Louis Trichardt, Mr Percy Mmethi was attacked with high velocity rifles at his farm 7km outside town on the Sibasa road.

Also in that town Mr Ducksy Mukhondo, who bought a house there, was pelted with stones every night, culminating in a gun attack on the house. He escaped narrowly.

Near Pietersburg, Mr Johannes Motimele had the only gate leading to his farm locked by his white neighbour, effectively marooning Motimele, who

had to cross through a 100m stretch of road across the neighbour's farm to reach a public road.

His cattle also mysteriously disappeared from the farm.

Also in Pietersburg, Mr A Maponya's house was gutted by fire which destroyed his R130 000 car and the garage.

The police said the fire was caused by a rat chipping at its electrical wires.

Maponya, who had been in the house for only two weeks, rejected the police explanation of the cause of the fire and blamed white racists who he said had threatened a white colleague who had been visiting him several times.

Anger over state's payout to owners of two prison outposts

THE government has been accused of making a mockery of Parliament by overriding opposition from its most powerful watchdog to approving payments to owners of two prison farms.

The Joint Committee on Public Accounts, which scrutinises the government's expenditure, refused to authorise the payment in 1988 of R650 000 to two owners of prison labour outposts.

But last week, Parliament overrode this decision and passed a Bill validating the expenditure.

The committee, which is represented by all the parties, has a majority of NP members.

Convinced

It repeatedly refused to authorise the payments in 1990 on the basis that the valuations on which the payments were to be made were suspect.

DP finance spokesman Ken Andrew said the joint committee rarely refused to approve unauthorised expenditure.

"It is only done in cases where it is absolutely convinced there is no justification," he said.

He added the decision two years ago to refuse the expenditure required the full support of NP committee members as well as representatives from other parties.

"It is therefore most unusual that the government would see fit to approve expenditure which its own members and the committee as a whole strongly recommended

By EDYTH BULBRING
Political Reporter

should not be approved," he said.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk, in introducing the Bill to get the amounts approved in Parliament last week, said when the government decided to abolish the prison outposts system in 1985, there had been uncertainty among owners over how they would be compensated.

The state had bought 19 of the 21 outposts, regardless of whether it needed the buildings, at a cost of nearly R20-million.

This was the price that had to be paid for the abolition of the outpost system, he said.

But the farm Leslie, near Leander, had already been sold for a sum of R150 000 before the Cabinet decided to abolish the system. A further sum of R370 000 was then paid by the state to the owners by way of a compensatory payment.

Establishment of prison facilities on the farm Bult-

fontein, near Hendrina, had cost R219 000. For these improvements, for which no depreciation was calculated, an ex gratia payment of R280 000 was made.

Mooi River DP MP Wesel Nel said there had to be something wrong when someone sold a property for R150 000 and was then given an additional R370 000 — more than twice the selling price — by the state as compensation to make up the alleged full value of the property.

Mandate

"We in the DP cannot accept that such an error be deliberately covered up. At least the people who made the mistake should pay nominal penance for their fault," Mr Nel said.

NP MP Cris Fisser, who sat on the committee when it opposed the approval of the payments, said he did not see Parliament's actions as overruling the committee.

"Parliament has the mandate to authorise unauthorised expenditure if the committee does not wish to do so," he said.

Whites should thank 'us for giving them shelter'

Sowetan 9/4/92

3 Gen

By JOE MDHLELA

THE idea of a white homeland by rightwingers was last night rejected by callers to the *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback as ludicrous.

One caller asked: "All the land is full of Africans (sic) ... which land do they want?"

Gideon of Evaton said whites should be grateful that they had been accommodated in this country by Africans.

"They should be happy they live among the Africans," he said.

A similar sentiment was expressed by Lucky of

SOWETAN
Building the Nation

RADIO METRO
TALKBACK

Jabulani in Soweto.

"Whites came from Holland and stole our land. We will accommodate them on our own terms," he said.

Callers also focused on the failure of successive Nationalist governments to implement the grand "Verwoerdian" concept of separate development.

Not only was it costly, argued some of the callers, but it indoctrinated many whites into believing that they alone were entitled to live in this country.

The stereotypes of the past are hard to overcome, hence the oft-repeated request by the conservatives of their own "Volkstaat," one caller asserted.

A caller warned that even Codesa would have no mandate to accede to the demands of a "Volkstaat" by the conservative whites.

If it did, they would regard Codesa as a "sell-out."

Farmers assured of Govt's help

By Dirk Nel (3) Gen
Northern Transvaal Bureau
and Sapa STAR 10/4/92

MESSINA — Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk yesterday told hundreds of farmers that the Government would do all in its power to ensure that the expertise of top farmers was not lost through financial and drought factors.

However, he pointed out that the Government had only limited funds, which had to be used strategically and positively to keep productive farmers afloat.

Dr van Niekerk was on the first leg of a whistle-stop tour of drought-stricken northern Transvaal farming districts.

He said each farming area in the country had its unique circumstances and aid packages would have to be designed to fit

various needs.

He said the greatest drawback to cattle farmers was that the traditional feed producing areas had not supplied their usual quotas for sale to those in need of help.

Dr van Niekerk said he was impressed by the cordial welcome he had received in Nylstroom, Pietersburg, Tzaneen and Messina. He is due to visit the Ellisras and Thabazimbi districts today.

The effects of the current drought, reportedly the worst in 100 years, would be felt over many years, Transvaal Agricultural Society president Jock Wolff said yesterday.

Mr Wolff said the public appeared to have little perception about the ravages of the drought and what effect it had, and would continue to have, on

their lives.

"This drought is of such magnitude that it will not only effect economic activity in South Africa this year, but will also have a negative influence on the economy for years to come."

Mr Wolff further said the TAS needed to take cognisance of the efforts being made by the Government to alleviate the plight of the agricultural sector.

"We cannot allow the providers of our food to go under as that would bring the economy of South Africa permanently to its knees.

"The world is full of examples of where agriculture in particular countries went down and those countries had to import basic foodstuffs."

● A rural tragedy revealed — Page 11

A rural tragedy revealed

STAR 10/4/92

36en

THE GOVERNMENT has been urged to ensure tens of thousands of hard-hit farm labourers share in the allocation of the special R1 billion fund created to aid victims of the worst drought to hit South African farms in living memory.

The Witwatersrand Agricultural Society has suggested that the aid programme, primarily earmarked to assist farm owners out of financial ruin, should also be used to cast lifelines to a growing casualty list of farm labourers whose jobs have been axed or who have taken big cuts in their pay packets as an alternative to redundancy.

Vice-president Anthony Evans said aid schemes had to take into account the devastation caused by the drought in human as well as economic terms.

There had been shocking repercussions among black rural families from the multiplier effect of the redundancies and pay cuts that had hit thousands of farm labourers.

The appeal came as the Farmers' Aid Task Group appointed by the South African Agricultural Union compiled a full assessment of the scale of damage caused by the drought.

Final recommendations on how the R1 billion relief fund should be allocated will be sent to Agricultural Minister Kraai van Niekerk, who will in turn seek Cabinet approval for an emergency action programme.

"Most South Africans still do not realise the scale of the catastrophic impact of what has proved to be the worst drought in living memory in summer rainfall regions," said Mr Evans.

"In the bigger towns and cities, the general attitude seems to be: 'Why should the problems of a couple of thousand farmers cause such a fuss and be considered a national disaster?' They have been living off the fat of the land, feather-bedded by the State — let them sweat it out and find their own solutions."

"What everyone needs to think about a lot deeper is the

The Cabinet is due to release details soon on how it intends sharing out the special R1 billion fund created to rescue farms hit by the disastrous drought. It has been urged to ensure that aid packages also relieve the plight of tens of thousands of farm labourers in a growing list of casualties, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

potential socio-economic chaos that may threaten when the incomes of entire rural communities collapse to zero.

"There are not only a few thousand maize farmers to be considered, plus the multimillion-rand burden of making good all the crop failures with expensive imports of basic staple food products.

"Also to be taken into account is the multiplier impact when tens of thousands of farm labourers lose their jobs or else suffer pay cuts that rebound on whole families."

Solutions were urgent. It was estimated that no less than one-third of a total of 10 000 to 12 000 maize farmers faced a battle for survival, without access to credit facilities to plan new crops next season.

In addition, between 3 000 and

4 000 wheat farmers might not have the resources to plant 1993 crops — meaning no jobs for their labour forces.

Since the average large farm employed between 20 and 30 labourers, and since each labourer may be supporting an average family of five or six, simple arithmetic showed the massive scale of repercussions.

"The tragedies," Mr Evans added, "go on multiplying, particularly in the western Transvaal and the Free State where the drought has hit hardest: whole villages will come to a standstill if consumer spending slows down to a halt. They will turn into socio-economic disaster zones."

"The number of livelihoods at stake may run into hundreds of thousands unless we find the

correct formula for solutions.

"Unhappily, because everyone at the moment thinks we are talking only about rescue packages for white farmers, the whole issue has become politically sensitive. One wrong move and there will be a political row.

"However, the real issue is the longer-term survival of much of rural South Africa, with all that implies in social as well as economic terms.

"No one knows the perfect solution. But it could be dangerous to assume all will automatically come right sooner or later if R1 billion provides a temporary answer."

Some farms may have already reached a point of no return. It was little use ploughing money into farms that were hopelessly unviable. There were

others that might not deserve State aid.

But there were hundreds of good farms — and thousands of jobs — that might disappear forever from agriculture if there were no solutions to their long-term economic viability.

The implications for the South African economy as a whole could be staggering.

One possible solution could have been to double or even triple the basic scale of guaranteed final payments to farmers for their crops, or at least what crops have survived the drought.

Such a scheme would provide an immediate cash injection that would keep farms afloat and provide for the next season's crops. But again, since many observers could interpret the scheme as still more easy cash for fat-cat white farmers, that could hit a lot of political raw nerves.

One vital necessity in any aid package was casting a lifeline to the thousands of farm labourers who had lost their jobs or had agreed to cuts in their

pay packets as an alternative to wholesale retrenchment.

It could also be worthwhile to consider new Government initiatives to launch special public works programmes in drought-stricken rural areas — creating jobs to tackle the building of new roads, new bridges, new services...

Even that could turn out to be a waste, however, if there was a major exodus of whole communities and it was eventually found that new roads were running through ghost towns.

"Basically," said Mr Evans, "what is required is a mixed package of measures that will avert immediate disaster and — equally, if not still more important — provide a master plan for the longer-term viability of agriculture in areas prone to drought."

"It's all extremely complex and deeply worrying. Urban South Africans who think the drought disaster is a distant problem that is someone else's worry should perhaps take a closer look at what is at stake." □

Drought's ravages will linger

PRETORIA. — The economic effects of the current drought, reportedly the worst in 100 years, will be felt over many years, Transvaal Agricultural Society president Mr Jock Wolff said yesterday.

In his presidential address at the annual meeting of the TAS in Pretoria, Mr Wolff said the public appeared to have little perception about the ravages of the drought and what effect it had had and would continue to have on their lives.

"I do not think people realise the dis-

ter staring farmers, and the agricultural sector, in the eye.

"This drought is of such magnitude that it will not only affect economic activity in South Africa this year, but will also have a negative influence on the economy for years to come."

Mr Wolff also said the TAS needed to take cognisance of the efforts being made by the government to alleviate the plight of the agricultural sector.

"We cannot allow the providers of our food to go under as that would bring the

ci 10/4/92
economy of South Africa permanently to its knees. The world is full of examples where agriculture in particular countries went down and those countries had to import basic foodstuffs."

● Drought has forced some Zimbabweans back to their roots — literally. Amid unprecedented shortages of corn, cooking oil and sugar, peasants are turning to roots, berries, wild grass and the bark of baobab trees, which they make into a gruel. — Sapa-AP

Debt write-off deals proposed for farmers ^{(3) Gen}

NYLSTROOM — The Department of Agriculture was drawing up proposals in a bid to prevent a great catastrophe from hitting the drought-stricken agricultural sector, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday. *Bibam 10/4/92*

He was addressing farmers, organised agriculture representatives and co-operative officials during a two-day tour of the far northern Transvaal.

While farmers hostile to government clashed with police when President F W de Klerk visited Nylstroom during his referendum campaign recently, about 50 unusually quiet farmers attended the briefing at the Northern Transvaal Co-operative. "They are so quiet because they are in big trouble," said an agriculture writer.

Van Niekerk said his department was looking at ways to get creditors and farmers together to negotiate voluntary debt write-off deals, but warned that this could not be done on a large scale.

The department was investigating all possible means to keep farmers on their land and to enable them to bring in a harvest in improved climatic conditions.

His deputy minister, Tobie Meyer, said the department intended to have the proposals ready by the end of this month for presentation to Cabinet.

Van Niekerk said he had been well aware of the bleak conditions in agriculture, but to learn about the situation again at first hand remained disturbing.

Co-operative GM Mias Nieuwoudt said the drought in the far northern Transvaal was the most intense since 1979. The area had the highest unemployment rate and the poorest population in SA, and the drought had also affected businesses and towns in the area.

Its grain harvest was expected to be 5% of the normal harvest, while in Venda, Lebowa and GaZankulu it would be nil.

Some dams were only 6% or 10% full, while many dams in Venda and GaZankulu were empty. "The rivers have mostly run dry, the farm dams are almost all empty and the borehole water levels are dropping drastically."

Rainfall in the Lowveld had been critically low.

Farmers' debt had risen alarmingly, Nieuwoudt said.

His co-operative had written off bad debts totalling R28,6m since 1984 and was budgeting for bad debts running at 16%.

Farmers in the Nylstroom-Naboomspruit area were experiencing the most serious problems.

Their debt ratio was 28%, while their businesses could carry only about 7%.

Nieuwoudt criticised an industrial job-creation programme in the region, which, he said, was being effected at a much higher capital cost per job than it would cost to retain agricultural workers' positions. — Sapa.

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Conservation

How about turning off that tap?

weather is a cyclical business: it comes, it goes and it varies, but it tends to come and go and vary in a reasonably predictable way.

Here in Southern Africa, for example, we are supposedly going into a nine-year wet period, although some areas have had a fraction of their normal rainfall, and others have had none at all over the past season.

But our wet and dry patches tend to come in nine-year cycles, although there are cycles within those cycles and greater cycles encompassing the basic cycles. Of course there are global phenomena that impact on the Southern African situation, like global warming, the so-called El Nino effect, and of late dramatic volcanic activity. But there is another world-wide phenomenon of particular significance, and with a particular impact here in Southern Africa, and that is growing human numbers.

The fact is that land has what is described as a 'carrying capacity'. This means that when all sorts of factors are taken into account, like soil type, vegetation cover, mineral content, water availability, it can be very accurately calculated just how many creatures - sheep, cattle, impala, elephants, man can be settled and sustained on the land.

In much of South and Southern Africa the land is rapidly reaching its human carrying capacity as far as water is concerned. It has been estimated that South Africa can support, and this is only as far as water is concerned, no more than 80-million people, and at current rates of population growth, we will reach that figure in about 20 years. We do have a problem.

Can anything be done about it? Indeed yes. Weather is global issue and can be dealt with globally. It is also a regional issue, and can be dealt with regionally. But it is also a local issue, and can be dealt with right in our homes. How about turning off that tap?

ONE OF the latest buzzwords is drought. Turn on the TV news, read newspapers and you see dead animals or the dam that is supposed to supply the whole of Thohoyandou about to dry up.

But what is the drought? What is its significance? Why does it happen and can it be avoided? These and other questions have not been answered in full and in this column DAVID HOLT-BIDDLE, an award-winning radio and print environmental journalist tries to unravel the mystery of this plague.

IT HAS been blamed on the return of the mini-skirt, it has been blamed on the casinos in the homelands, no doubt it will now be blamed on Sunday movies, and it has even been blamed on the "yes" vote in the white referendum.

In our usual quaint terminology it has been described as the worst in living memory, the worst this century, the worst in recorded history, the worst since the rinderpest.

But whatever we blame it on, and however we describe it: the current drought is a disaster for Southern Africa - economically and socio-politically.

Over the past four months I have travelled, one way or another, over much of South Africa, and there is only one way to describe it, at best dry, at worst devastated. Thohoyandou has enough water for three more months and the government of Venda has appointed a Drought Crisis Committee to co-ordinate relief efforts.

Rivers have dried up in the Eastern

Transvaal Lowveld and animals are dying in the Kruger National Park Park, and it is even being said that the Sabie River could stop flowing soon.

Rivers have also dried up in Natal and KwaZulu and there have been crop failures. In parts of the Eastern Free State and the North Eastern Cape, the maize and sunflower crops have reached full-growth at a height of about half-a-meter, and the plants are dying where they stand.

In parts of Transkei, the ground cover has disappeared altogether, and the Eastern Cape even the invasive jointed cactus appears to be feeling the heat and the lack of rain. At least one large dam in the Southern Karoo is totally dry, and has been for at least eight years. In fact the Karoo is the most depressing of all. Predominant feature are the dust devils that chase

each other across the parched landscape, and the sheep which try desperately to get into each others shade as they stand panting in the sun. Many farmers in the region have driven their stock to other parts of the country where there is still a little grazing, and I was told of one

white family (father, mother, kids, bags and baggage) waiting on the national highway for a lift away from their farm and to the

failures in Lesotho and Swaziland.

In Namibia President Sam Nujoma has declared an "emergency situation" countrywide and has said that wildlife may have been sacrificed for people.

There have also been widespread crop failures in Zambia, and the Zambian Electricity Supply Company may have to suspend power supplies to neighbouring states because of a drop in water levels for hydro-electric plants.

In Zimbabwe, the situation is little short of catastrophic. At one stage the country had just four days' food left, in some urban areas water is being supplied by stand pipes and in Bulawayo, residents were recently asked to flush their toilets simultaneously at nine in the evening, in an effort to clear the rapidly-clogging system.

Severe water shortages have been reported from Malawi, and drought has been added to the woes of the long-suffering people of Mozambique, giving them yet another reason to stream into South Africa in search of succour.

But what is really the cause of this devastating drought? Basically it is a natural phenomenon. The world's

ROOTS AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN



By MUSA ZONDI

coast, and hopefully work. And elsewhere in Southern Africa? President Quett Masire of Botswana has declared his entire country "drought stricken". There have been widespread crop failures, water sources have dried up, and many Batswana simply have no income.

There have also been disastrous crop

Sowetan 10/4/92

Gen 3

New cloud seeding flare could boost future rainfall

STAR 12/4/92

3 Gen

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — A new cloud seeding flare, designed and manufactured in South Africa, could play a major role in augmenting the country's future water supplies, says Cloudquest Weather Research leader Graeme Mather.

Speaking at a special meeting of the Lowveld Farmers' Association, Mr Mather said the flare, used in a new seeding technique, appeared more suitable to South African conditions than traditional glaciogenic materials like silver iodide and dry ice.

The flares containing potassium fluoride and sodium chloride (table salt) are placed directly into an updraught as it

enters a storm.

"We're basically copying nature's system of 'seeding' clouds at the coast with tiny salt crystals from the sea," Mr Mather explained.

"This leads to a very efficient rainfall process in coastal clouds."

Early results with the new flares had proved very promising with more and larger water drops having been detected in rain clouds about 20 minutes after seeding.

Also speaking at the meeting, water research committee chairman Braam Raubenheimer said rain augmentation was considered the biggest and cheapest means of increasing the country's water supply.

It was, he said, of vital im-

portance that research in this field be continued.

"The delivery of hygroscopic seeds via a pyrotechnic flare is a major breakthrough and a world first, and the Nelspruit team — under Mr Mather — needs to be congratulated."

Cloud seeding started by the Lowveld Co-operative in Nelspruit during 1971 to prevent hail, has been unpopular among many farmers since its inception.

Despite the new seeding system, farmers and townfolk again expressed opposition to cloud seeding at last Wednesday's meeting.

It appeared, however, that the majority of people present felt the new flares should be given a chance and that research continue.

Drought a coast-to-coast catastrophe

JOHANNESBURG. — Where the great, green, greasy Limpopo used to flow, a hot wind kicks up eddies of dust.

From the mountains of the Cape to the thorn forests of Zambia, from Namibia in the west to Mozambique in the east, one of the driest seasons in living memory has shrivelled pastures and ruined crops.

The region will need to import at least 10 million tons of its staple food, maize, by the end of the year, about a third of it likely to be in the form of aid

donations and the rest from commercial sources.

This is about four times the normal amount distributed over creaking transport networks, and relief officials say moving the food to where it is needed is the greatest problem they face.

The crisis has hastened overt co-operation between black frontline states like Zimbabwe and former foe South Africa, the only country with adequate port facilities for the task. South Africa, which is importing five

million tons of maize for its own use this year, expects 220 maize ships at its ports in the next four months.

Much of the food desperately needed in Zambia and Zimbabwe has to cross a narrow bridge over the Limpopo, and the urgent need to prevent bottlenecks has led Harare to end its refusal to deal with Pretoria at cabinet level.

Transport Minister Mr Denis Norman met his South African counterpart in Cape Town this month to discuss logistics, the first high-level talks

since Zimbabwean independence in 1980.

The drought has increased domestic political pressure on Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and FW de Klerk of South Africa.

In Zimbabwe, where soldiers guard food convoys from hungry crowds, influential traditional leaders interpret the drought as a sign that the ancestral spirits are angry with Mr Mugabe.

In South Africa, the drought threatens economic growth seen as essential to stability. — Sapa-Reuter

③ cf 14/4/92

March shows drop in farm machinery sales

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STAN 1574192
Own Correspondent

Sales of all agricultural machinery dropped dramatically last month compared with March last year, reports the SA Agricultural Machinery Association (SAAMA).

Only 171 tractors were sold during the month under review, compared to 256 units for the corresponding period last year, representing a 33.2 percent drop in sales.

Only five combines were sold in March, as against 11 in March, 1991, six rectangular balers (compared to 26 in March 1991).

"As a result of the current drought, the industry expects a further reduction of sales of all agricultural machinery during 1992 compared to 1991", the report says.

SAAMA expects tractor sales for 1992 to be around 2 000 units.

Hartbeesfontein stays in SA

By Jo Anne Collinge

on the farm Hartbeesfontein will no longer be transferred to or included into Bophuthatswana.

The western Transvaal community of Hartbeesfontein has been assured by the Deputy Minister for Land Affairs Johan Scheepers that the town will not be incorporated into Bophuthatswana.

Mr Scheepers has written to Hartbeesfontein Civic Association secretary Solly Phetoe, stating: "I can now confirm officially that the residential area developed

According to Mr Scheepers, it had been agreed in talks with the Bophuthatswana authorities that the town and sufficient land "for future extensions" be retained by South Africa.

The letter does not make clear the size of the total area to be retained by South Africa.

'Drought will cost 80 000 jobs, R1,5-bn'

STAR 15/4/92

By Michael Chester (3)ben

More than 80 000 jobs were likely to be wiped out in the current drought disaster and economic losses threatened to reach as high as R1.5 billion, according to surveys by the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The estimates were revealed by Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo when he addressed the annual conference of the Institute of Directors in Johannesburg yesterday.

No fewer than 3 million children in the rural areas were suffering from malnutrition. The drought disaster, he said, added to a growing list of economic problems that confronted South Africa.

"Unless we can (soon) come to agreement on ways of effectively dealing with the problems of the drought, along with shortages of food, housing and other basic needs, our country will go backwards rather than forwards despite progress at a political level," he said.

"Clearly what a future South Africa needs to confront now is how to generate economic growth in a manner that can underpin and stabilise the transition to political democracy."

There was no way that the "forces of the free market" would be able to correct the imbalances between white and black society that had developed in 300 years of government intervention to ensure the protection of white minority in-

terests. It was crucial to debate the role of the state.

"Cosatu has argued very strongly that we require a strong state which is able to intervene decisively in pursuing economic policies that promote growth," he said.

Cosatu would pledge full support to a massive rationalisation of the monolithic apartheid bureaucracy so that public funds could be redirected into job creation and building houses, schools and hospitals.

"The present Government and its allies in business and the media are trying to ensure that the socio-economic hands of a future state are firmly tied by decisions taken and implemented now," Mr Naidoo said.

"Clearly the political repercussions of this are not lost: a weak economy means a weak government.

"Cosatu will resist any attempts to impose an economic or political solution on South Africa, particularly in this transition phase when even this present Government recognises its illegitimacy and lack of representivity.

"It is for this reason that we have called on the present Government to cease its arbitrary and unilateral restructuring of the economy and enter into bona fide negotiations with the organised trade union movement and organised business to ensure that economic restructuring has a legitimate basis of support," he said.

● More reports — Page 9

Drought: 2 more Free State 'disaster' areas

3 OCT 15 14 1972

JOHANNESBURG. — Kroonstad and Viljoenskroon in the Free State have been declared drought disaster areas.

Stroebel Hofmeyr said farmers in these districts could be given financial assistance under the relief scheme for stock farmers.

Heilbron and Frankfort were declared disaster areas earlier this month.

In Worcester, KWV chairman Mr Pietman Hugo announced that Cape wine farmers would contribute R250 000 to emergency drought relief. — Sapa

National Drought Committee chairman Dr

PRODUCER PRICES — DROUGHT DIP

~~297~~
3 Gen

FM 17/4/92

Against all expectations, producer prices are still rising at a modest rate. In the 12 months to February the index rose only 6.7%. Since November, when the rate of increase decelerated sharply from 11.1% to 7.9%, PPI movements have confounded economists. The technical factors that contributed to the November fall have now been eliminated and, after a blip up to 8.6% in December, the rate began to decline again — to 7.9% in January and February.

Surprisingly, an important factor in the recent decline was food prices, specifically meat. Unfortunately, this may be a spin-off from the drought as farmers who have run out of feed and grazing send cattle for slaughter.

Food prices are recorded in two places

in the PPI. The item *agriculture: food* rose only 9.74% over 12 months and declined 1.5% in the month. Contributions to the monthly fall came in a range of products, says the Central Statistical Service. These included beef, veal, eggs, onions, pears, bananas and grapes.

In the same periods, *manufacturing: food* rose 8.7% and declined 1.3%. If this component is broken down, it emerges that meat prices (at abattoirs) rose only 6.6% over 12 months and fell by 4.3% in February.

Food has the heaviest weighting in the index: agricultural 8.64% and manufacturing 12.91%. Together they make up about a fifth of the index. So movements in these prices drive the Overall index.

This again highlights the strange anomaly in the relationship between producer and consumer prices. The normal lag between the two was distorted in January last year when the curves tracing the increase in the two indexes started to move apart sharply — and food prices were largely responsible for the discrepancy. Though consumer price rises have shown signs of abating, food prices rose 27% in the 12 months to February — after similar increases in previous months.

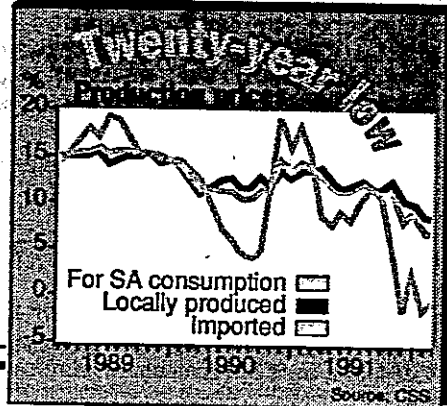
Consumer prices are particularly vulnerable to perceptions (*Leading Articles* April 10), so, at this point, are not reflecting fundamentals in the economy. UCT economist Brian Kantor argues (see page 32) that PPI may now be the better indicator.

While the downward blip in meat prices in February may have accentuated the deceleration, it is part of a pattern that has been in place since the middle of last year and was given impetus by falling oil prices towards the end of the year. The index of *mining and quarrying: other* (which comprises oil) was down 9% over 12 months and 1.4% in the month. The total of imported commodities fell 0.9% in the year and 0.2% in the month, assisted by lower inflation overseas.

Increases in prices of local commodities remained restrained, with a rise of 8.5% over 12 months and 0.5% in the month.

Working against the trend were monthly rises in a number of indices:

- Other agricultural products 9.8%;
- Alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages 3.3%;
- Nonmetallic and mineral products 4.9%; and
- Transport equipment 4.7%.



New life in Barolong land battle

By DAN DHLAMINI

(Photo) 3 Gen
THE 31-year-old legal battle for land between the Barolong ba Modiboa and the Potchefstroom Town Council started afresh this week when 75 of them were arrested for trying to reclaim their ancestral land. *CIPen 1914/192*

According to a western Transvaal police spokesman the 62 men and 13 women have been charged with trespassing and illegal squatting.

The spokesman said they would be released on R30 bail and were scheduled to appear in court on Tuesday.

The battle between the Potchefstroom Town Council and the Barolong started on March 21 1961 when the then tribal representative, Morris Gorewang, was arrested, charged and convicted for refusing to vacate Macha-

viestad. He appealed and the Appellate Division set aside the conviction.

The Barolong were eventually forcibly removed by the government in 1971.

In December last year 25 tribesmen who attempted to reclaim the land were also arrested for trespassing.

The charges were withdrawn after the parties agreed that the Barolong would always seek permission to visit their ancestral land.

The Barolong had been granted permission to clean the graves and hold a prayer meeting from April 16 to April 20 but, according to a Potchefstroom Town Council spokesman, permission had been withdrawn after they had arrived with truckloads of building materials.

Low-profile Sechold makes light of omens

STimes (BUSS) 19/4/92

A FRIDAY 13th appointment in 1984 with the late Gerhard de Kock, Governor of the Reserve Bank, gave Arthur Kelly and a clutch of financial specialists the green light to establish a discount house.

The licence was granted on the Ides of March the following year and Sechold opened for business on April Fool's Day 1985 with share capital of R2-million.

In spite of the low profile - I am the first journalist in those seven years to interview Mr Kelly, who modestly declined to be photographed - Sechold has been a sterling performer.

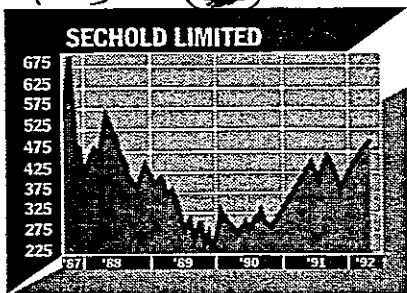
Mr Kelly is managing director of today's listed group, the holding company of four deposit-taking institutions and a portfolio management company.

Its main operation is trading in the money, capital and derivatives markets.

Only Secfin Bank, formerly Interbank, lends conventionally, having lately entered the upper-bracket mortgage market and granting customers a preferential rate.

Mr Kelly estimates the asset base of the group at R7.5-billion. This large-sounding figure for such a little-known name is due partly to the nature of its business. Capital coefficients for trading Government stocks are lower than for many other types of banking.

"They are virtually non-risk assets," says Mr Kelly. "It al-



lows us to run a much bigger book. The margins are small and turnover large. Our aim is to provide the best return on shareholders' funds.

"They are all you really have at the end of the day. You do not have market capitalisation to play with, only a finite number of randis. You have to ask yourself what you have actually done with them."

There is of course a vested interest. Management and staff own 34% of the group. Sechold's return on shareholders' funds is among the highest in the business in recent years and its portfolio management company has outperformed many better-known names.

Sechold's other shareholders are a solid bunch themselves. Old Mutual has 20%, Sanlam about 8% - some by virtue of having sold the struggling Interbank to Sechold

with a new lease of life under Sechold management.

"They are only equity-accounted in Sechold, no value is placed on each bank licence. If we wished ever to list one or all of them separately, there would be significant immediate capital appreciation to Sechold.

"There are no immediate plans to do so. We are merely laying the foundations should future officers of the company wish to unbundle Sechold."

When Sechold itself was listed in 1987, it raised R9-million. At last June, disclosed cumulative shareholders' funds were R50-million - and that was after R19-million had been paid in dividends.

This exceptional growth had its humble beginnings with Mr Kelly and company seven years ago.

"There were seven of us, but the Reserve Bank ruled that we could not own more than 10% of the initial discount house each, so we had to take on more partners.

"It's grown quite well," he says flatly.

The share price would seem to support his view. Finely pitched at R3 in 1987, the shares shot almost to R7 before collapsing with the rest of the equity market. It stumbled along at R3, but has risen from a 12-month low of 375c to 510c since October.

On a price-earnings ratio of 7.5 times, Sechold might have the largest remaining potential in a heavily painted sector

DIAGONAL STREET by Julie Walker

30% failures on the DCM

STimes (BUSS) 19/4/92

SINCE the inception of the Development Capital Market on the JSE in 1984, 113 companies have at one time or another been listed on it. The present tally is 23 - about a quarter of the 1987 peak. Almost half of the companies have been transferred, either through growth or acquisition, to the main board.

Some have followed the reverse path, in the case of cash shells whose new assets have failed to meet main-board requirements.

Six have been delisted for reasons other than financial difficulties, but the listings of 30 have been terminated because of money problems.

The JSE says the failure rate of 30% means there is no justification for lowering the listing requirements.

One of the problems that faced the JSE's listings department in the rush by companies to list in 1986 and 1987 was the checking of details in prospectuses.

Often, financial accounts were dressed up to show the pre-listing performance in the best possible light. This was

sometimes achieved by restating figures as though the equity capital to be raised at listing had been part of the company's capital base for the previous few years.

The JSE listing requirements for the DCM are adequate. The problem lies in knowing which company directors told the whole truth in their haste to grab plentiful investment capital.

Auditors, merchant banks, corporate finance houses, public relations consultants and directors readily condoned the fairness and reasonableness of the valuations of assets sold into companies in exchange for control of listed companies to which the minority often provided most worth.

Investors who followed small share issues have been belittled and maligned by the blue-chip brigade. But no matter how diligent the ordinary person might have been in studying a prospectus, he could not reasonably have been expected to see through the carefully constructed smokescreens endorsed by so many professionals.

R174 Lyntex raised R3m from its listing

STimes (BUSS) 19/4/92

LYNTEX Transport Exchange had a net asset value of only R174 before it raised R3-million in public and private placements in 1987 for a JSE listing.

Lyntex was liquidated in April last year and was later delisted.

The Receiver of Revenue, Johannesburg, confirms it is investigating Lyntex's affairs.

After questioning former managing director Tony Teixeira, the taxman found that at the time of the Lyntex listing, the total asset value after the deduction of loans outstanding was R174. It is claimed that no tax was paid on declared profits, but Lyntex declared a dividend of R644 000.

The Lyntex prospectus, issued on October 28, 1987, after the stock-market collapse, showed audited earnings for the 16 months to June 1987 of R596 000 before tax and said no dividend had been declared.

The balance sheet at June 30, 1987, reflected shareholders' funds of R940 000 as most of the R1.18-million capital employed. Share premium of R741 000 arose through the acquisition of subsidiaries for the issue of 9.94-million shares of 2c.

Unlisted investments totalled R200 000, explained as an investment in an export venture.

The auditor was Nicholas Meldan & Co, the sponsoring broker George Hynshamer and the attorney Eugene Marais, Attorneys. Mr Marais was also chairman when the group listed. Joe Berardo became chairman in August 1988 and resigned a year later.

On March 21, 1991, Mr Marais and Mr Teixeira signed the financial statements on behalf of the board for the six months to December 1990.

The results showed net income after tax of R527 000, net current liabilities of R408 000 and R4.27-million in unlisted investments.

Hardly a fortnight later, several creditors applied for the liquidation of Lyntex

and it folded. The liquidation was before Mr Justice Margo, who was chairman of Joe Berardo's Johannesburg Mining & Finance Corporation.

Mr Berardo left SA abruptly three years ago and JMFC had to be rescued.

The joint liquidators of Lyntex Transport Exchange reported that only one of the directors gave them a statement of loans outstanding was R174. It is claimed that no tax was paid on declared profits, but Lyntex declared a dividend of R644 000.

Liabilities totalled R2.24-million and assets R1.7-million.

They found the company's accounting procedures to be inadequate. The books had not been written up for five months before liquidation.

All financial and banking transactions were made by means of a trust account in the legal practice of Mr Marais. Auditors had to be brought in to reconcile the books.

The liquidators said: "The available financial records of the company appear to have grossly overstated the assets and debts of the group's companies, resulting

in creditors and particularly shareholders and members of the public concluding a total misapprehension of the financial position... an inquiry should be conducted into the affairs of the company and the conduct of its directors."

The liquidators took the view that the main cause of failure of companies in Lyntex was inadequate financial management and records.

The estates of Mr Marais and of Mr Teixeira have since been sequestered.

Mr Teixeira had signed personal suretyship for the obligation of Lyntex Transport Transvaal, a subsidiary of the listed company, and for other companies. The banks called in the obligations, which he could not fulfill. Mr Teixeira's liabilities of R9.5-million were nine times his assets.

The sequestrator says Mr Teixeira has not replied to his questions and recommended a formal inquiry and he will arrive at his final conclusion in May.

Debt help for farmers

STimes (BUSS) 19/4/92

FARMGROUP, the agroforestry management company featured in Business Times last week, has proposed a debt-for-equity swap to help relieve the debt crisis facing farmers.

The scheme, accepted by the Conservative Party, involves the issue of an equity land-bond bearing an 8% tax-free coupon. The bond should be either issued or guaranteed by the Government.

The debt held by commercial banks could be converted to equity bonds and accepted as part of their liquid asset restructurings.

FarmGroup says that because insurers

are being urged to invest in socially desirable investments they too should be required to place some of their cash flow in bonds.

The Government could even consider some additional form of tax relief whereby the bonds could be marketed to corporates and the public.

The terms of the bonds should be linked in some way to the farmers' performance, with the proviso that they can be redeemed at any time on payment of capital and interest. Fiscal control would be imposed on farmers involved in the scheme to encourage them to redeem their bonds early.

'Mounties' to help fight rural crime

S. Times (Cape Meub)

19/4/92 (3) Gen

By JANICE HILLIER

A HORSEBACK unit of the South African Police has been formed to help fight crime in the rural areas of Hottentot's Holland.

The mounted police reservist patrol unit, the first of its kind in the Cape, was initiated by Strand police.

"The unit will intensify policing of farms and smallholdings as part of a crime-prevention programme," Strand station commander Captain Tienie Meiring said this week.

Operating from Gordon's Bay to Macassar, police reservists will now be able to patrol rural areas inaccessible to vehicles.

Stolen

"The idea came after a spate of house burglaries in the rural area," said the head of the reservist unit, Lieutenant Ferdi Mostert. "The horses will enable the unit to cut off foot routes used by criminals when moving stolen goods.

The patrols are to be made up of a minimum of four reservists per group.

And, needing additional manpower, the police have started a recruitment drive.

Said Lieutenant Mostert: "We hope to recruit as many as 80 people and all interested members of the public who can ride a horse and who would like to volunteer are welcome.

The police will try to find a horse for volunteers who can ride and don't own one.

"Some owners have said they are prepared to make their horses available for the mounted reservist patrol unit. We will provide training in policing and the handling of firearms as well as police uniforms.

When a patrol group wanted to go out, they would telephone the station and a police vehicle would meet them and issue firearms, two-way radios and a duty book.

Lieutenant Mostert said a meeting for all those interested in enlisting would be held in the Strand Library Hall on Thursday.

Drought will cost millions in forex losses

3 Gen 87
STAR 20/4/92

CAPE TOWN — The serious drought will cost South Africa thousands of millions of rands in foreign-exchange losses, chief economist of Sanlam, Johan Louw, says in the group's latest economic report.

He predicts that imported maize and maize products alone may cause a foreign-exchange loss of R3 000 million.

Overall, prospects for South Africa's foreign trade balance are reported as not favourable. Although an upswing is expected in the economies of South Africa's major trading partners during the course of the year, Sanlam does not foresee much of an improvement in exports before late 1992. A notable increase in the gold price also seems unlikely.

As a result, considerably smaller surpluses are expected on the current account of the balance of payments.

A surplus of R4 000 million is predicted for 1992, compared with last year's surplus of R7 422 million, but due to the lifting of sanctions, and the possibility of IMF loans, an improvement on the capital account may well be expected. This should make up for the smaller surpluses on the current account to the extent that foreign reserves should continue increasing.

An average inflation rate of around 14,5 percent is predicted for 1992, compared with last year's 15,3 percent. By December the rate should be between 12 percent and 13 percent.— Sapa.

tion—the hon the Minister used the same word—and applies policies that amount to prohibiting Christian education in schools and effectively preventing education in the mother tongue by enforcing English as the medium of instruction.

There are many simple tests that can be applied. The draft bill of rights prohibits education in the mother tongue unless it is "haalbaar moontlik", as stated in section 21(f). What is the hon the Minister's reaction to that? Does he associate himself with this draft bill of rights or not, because no word of criticism has yet been heard against it.

There is another very simple test that can be applied in respect of the powers of management bodies in Model C schools at present. Can the hon the Minister tell us whether or not he will accept admission requirements that contain the words "White" or "Afrikaner", where being White is an integral part. It is a very simple question. [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Potgietersrus who is a legal man really astounded me this afternoon by referring to a draft bill of rights that prohibits certain actions. How a draft of anything can have so much power that it can prohibit anything, probably only the hon member will know and nobody else. [Interjections.] The point is that the draft bill of rights is constantly being referred to and he called it a draft for the first time today. Let us now have this recorded: it remains a draft and hon members should rather make their contributions where they have been requested to do so.

The hon member for Pretoria West as well as the hon member for Potgietersrus have now revealed the whole thing, namely that the issue is not Christian education or education within a specific national culture, but in fact nothing other than education that is racially segregated. [Interjections.]

I do not know why they did not in the first place ask whether racially segregated education would be enforced in South Africa in the future. Why put the question in this manner and then make a wide turn before the hon member for Pretoria West eventually let the cat out of the bag? Let me make it very clear to them—as I have done on many occasions: at present it is possible, also

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

under Model C, to determine admissions on the basis of race. In the future it will most probably not be possible. It does not matter what the hon members do, they will not be able to make any difference to the inevitable course of a process that is happening world-wide. [Interjections.]

*Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: And 5 million Whites must just disappear!

*The MINISTER: The sooner the hon members adjust to reality and inform their people rationally to adjust as well, the sooner they will be capable of playing a positive role with a view to the future of our country.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Model C schools: ownership

*1. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) Whether, upon the establishment of a Model C school, an alteration in respect of the ownership of that school will be effected in the deeds office concerned; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether this alteration will result in the previously existing deed registered in the name of the State being cancelled and the control body concerned, as a juristic person, then being the new registered owner; if not, why not;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B479E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) No, the ownership of the immovable property which relates to the school concerned, devolves upon the state-aided school as from the date of declaration as a state-aided school under Section 31A of the Education Affairs Act (House of

Assembly), 1988. At that stage no action takes place in the deeds office: (SO)

- (2) no, the alteration of ownership in the deeds office only takes place on submission of the title deed to the officer in charge of the deeds office concerned, after which the necessary endorsements to effect transfer will be made on the title deed. The state-aided school as juristic person and not the governing body is then the registered owner;
- (3) no.

Agricultural Research Council

*2. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:†

- (a)(i) On what date and (ii) with how many employees will the Agricultural Research Council start functioning and (b) how many research institutions will be integrated with that Council?

(3) Gen

B486E

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (a) (i) The Agricultural Research Council started functioning on 1 April 1992.
- (ii) 4 287
- (b) 10 research institutes and 2 research centres.

Temporary cash subsidy to farmers

*3. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

- (1) Whether his Department has given consideration to the payment of a temporary cash subsidy to farmers in drought-stricken areas for the exclusive purpose of supplementing money available to pay wages to farm labourers and so minimizing retrenchments; if not, why not; if so, when is it anticipated that (a) a decision will be taken on the matter and (b) such a scheme will come into operation;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B508E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes, the Working Group for the Planning and Implementation of Drought Aid is giving attention to financial assistance aimed at the retention of full-time farm workers. The Agricultural Credit Board is already incorporating funds for this purpose in production loans of individual applicants who qualify for such aid.

(a) and (b) A decision on the feasibility of a special scheme for this purpose can be taken only when the full range of proposals by the Working Group have been quantified and evaluated. In the end the availability of funds and the ability to administer such a scheme, will be the deciding factors.

- (2) No.

(3) Gen

†Mr A A B BRUWER: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him whether he can perhaps give an indication of when he expects this working group to have their work completed, also to give the farmers who want to apply a clear indication of when they can go ahead with their applications.

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the evaluation of the whole question of aid to farmers has reached a final phase. We now have all the data on the table, and we are trying to evaluate all the schemes.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: How long still?

†The MINISTER: We first have to get the Cabinet's approval for this final matter, and we hope to get greater clarity at the next Cabinet meeting on the funds necessary to fund it. It is no use if we just set up a scheme. We shall therefore do it as soon as possible—we hope within the next fortnight.

†Mr W U NEL: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I also want to ask him something. In the light of the urgency of the specific scheme to prevent farm workers from being prejudiced, is it not possible for that scheme specifically to be expedited?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, we have investigated the possibility. The problem is to include a meaningful system of control so that the aid intended for the labourers does in fact reach them. The Agricultural Union is administering such a scheme on a temporary basis and we are giving attention to getting a successful, control-

Cont - v
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

lable scheme off the ground as quickly as possible. [Interjections.] (3) Gen

†Mr W U NEL: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, can he perhaps given an indication of when he foresees it being possible for something like that to be implemented the soonest?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, if the hon member had listened, he would have heard that we hope to finalize such a system and scheme within the next fortnight. [Interjections.]

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Pupils: per capita expenditure

155. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training:

What was his Department's per capita expenditure, (a) including and (b) excluding expenditure of a capital nature, on pupils at (i) public schools, (ii) government schools, (iii) community schools, (iv) state-aided schools and (v) state-aided farm schools during the 1990-91 financial year or the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available?

B374E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

	(a)	(b)
	R	R
(i)	1 046	894

- (ii) — —
- (iii) — —
- (iv) — —
- (v) 647 615

Note:

1. The above-mentioned information is in respect of the 1990/91 financial year.
2. "Government schools" are the same as "public schools". There are no "community schools" under the control of this Department. Questions (a)(ii), (a)(iii), (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) thus fall away.
3. Expenditure of state-aided schools cannot be distinguished from state-aided farm schools. The answer to (a)(v) and (b)(v) include a few state-aided schools not on farms.

99-year leasehold scheme: leases

188. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

- (1) (a) How many persons in each specified region of his Department applied in 1991 for (i) leases in terms of the 99-year leasehold scheme and (ii) leave to purchase property under freehold title and (b) how many such applications had been granted as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether the figures in respect of each such area represent an increase or decrease in comparison with the relevant figures for 1990?

(3) Gen

B432E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

Refer to attached schedule.

	Region A	Region B	Region C	Region D	Region E	Region F	Region G	Region H	Region J
(1)(a) (i)	1 234	325	7 382	3 281	709	881	314	18 794	164
(ii)	42	Nil	499	109	Nil	142	675	1 342	Nil
(b) (i)	1 206	325	7 382	3 281	709	881	105	18 509	108
(ii)	36	Nil	499	109	Nil	142	189	822	Nil

- (2) Decrease Decrease Increase Decrease Decrease Increase Decrease Increase Decrease
- in respect of leasehold. Increase in respect of freehold

99-year leasehold scheme: plots surveyed

189. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

- (1) How many plots (a) were surveyed in each province of the Republic in 1991, and (b) are available, with a view to the (i) 99-year leasehold and (ii) freehold title scheme;
- (2) whether any of these plots have been sold; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many in each province and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B433E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

Cape Province

- (1) (a) 14 156
- (b) (i) 183 853
- (ii) 532
- (2) Yes
- (a) 3 670
- (b) 31 December 1991

Orange Free State

- (1) (a) 7 816
- (b) (i) 104 362
- (ii) 41 703
- (2) Yes

- (a) 29 213
- (b) 24 March 1992

Natal

- (1) (a) 1 617
- (b) (i) 238
- (ii) 71
- (2) Yes

- (a) 647
- (b) 25 March 1992.

Transvaal

- (1) The information as requested is not readily available.
- Since reference is made to 99-year-leasehold, it is accepted that the question

relates to erven in townships that are situated in declared development areas. As far as the Transvaal is concerned, 44 applications for township establishment in terms of the Black Communities Development Act, 1984 (Act No 4 of 1984) were received of which 9 applications have been approved in principle (Regulation 16) and which made 11 557 residential erven available. These applications were submitted by private developers (18) and local authorities (26) and Transvaal Provincial Administration has no information available to determine whether the erven have already been surveyed or not.

It must also be mentioned that a further 36 applications, received previously have also been approved in principle during the above-mentioned period and which make a further 19 235 residential erven available. Of the 36 townships mentioned, 6 have already been declared approved townships which means that those erven were surveyed when the townships were declared (9 398 erven). The date on which these erven were surveyed is not available.

When applications for township establishment are received, no indication is given of the scheme on which the erven will be disposed of (99-year-leasehold or ownership title).

- (2) The Transvaal Provincial Administration is not involved in the sale of erven, therefore the information cannot be made available.

SADF: amount spent on sport

201. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of Defence:

What total amount was spent on sport by the (a) Army, (b) Navy, (c) Air Force and (d) Medical Services Branch of the South African Defence Force in the 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 financial years, respectively?

B458E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a), (b), (c) and (d). Sport facilities are jointly provided on a regional basis for all four Arms

Managers and Union

Govt set to formulate plan on famine crisis

Own Correspondent

Oct 22/4

PRETORIA. — A master plan to fend off widespread famine in Southern Africa will be discussed in the Union Buildings today at a crisis meeting of government officials from Southern African states.

Chaired by Foreign Affairs Africa deputy director general Mr Derek Auret, today's meeting will include senior government representatives from Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

A commercial official from Mozambique will also be present.

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Distribution plan ³ for drought relief

PRETORIA — Drought-stricken southern African countries are to establish a co-ordinating mechanism for the speedy distribution of food relief.

This was decided at a meeting of delegates from SA, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as donor countries in Pretoria yesterday.

Meeting chairman Derek Auret, Foreign Affairs deputy director-general for Africa, said representatives from the various countries would serve on the operations group of Transnet to meet the objectives.

Sapa reports that he said consensus had been reached on the need for a closely co-ordinated regional approach to manage the drought-relief operation. Requirements of the individual countries and the logistics of transporting the food had been discussed. 817249 231492

Zimbabwe's delegation said it was happy with the arrangements, and that there was no controversy regarding SA's central role in the operation.

Meanwhile, our political staff reports from Cape Town that government is considering giving farmers suffering because of the drought a subsidy to enable them to retain full-time farm workers.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said in reply to a question in Parliament that a working group set up recently was giving its attention to such financial assistance. It should complete its work within two weeks.

"In the end the availability of funds and the ability to administer such a scheme will be the deciding factors," he said.

□ Sapa-AFP reports from The Hague that the Netherlands is to give food aid worth almost \$45m to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and Malawi.



Hard at work . . . Olga Lutu (centre) with sewing students at her Rietfontein farm home. Her community centre offers training to those desperate to learn valuable skills.
Picture: George Mashinini

Big-hearted Sis Olga -- SA's very own Mother Teresa

By Brian Sokutu

STAR
24/4/92

"Mother Orange Farm's" work to educate the children of the poor rural community of Rietfontein, near Grasmere, has gained her a reputation akin to that of India's Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa.

Olga Lutu (40) is physically huge and has a heart to match. In Orange and Wheelers farms, near Rietfontein, she is popularly known as "Sis Olga" or "Mother of Orange Farm".

Ms Lutu has leased a 325 ha Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) farm on which she has established a residence and community training centre for those desperate to acquire skills in sewing, farming, brick-laying and woodwork.

At yesterday's meeting held

at her home with businessmen and diplomats, Ms Lutu's description of the plight of her people so impressed British vice-consul Clive Wright that he promised to look into possible British funding of her training centre.

"For too long we've been deprived of development, especially in rural areas. For too long some people spoke for us. But now it is time to speak for ourselves. So we appeal to you for funding to reach our goals," Ms Lutu said.

Mr Wright cautioned that because of Britain's policy on foreign funding, it would be unable to offer sizable funds to her community projects before an interim government had been installed in South Africa.

Sewing students who work

from the Lutu home are remunerated with profits made from the sale of garments.

The Olga Lutu Training Centre is not the only contribution the mother of four has made to the rural community.

She is also the brains behind mushrooming rural community schools near Grasmere, having pioneered the first school in the area while staying at the Wheelers Farm in 1982.

Arrested

"As chairman of the civic organisation at the time, I invited parents to a meeting and told them to convert homes into places of education for our children," she said.

Newspapers and books were used to teach children English.

After establishing the first community school at her home, Ms Lutu said she was arrested on several occasions for establishing "an illegal school". She was, however, not charged.

Her former home - Driezick Plot No 10 - is now a secondary school to more than 300 pupils, and is recognised by the Department of Education.

With the 15 percent subsidy she gets from DET Ms Lutu is able to pay a teacher a R475 monthly salary.

Despite having been burgled last Thursday, the eight-roomed Driezick Plot No 10 continues to be a living hope to many parents and children.

In the burglary, windows and doors were broken and expensive fax and photocopying ma-

chines stolen. Ms Lutu has laid a complaint with Orange Farm police, but no one has yet been charged, she said.

"We caught the thieves red-handed at 10 pm on Thursday inside the house and took them to the police station, with the keys of the vehicle they drove, but today they've been released.

"The person who guarded the house was arrested and is now out on a R60 fine for assaulting the culprits."

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said last night that he could confirm that a man had been arrested in connection with the burglary. The man had appeared in the De Deur Magistrate's Court yesterday and had been released on bail.

Govt 'working on' farmers' aid package

CT. 25/4/92 (3)

Political Correspondent

FARMERS in drought-stricken areas will probably find out late next week what sort of aid they can expect from the government.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk told Parliament yesterday the measures were still under discussion and had still to be forwarded to cabinet for approval.

● Dr Van Niekerk also said that steps to combine general and own affairs agriculture departments were well under way.

Pending food crisis leads to rethink

③ CT 27/4/92

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — A large percentage of South Africa's population, now and in the future, would be unable to afford enough food to maintain health and to support development, deputy director-general of the Agriculture Department Mr C S Blignaut said at the weekend.

Stressing that the affordability of food was under great pressure, Mr Blignaut said consumer income was

low because of unemployment and negative or weak economic growth.

Nor would the economy recover overnight, he told a meeting of the Fertiliser Society of SA.

A simple and obvious solution to the problems would be to introduce price control on farm products and consumer prices, Mr Blignaut said.

Another option was to open up the country's borders so that highly subsidised foods could be dumped in South Africa. This might solve the

food affordability problem in the short term, but the problems of unemployment and low economic growth would worsen drastically.

Before the drought struck, the economic growth rate was estimated at between 2% and 3%. Taking the drought into account, no growth or negative growth was expected.

Stellenbosch University's Institute for Future Research said black South African consumers in the year 2000 would be overwhelmingly poor —

even if the economic growth rate was 5%.

Mr Blignaut said the destruction of agriculture through a cheap food policy would have catastrophic effects on platteland communities.

South Africa's rapid population growth was placing increasing pressure on agricultural resources.

It was estimated that over the next few decades the area of arable land per capita would fall well below the accepted norm of 0,4ha.

'Massive' aid for farmers

CAPE TOWN — Massive state aid for the drought-stricken agricultural sector is expected to far exceed the R1bn allocated for drought relief in the Budget.

Experts believe R3bn would be necessary to address the problems of a sector threatened with total collapse. This estimate appears to be in line with government thinking. Finance Department director-general Gerhard Croeser said at the weekend that additional government expenditure of R2bn — or 2% of the national Budget — was likely this year.

A rescue package for farmers will be considered by the Minister's Council today and by the Cabinet on Wednesday, Agricultural Development superintendent-general Frans van der Merwe said.

^{B1000 27/4/92}
^{(3) gen}
LINDA ENSOR

Agricultural Minister Kraai van Niekerk is expected to disclose details of the package during the own affairs vote on agricultural development early in May.

Speaking at a Stellenbosch University Business School conference, Croeser said the drought had been far more devastating than anticipated and the R1bn relief allocated in the Budget would not be nearly sufficient to solve farming problems on a sound, long-term basis.

Maize imports will be 80% higher than initially planned.

The additional R2bn would increase the deficit before borrowing to R18bn (or

To Page 2

Farm aid

about 5% of GDP) from the R16bn (or 4,5% determined at the time of the Budget, Croeser said.

Farmers need financial assistance to plant for the new season, to pay employees and to keep up interest payments on debts. The total agricultural debt is estimated at R17bn, with interest payments running at about R2,5bn annually.

Aid measures are expected to include subsidies on interest repayments on old and new debt, subsidies for agricultural inputs, government loans and government guarantees for loans.

National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) GM Giel van Zyl said on Friday the agricultural sector would collapse without massive state assistance, and added that 40% of the summer grain producers, who produced 80% of the crop, were threatened with bankruptcy this year.

Whereas it was estimated initially that imports of about 2,5-million tons of maize would be necessary, Maize Board GM Peter Cownie said it was now apparent that 4,6-million tons would have to be imported. Only about one-million or 1,5-million tons from this year's crop of 2,1-million tons

^{(3) gen} From Page 1

would be made commercially available. Carry-over stock from last year amounted to 900 000 tons.

SA needs 6,7-million tons of maize annually to meet domestic requirements. Only 160 000 tons have been imported so far — mainly from the US and Argentina — and a further 250 000 tons are en route by sea to SA. The total import bill will be about R2bn and government has made arrangements with local banks for loans to pay for the imports.

Agriculture director-general Harry Hattingh said a price of about R450 had been obtained and if the internal selling price — to be announced on May 1 — was in the region of R480-R485 a ton as expected, a profit of about R30 a ton would be achieved. This would mean a gain of about R138m. Hattingh said this would be used to cover part of the fixed cost of government's silo capacity not utilised by local production. These costs total about R247m annually.

GERALD REILLY reports the Wheat Board is to pay financially strapped farmers an additional R17 a ton from the Wheat Reserve Fund.

Summer crops devastated by drought

PRETORIA — The extent to which drought damaged this year's summer crops is illustrated by Agriculture Department figures released yesterday which show that in some areas yields were as little as a seventh of the 1990/91 season's levels.

The figures show that in the western Transvaal, where drought damage was greatest, the maize crop was down to 314 000 tons compared with 2,3-million tons last year.

Figures for other areas are: eastern Free State 132 000 tons (699 000 tons last year); northern Free State 415 000 tons (1,2-million); eastern Transvaal 868 000 tons (1,95-million); PWV 282 000 tons (755 000); northern Cape 126 000 tons (409 000); southern Free State 35 000 tons (118 000).

The department estimates the total crop at 2,433-million tons, compared with 7,8-million tons last year.

The white maize yield was 985 000 tons (3,8-million) — one of the lowest yet recorded. Domestic demand for white maize is about 3,3-million tons.

B/Dun 28/4/92 (3) Gen
GERALD HEILLY

Other summer crops were also devastated — sunflower seed was reduced to 170 000 tons, compared with 589 000 tons last year; soya beans were down to 72 000 tons from 126 000 tons and grain sorghum to 95 000 tons from 240 000 tons.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said the figures showed the extent of the 1991/92 summer drought disaster and underlined the urgent need for "big" government aid for farmers.

Later this week Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk is expected to announce additional state aid, which experts predict will not be less than R2bn. Government has already allocated R1bn.

Our correspondent reports from Port Elizabeth that a purchasing scheme whereby farmers could purchase breeding stock from drought disaster areas to save them being slaughtered, has been announced by the Meat Board.

Farmers who have the grazing to use such animals for future production purposes may apply for loans at reduced interest rates to purchase such animals.

Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO) spokesman Jan van der Walt said yesterday this would ease the pressure on the slaughter stock market. "The drought situation is deteriorating progressively and it is a matter of great urgency that suitable breeding stock are removed from the drought disaster areas."

Meanwhile, two ships, carrying 41 000 tons of wheat and maize for SA and Zimbabwe, are scheduled to dock in Port Elizabeth today.

The bulk cargo carrier Constanza M is expected today, bringing 14 000 tons of wheat from Canada as part of a drought relief programme.

Also docking today with 27 000 tons of maize from the Argentine, destined for Zimbabwe, will be the cargo ship World Ares.

Back at the ranch, healthy herds make for healthy humans

STAR 29/4/92

③ Gen

The farmers' fight against TB and other diseases is on, reports Agricultural Correspondent GEORGE NICHOLAS.

FARMERS are planning to take a hand in combating tuberculosis, which is the biggest killer of people in South Africa today. They are deeply concerned about the incidence of the disease in their cattle herds and the significant health risk it entails for humans. Many farmers are now calling for a levy to be imposed on their industry to raise funds for

the eradication not only of tuberculosis but also of contagious abortion in their herds, both of which diseases can affect humans. Tuberculosis can destroy the entire herd of a dairy farmer if he fails to take efficient control measures, and the raw milk from an infected herd is a dangerous source of infection for humans. Humans consuming raw milk

obtained from a cow which is infected with contagious abortion develop an undulating fever and arthritis, and the disease may also cause sterility in humans. Pasteurised milk obtained from herds which are infected by these diseases, however, is

perfectly safe for human consumption. Schemes to eradicate these diseases have been in operation for some time but the indications are that State veterinarians are no longer able to cope alone with the task of testing herds free of charge.

The high cost of having their herds tested at regular intervals by their private veterinarians has deterred many farmers from taking this option. A working group of the Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO) and the State Veterinary Service have held discussions

on a possible solution to the problem, and its recommendations are among the various subjects being considered at an RPO congress held in Pretoria yesterday and today. The relevant motion on the agenda draws attention to the financial losses caused by the

two diseases to producers of meat and milk and the health risk faced by consumers, and calls upon the congress to recognise the importance of an uninterrupted, persistent and accelerated campaign aimed at eradicating the diseases. The motion points out that the first priority requiring attention is the lack of sufficient funds for combating the dis-

eases and it urges the congress to express support for the principle of a levy contribution by the red meat industry. The motion is to be submitted by the northern Cape and eastern Cape branches of the organisation. Another motion expresses concern about the ever-widening gap between producer and consumer prices of red meat.

Murder on farm prompts grim warning

STAT --30/4/92
By Shirley Woodgate

An 82-year-old widow was found murdered on her Verkeerdevlei farm early yesterday morning, bringing to eight the number of people who have died violently in attacks on Free State farm in the last four months.

Six of the murders were committed in the Verkeerdevlei area, said a police spokesman.

The latest attack has prompted a warning from OFS Agricultural Union president Dr Piet Gous that "the hunting season on the elderly in rural areas

is open. The Government must immediately implement resolutions passed by my union and realise that it is not the new constitution which is the top priority in South Africa, but the killing of whites and blacks."

Police found Jeanetta Pretorius dead in the bedroom of the farm Rietspruit yesterday. Mrs Pretorius had lived alone on the farm after her husband died last year, said the police spokesman.

The latest slaying comes two months after hundreds of farmers from across the Free State, politicians, and top SADF and

③ Gen
SAP officials attended a congress specially convened by Dr Gous in Bloemfontein.

Tough resolutions included calls for a drastic increase in the number of police in the Free State rural areas and financial help for farmers to buy 24-hour radio equipment, safety fences, guards and patrols.

Farmers also approved resolutions stressing the prevention of illegal squatting and promotion of anti-trespassing legislation. They called on the Government to allow national servicemen who had completed their basics to do further military duty in their own areas.

8. Indien 'n kworum by die tweede vergadering van ouers bedoel in regulasie 5 (b), weer nie teenwoordig is nie, kanselleer die voorsitter die vergadering en stel hy die streekhoofdirekteur skriftelik daarvan in kennis en die streekhoofdirekteur stel die Direkteur-generaal dienoreenkomstig in kennis wat op sy beurt die Minister in kennis stel.

9. In 'n geval bedoel in regulasie 8, bepaal die Minister na eie goeëdunke, maar na oorlegpleging met die Raad, die taalmediumbeleid vir die betrokke skool.

No. R. 1176

30 April 1992

WET OP ONDERWYS EN OPLEIDING, 1979
(WET 90 VAN 1979)

REGULASIES BETREFFENDE BESTUURSLIG-
GAME VIR STAATSONDERSTEUNDE PLAAS-
SKOLE, 19 . .

Die Minister van Onderwys en Opleiding het kragtens artikel 44 van die Wet op Onderwys en Opleiding, 1979 (Wet 90 van 1979), die regulasies in die Bylae hiervan vervat, uitgevaardig.

BYLAE

Omskrywings

1. In hierdie regulasies het enige uitdrukking waarvan in die Wet 'n betekenis geheg is, die betekenis aldus daaraan geheg, en, tensy uit die samehang anders blyk, beteken—

“bestuursliggaam”, met betrekking tot 'n skool, 'n bestuursliggaam ooreenkomstig regulasie 3 saamgestel;

“die Wet” die Wet op Onderwys en Opleiding, 1979 (Wet 90 van 1979);

“inspekteur” 'n kringinspekteur of enige ander beampete kragtens artikel 33 (1) van die Wet gemagtig om 'n inspeksie te hou of 'n ondersoek te doen met betrekking tot enige aangeleentheid in daardie artikel bedoel;

“kringsinspekteur” 'n beampete van die Departement wat in beheer is van onderwys in 'n inspeksiekring deur die Minister kragtens artikel 2 (2) van die Wet bepaal;

“plaas” ook 'n landbouhoewe;

“skool” 'n Staatsondersteunde skool op 'n plaas geleë;

“streekhoofdirekteur” 'n beampete van die Departement wat in beheer is van onderwys in 'n streek deur die Minister kragtens artikel 2 (2) van die Wet bepaal.

*Bestuursliggame ingestel kragtens
artikel 8 (8) van die Wet*

2. (1) 'n Bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (8) van die Wet bestaan vir alle doeleindes voort totdat dit deur 'n bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (9) van die Wet en saamgestel ooreenkomstig hierdie regulasies, vervang word.

8. If at a second meeting of parents contemplated in regulation 5 (b) a quorum is again not present, the chairman shall cancel the meeting and inform the regional chief director accordingly in writing and the regional chief director shall similarly inform the Director-General, who shall in turn inform the Minister.

9. In a case contemplated in regulation 8, the Minister shall at his sole discretion, but after consultation with the Council, determine the language medium policy for the school concerned.

No. R. 1176

30 April 1992

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT, 1979
(ACT 90 OF 1979)

GOVERNING BODY REGULATIONS FOR STATE-
AIDED FARM SCHOOLS, 19 . .

The Minister of Education and Training has under section 44 of the Education and Training Act, 1979 (Act 90 of 1979), made the regulations contained in the Schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall have the meaning so assigned thereto, and, unless the context otherwise indicates—

“circuit inspector” means an officer of the Department who is in control of education in an inspection circuit determined by the Minister in terms of section 2 (2) of the Act;

“farm” includes an agricultural holding;

“governing body”, in relation to a school, means a governing body constituted in accordance with regulation 3;

“inspector” means a circuit inspector or any other officer authorised in terms of section 33 (1) of the Act to hold an inspection or an inquiry in regard to any matter referred to in that section;

“regional chief director” means an officer of the Department who is in control of education in a region determined by the Minister in terms of section 2 (2) of the Act;

“school” means a State-aided school situated on a farm;

“the Act” means the Education and Training Act, 1979 (Act 90 of 1979).

*Governing bodies instituted in terms of
section 8 (8) of the Act*

2. (1) A governing body referred to in section 8 (8) of the Act shall for all purposes continue to exist until replaced by a governing body referred to in section 8 (9) of the Act and constituted in terms of these regulations.

(2) Wanneer 'n bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (8) vervang word deur 'n bestuursliggaam saamgestel ooreenkomstig hierdie regulasies, gaan die regte, verpligtinge, bevoegdheids en pligte van eersgenoemde oor op laasgenoemde.

Samestelling

3. (1) 'n Bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (9) van die Wet bestaan uit hoogstens vyf lede en word soos volg saamgestel:

- (a) Die eienaar van die skool of sy verteenwoordiger, wat 'n persoon moet wees wat deur die Direkteur-generaal goedgekeur is: Met dien verstande dat as die eienaar uit 'n liggaam van persone bestaan, die eienaar sodanige verteenwoordiger aanstel;
- (b) vier persone uit eie geledere deur die ouers van leerlinge wat die skool bywoon, verkies op 'n wyse deur die streekhoofdirekteur bepaal: Met dien verstande dat regulasies 18 en 19 van die Regulasies betreffende Rade en Komitees vir Openbare Skole, 1982, *mutatis mutandis* van toepassing is op verkiesings ingevolge hierdie paragraaf.

(2) Die bestuursliggaam kies 'n voorsitter en 'n visevoorsitter uit eie geledere.

(3) Indien die ouers van leerlinge wat die skool bywoon, om enige rede in gebreke bly om 'n lid bedoel in subregulasie (1) (b) te verkies, wys die streekhoofdirekteur 'n persoon uit die geledere van die ouers aan om die vakature te vul.

(4) Geen vakature in die bestuursliggaam of tekort in die ledetal van die bestuursliggaam raak—

- (a) die geldigheid van die samestelling van die bestuursliggaam of sy voortgesette bestaan nie;
- (b) behoudens enige bepaling van hierdie regulasies betreffende 'n kworum, enigiets wat die bestuursliggaam verrig nie.

Sekretaris van bestuursliggaam

4. (1) Die bestuursliggaam kies uit eie geledere 'n sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam, en indien die sekretaris afwesig is van 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam, wys die bestuursliggaam een van sy lede aan om by sodanige vergadering as sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam op te tree.

(2) Die prinsipaal of, wanneer die pos vakant is, die waarnemende prinsipaal is *ex officio* die assistent-sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam, en staan die sekretaris by met die opstel van agendas en die skryf van notules.

(3) Die assistentsekretaris van 'n bestuursliggaam kan aan die besprekings op 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam deelneem en aanbevelings by die bestuursliggaam doen, maar het nie stemreg op sodanige vergadering nie.

(2) When a governing body referred to in section 8 (8) is replaced by a governing body constituted in terms of these regulations, the rights, liabilities, powers and duties of the former shall pass to the latter.

Constitution

(3) Gen

3. (1) A governing body referred to in section 8 (9) of the Act shall consist of not more than five members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) The owner of the school or his representative, who shall be a person approved by the Director-General: Provided that if the owner consists of a body of persons the owner shall appoint such representative;
- (b) four persons elected from among their number by the parents of pupils attending the school, in a manner determined by the regional chief director: Provided that regulations 18 and 19 of the Regulations regarding Councils and Committees for Public Schools, 1982, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to elections in terms of this paragraph.

(2) The governing body shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among their number.

(3) Should the parents of pupils attending the school for any reason fail to elect a member referred to in subregulation (1) (b) the regional chief director shall designate a person from among the parents to fill the vacancy.

(4) No vacancy in the governing body or deficiency in the number of members of the governing body shall—

- (a) affect the validity of the constitution of the governing body or its continued existence;
- (b) subject to any provision of these regulations regarding a quorum, affect anything done by the governing body.

Secretary of governing body

4. (1) The governing body shall elect from among their number a secretary of the governing body, and if the secretary is absent from a meeting of the governing body, the governing body shall designate one of its members to act as secretary of the governing body at such meeting.

(2) The principal or, when the post is vacant, the acting principal shall *ex officio* be the assistant secretary of the governing body, and shall assist the secretary in the drawing up of agendas and the writing of minutes.

(3) The assistant secretary of a governing body may take part in the discussions at a meeting of the governing body and make recommendations to the body, but shall not have the right to vote at such meeting.

Ampstermyn van lede van 'n bestuursliggaam

5. (1) Behoudens die bepalings van hierdie regulasies beklee 'n lid van 'n bestuursliggaam, uitgesonderd die eienaar of sy verteenwoordiger, sy amp vir 'n tydperk van drie jaar, tensy hy voor die verstryking van sy ampstermyn bedank deur sy bedanking skriftelik by die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam in te dien of sy amp om enige ander rede ontruim.

(2) Wanneer 'n bestuursliggaam hersaamgestel moet word as gevolg van die verstryking van die ampstermyn van sy lede, moet die vergadering van kiesers vir die verkiesing van die lede in regulasie 3 (1) (b) beoog, plaasvind voordat die ampstermyn, of die verlengde ampstermyn in subregulasie (4) beoog, verstryk, en in so 'n geval neem die ampstermyn van die nuut verkose lede 'n aanvang op die dag wat volg op die dag waarop die ampstermyn van die bestaande lede verstryk.

(3) Indien dit as gevolg van onrus of enige ander omstandighede buite die beheer van die kiesbeampte nie moontlik is om 'n vergadering van kiesers vir die verkiesing van die lede beoog in regulasie 3 (1) (b) voor die verstryking van die ampstermyn van die bestaande lede van die bestuursliggaam byeen te roep nie, bly die bestaande lede beoog in regulasie 3 (1) (b), ondanks die bepalings van subregulasie (1), nog drie jaar lank in hul amp aan: Met dien verstande dat die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur kan gelas dat 'n verkiesing van nuwe lede ingevolge regulasie 3 (1) (b) so gou moontlik gehou word, in welke geval die persone aldus verkies, hul amp beklee vir die oorblywende deel van die termyn waarvoor hul voorgangers hul amp sou beklee het as dit nie vir die verkiesing was nie.

(4) Ondanks die bepalings van subregulasies (1) en (3) kan die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur na goeddunke die ampstermyn van lede van 'n bestuursliggaam verleng: Met dien verstande dat 'n verlenging van 'n ampstermyn met meer as 12 maande nie mag geskied sonder die vooraf verkreeë toestemming van die Direkteur-generaal nie.

(5) Indien die lede van 'n bestuursliggaam hul normale ampstermyn soos vermeld in subregulasie (1) as gevolg van die werking van subregulasie (4) oorskry, word die lede van die daaropvolgende bestuursliggaam verkies slegs vir die oorblywende deel van die ampstermyn wat hulle normaalweg sou uitdien.

Beëindiging van lidmaatskap

6. Die lidmaatskap van enige lid van 'n bestuursliggaam in regulasie 3 (1) (b) bedoel, kan te eniger tyd deur die Minister, na oorlegpleging met die eienaar van die skool, beëindig word as die Minister van oordeel is dat die optrede of gedrag van die betrokke lid nie die belange van die skool of van die onderwys bevorder nie.

Term of office of members of a governing body

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of these regulations, a member of a governing body other than the owner or his or its representative, shall hold office for a period of three years unless he resigns by submitting his resignation in writing to the secretary of the governing body or vacates his office for any other reason before the expiry of his term of office. (3) Gen

(2) When a governing body is required to be reconstituted as a result of the expiry of the term of office of its members, the meeting of voters for the election of the members contemplated in regulation 3 (1) (b) shall take place before the term of office, or the extended term of office contemplated in subregulation (4) expires, and in such case the term of office of the newly elected members shall commence on the day following the day on which the term of office of the existing members expires.

(3) If, as a result of unrest or any other circumstances beyond the control of the electoral officer, it is not possible to convene a meeting of voters for the election of the members contemplated in regulation 3 (1) (b) before the expiry of the term of office of the existing members of the governing body, the existing members contemplated in regulation 3 (1) (b) shall, notwithstanding the provisions of subregulation (1), remain in office for another three years: Provided that the regional chief director concerned may direct that an election of new members in terms of regulation 3 (1) (b), be held as soon as possible, in which case the persons so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the term for which their precursors would have held office had it not been for the election.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subregulations (1) and (3) the regional chief director concerned may at his discretion extend the term of office of the members of any governing body: Provided that an extension of any term of office for longer than 12 months shall not occur without the prior approval of the Director-General.

(5) Should the members of a governing body exceed their normal term of office as stated in subregulation (1) as a result of the operation of subregulation (4), the members of the succeeding governing body shall only be elected for the remainder of the term of office that they would normally have served.

Termination of membership

6. The membership of any member of a governing body referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b) may be terminated by the Minister at any time after consultation with the owner of the school if the Minister is of the opinion that the conduct or behaviour of the member concerned does not promote the interests of the school or of education.

Dagbestuur van 'n bestuursliggaam

7. (1) Die dagbestuur van 'n bestuursliggaam bestaan uit die voorsitter, die visevoorsitter, die sekretaris, een ander lid deur die bestuursliggaam vir hierdie doel aangewys en die assistentsekretaris.

(2) Die assistentsekretaris kan aan die besprekings op vergaderings van die dagbestuur deelneem en kan aanbevelings by die dagbestuur doen, maar het nie stemreg op sodanige vergaderings nie.

(3) 'n Bestuursliggaam kan enige van sy bevoegdhede en werksaamhede aan sy dagbestuur opdra: Met dien verstande dat die bestuursliggaam nie ontdoen is van 'n bevoegdheid of werksaamheid wat hy aan sy dagbestuur opgedra het nie, en dat hy enige besluit van die dagbestuur op sy eerste vergadering nadat die onderhawige besluit geneem is, kan wysig of tersyde stel.

(4) Die kworum vir 'n vergadering van 'n dagbestuur is drie lede van die dagbestuur.

(5) By 'n stemming op 'n vergadering van 'n dagbestuur het die voorsitter slegs 'n beraadslagende stem.

(6) Die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam is ook die sekretaris van die dagbestuur.

(7) Notule moet gehou word van elke vergadering van die dagbestuur en sodanige notule moet op die eersvolgende vergadering van die bestuursliggaam vir goedkeuring voorgelê word.

Belê van vergaderings van bestuursliggame

8. (1) Die eerste vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam word deur die betrokke kringinspekteur belê, en op hierdie vergadering word die bestuursliggaam behoorlik gekonstitueer: Met dien verstande dat die datum van die vergadering nie later nie as drie weke na die datum van die aanvang van die ampstermyn van die lede moet wees: Met dien verstande voorts dat die hou van die eerste vergadering op 'n later datum na goeddunke deur die kringinspekteur goedgekeur kan word.

(2) Ondanks die bepalings van subregulasie (1) mag 'n bestuursliggaam wat hersaamgestel is met die oog op die verstryking van die ampstermyn van die vorige lede, nie vergader voordat bedoelde ampstermyn verstryk het nie.

Eerste vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam

9. Op sy eerste vergadering moet 'n bestuursliggaam—

- (a) 'n voorsitter en 'n visevoorsitter ooreenkomstig regulasie 3 (2) en 'n sekretaris ooreenkomstig regulasie 4 (1) kies;
- (b) 'n dagbestuur ooreenkomstig regulasie 7 (1) saamstel;
- (c) besluit hoe lank vooraf kennis van 'n buitengewone vergadering gegee moet word;
- (d) die prosedure bepaal wat gevolg moet word in verband met kennisgewings betreffende 'n buitengewone vergadering;

Executive committee of a governing body

7. (1) The executive committee of a governing body shall consist of the chairman, the vice-chairman, the secretary, one other member designated by the governing body for this purpose and the assistant secretary.

(2) The assistant secretary may take part in the discussions at meetings of the executive committee and may make recommendations to the executive committee, but shall not have the right to vote at such meetings.

(3) A governing body may assign any of its powers and functions to its executive committee: Provided that the governing body shall not be divested of any power or function which it has assigned to its executive committee and that it may alter or set aside any decision of the executive committee at its first meeting after the decision in question has been made.

(4) The quorum for any meeting of an executive committee shall be three members of the executive committee.

(5) In voting at a meeting of an executive committee, the chairman shall have a deliberative vote only.

(6) The secretary of the governing body shall also be the secretary of the executive committee.

(7) Minutes shall be kept of every meeting of the executive committee and such minutes shall be submitted for approval at the first ensuing meeting of the governing body.

Convening of meetings of governing bodies

8. (1) The first meeting of any governing body shall be convened by the circuit inspector concerned, and at this meeting the governing body shall be duly constituted: Provided that the date of the meeting shall not be later than three weeks after the date of the commencement of the term of office of the members: Provided further that the holding of the first meeting on a later date may be approved by the circuit inspector if he sees fit to do so.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subregulation (1), a governing body which has been reconstituted in view of the termination of the term of office of the previous members shall not meet before the term of office referred to has terminated.

First meeting of a governing body

9. At its first meeting a governing body shall—

- (a) elect a chairman and a vice-chairman in accordance with regulation 3 (2) and a secretary in accordance with regulation 4 (1);
- (b) constitute an executive committee in accordance with regulation 7 (1);
- (c) decide on the length of the period of notice that shall be given for an extraordinary meeting;
- (d) determine the procedure to be followed in connection with notices concerning any extraordinary meeting;

- (e) sodanige ander sake behandel as wat omstandighede vereis.

Daaropvolgende vergaderings van 'n bestuursliggaam

10. (1) Gewone vergaderings van 'n bestuursliggaam moet minstens een maal per kwartaal gehou word.

(2) Die kennisgewings van vergaderings moet die dag, tyd en plek van die vergadering uitdruklik vermeld en vergesel gaan van 'n sakelys.

(3) Kennisgewings van gewone vergaderings moet skriftelik wees en moet op gesag van die voorsitter deur die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam aan die lede gepos of persoonlik aan hulle oorhandig word sodat dit minstens agt dae voor die dag van die betrokke vergadering in hul besit is.

(4) Behoudens die bepalings van regulasie 12 doen die nie-ontvangs van 'n kennisgewing bedoel in subregulasie (2) en die gevolglike afwesigheid van 'n lid nie afbreuk aan die geldigheid van die verrigtinge op sodanige vergadering nie.

(5) Indien die voorsitter om enige rede versuim of in gebreke bly om minstens een gewone vergadering per kwartaal te belê, kan die visevoorsitter of minstens vier lede na afloop van 'n kwartaal waartydens daar nie so 'n vergadering gehou is nie, die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam gelas om 'n vergadering te belê en aan al die lede kennisgewings uit te reik waarin die dag, tyd en plek van die vergadering vermeld word.

(6) Die voorsitter kan te eniger tyd 'n buitengewone vergadering belê indien omstandighede so 'n vergadering na sy oordeel noodsaak: Met dien verstande dat so 'n vergadering belê moet word op die skriftelike versoek van minstens vier lede van die bestuursliggaam.

(7) Die voorsitter moet 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam of van die dagbestuur belê indien die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur of kringinspekteur hom aldus versoek.

Notule

11. (1) Die notule van elke vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam word in die taal wat die liggaam bepaal, deur die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam gehou in 'n boek of lêer wat uitsluitlik vir dié doel gebruik word en wat deur daardie sekretaris in veilige bewaring by die skool gehou moet word.

(2) Die sekretaris van 'n bestuursliggaam moet die name van die lede wat teenwoordig is en wat afwesig is, met vermelding daarvan of sodanige afwesigheid met of sonder verlof is, in die notule van elke vergadering aanteken.

(3) Nadat 'n gewone vergadering gekonstitueer is, word die notule van die vorige gewone vergadering sowel as die notule van enige daaropvolgende buitengewone vergadering of enige vergadering van die dagbestuur gelees en deur die handtekening van die voorsitter bekragtig: Met dien verstande dat besware teen die notule voor die bekragtiging daarvan geopper en afgehandel moet word.

- (e) deal with such other matters as circumstances may require.

Subsequent meetings of a governing body

10. (1) Ordinary meetings of a governing body shall be held at least once a quarter.

(2) The notices of meetings shall state explicitly the day, time and venue of the meeting and shall be accompanied by an agenda.

(3) Notices of ordinary meetings shall be in writing and shall be posted or personally handed to the members by the secretary of the governing body on the authority of the chairman, so as to be in their possession at least eight days before the day of the meeting concerned.

(4) Subject to the provisions of regulation 12, the non-receipt of a notice referred to in subregulation (2) and the consequent absence of a member shall not be prejudicial to the validity of the proceedings at such meeting.

(5) Should the chairman for any reason neglect or fail to convene at least one ordinary meeting a quarter, the vice-chairman or at least four members may on the expiry of a quarter during which no such meeting was held, direct the secretary of the governing body to convene a meeting and to issue notices to all the members in which the day, time and venue of the meeting are stated.

(6) The chairman may at any time convene an extraordinary meeting if, in his opinion, circumstances necessitate such a meeting: Provided that such a meeting shall be convened if at least four members of the governing body request it in writing.

(7) The chairman shall convene a meeting of the governing body or of the executive committee should the regional chief director or circuit inspector concerned request him to do so.

Minutes

11. (1) The minutes of every meeting of a governing body shall be recorded, in the language determined by the body, by the secretary of the governing body in a book or file which shall be used for that purpose exclusively and which shall be retained at the school in safe-keeping by that secretary.

(2) The secretary of a governing body shall record the names of the members who are present and who are absent, stating whether such absence is with or without leave, in the minutes of every meeting.

(3) After an ordinary meeting has been constituted, the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting, as well as the minutes of any subsequent extraordinary meeting or any meeting of the executive committee, shall be read and confirmed by the signature of the chairman: Provided that objections to the minutes shall be raised and dealt with before the minutes are confirmed.

(4) Die notule van 'n bestuursliggaam moet te alle redelike tye by die skool ter insae lê van 'n lid van sodanige liggaam en die betrokke kringinspekteur of 'n deur hom daartoe gemagtigde beampte: Met dien verstande dat die kringinspekteur kan versoek dat 'n afskrif van die notule van enige vergadering aan hom beskikbaar gestel word.

Kworum

12. (1) Die kworum vir 'n vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam is vier lede van die bestuursliggaam.

(2) Indien daar op 'n vergadering wat behoorlik belê is, nie 'n kworum teenwoordig is nie, word sodanige vergadering uitgestel tot 'n dag minstens agt, maar hoogstens 12, dae vanaf die dag waarop sodanige vergadering belê is, en op die aldus bepaalde dag handel die vergadering, wat ooreenkomstig regulasie 10 (2) en (3) belê moet word, die agenda af, ongeag of daar 'n kworum is.

Stemming

13. (1) Alle sake wat op 'n vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam bespreek word, word beslis deur 'n meerderheid van die lede van die bestuursliggaam wat teenwoordig is en stem.

(2) 'n Lid van 'n bestuursliggaam beskik oor een stem wanneer 'n saak tot stemming gebring word: Met dien verstande dat, in die geval van 'n staking van stemme, die voorsitter of die persoon wat in sy afwesigheid as voorsitter optree, benewens sy beraadslagende stem ook 'n beslissende stem het.

(3) Ten opsigte van elke besluit word daar genotuleer hoeveel lede ten gunste van of teen 'n mosie gestem het, en op versoek van 'n lid gelas die voorsitter dat die stem van sodanige lid aangeteken word.

(4) Wanneer die voorsitter so reël, word daar by wyse van stembriefies gestem.

Beslissing van voorsitter

14. Die beslissing van die voorsitter op 'n punt van orde of procedure is bindend tensy 'n lid dit onmiddellik betwis, in welke geval sodanige beslissing sonder bespreking voorgelê word aan die vergadering, wie se beslissing finaal is.

Bywoning van vergaderings deur nie lede en verlatting van vergadering deur prinsipaal

15. (1) Elke vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam is 'n geslote vergadering en, behoudens die bepalinge van hierdie regulasies, word niemand wat nie 'n lid is nie, toegelaat om dit by te woon nie.

(2) Die bestuursliggaam kan besluit dat die betrokke prinsipaal die vergadering tydelik moet verlaat wanneer 'n aangeleentheid rakende sy persoon bespreek word.

(4) The minutes of a governing body shall lie open to inspection at the school at all reasonable times to a member of such body and the circuit inspector concerned or any officer authorised by him thereto: Provided that the circuit inspector may request that a copy of the minutes of any meeting be made available to him.

Quorum

12. (1) The quorum for a meeting of a governing body shall be four members of the governing body.

(2) If there is no quorum present at any properly convened meeting, such meeting shall be postponed to a day at least eight, but not more than 12, days from the day on which such meeting was convened, and on the day so determined the meeting, which shall be convened in accordance with regulation 10 (2) and (3), shall deal with the agenda, irrespective of whether there is a quorum.

Voting

13. (1) All matters discussed at a meeting of a governing body shall be decided by a majority of the members of the governing body who are present and voting.

(2) A member of a governing body shall have one vote when a matter is put to the vote: Provided that, in the event of an equality of votes, the chairman or the person acting as chairman in his absence shall, in addition to his deliberative vote, also have a casting vote.

(3) In respect of every decision, the number of members voting for or against any motion shall be recorded in the minutes, and at the request of any member the chairman shall direct that the vote of such member be recorded.

(4) When so ruled by the chairman, voting shall be by ballot.

Ruling of chairman

14. The ruling of the chairman on a point of order or procedure shall be binding unless immediately challenged by a member, in which event such ruling shall be submitted, without discussion, to the meeting, whose decision shall be final.

Attendance of meetings by non-members and leaving of meeting by principal

15. (1) Every meeting of a governing body shall be a closed meeting and, save as provided in these regulations, no person who is not a member shall be permitted to attend.

(2) The governing body may decide that the principal concerned should absent himself temporarily from the meeting when any matter concerning his person is discussed.

(3) Indien die bestuursliggaam die teenwoordigheid van 'n personeellid van die betrokke skool op enige vergadering van die bestuursliggaam verlang in verband met enige saak wat binne die voorgeskrewe pligte van 'n bestuursliggaam val, moet die betrokke personeellid, wanneer hy daartoe versoek word, sodanige vergadering bywoon vir sodanige tydperk as wat die bestuursliggaam bepaal.

(4) Indien 'n bestuursliggaam dit nodig ag, kan enige ander persoon wat na die oordeel van die bestuursliggaam moontlik inligting kan verskaf oor enige saak wat binne die bevoegdheid van die bestuursliggaam val, 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam bywoon vir sodanige tydperk as wat die bestuursliggaam bepaal.

(5) Enige beampte wat daartoe gemagtig is deur die Direkteur-generaal of deur die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur of kringinspekteur, het die reg om enige vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam in 'n raadgevende hoedanigheid of as waarnemer by te woon.

Prosedure ten opsigte van vakatures en die afwesigheid van lede van bestuursliggame

16. (1) 'n Lid van 'n bestuursliggaam bedoel in regulasie 3 (1) (b) —

- (a) wat bedank;
- (b) wat te sterwe kom;
- (c) wat nie meer ingevolge die regulasies bedoel in regulasie 3 (1) (b) as lid ingevolge daardie regulasie kwalifiseer nie;
- (d) wat van drie agtereenvolgende gewone vergaderings sonder kennisgewing of 'n vir die bestuursliggaam aanvaarbare rede afwesig was; of
- (e) wie se lidmaatskap kragtens regulasie 6 beëindig word;

hou op om 'n lid van die betrokke bestuursliggaam te wees.

(2) Indien die amp van voorsitter, visevoorsitter of sekretaris vakant raak, kies die lede van die bestuursliggaam iemand uit eie geledere om die betrokke amp te vul.

(3) Indien die voorsitter afwesig is van 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam, neem die visevoorsitter as voorsitter waar en indien sowel die voorsitter as die visevoorsitter afwesig is van 'n vergadering, kies die bestuursliggaam iemand uit eie geledere om op die vergadering voor te sit.

(4) Indien 'n lid afwesig is van 'n gewone vergadering van die bestuursliggaam sonder om 'n vir die bestuursliggaam aanvaarbare rede vir sy afwesigheid te verstrek, moet die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam hom skriftelik versoek om die rede vir sy afwesigheid te verstrek.

(5) Indien die amp van 'n lid van 'n bestuursliggaam ingevolge subregulasie (1) vakant geraak het, moet die voorsitter op die eersvolgende vergadering verklaar dat sodanige vakature ontstaan het en die redes vir die vakature verstrek.

(3) If the governing body requires the presence of a staff member of the school concerned at any meeting of the governing body in connection with any matter falling within the prescribed duties of a governing body, the staff member concerned shall, when requested to do so, attend such meeting for such period as the governing body may determine. (3) *gan*

(4) If a governing body considers it necessary any other person who, in the opinion of the governing body, may be able to provide information on any matter falling within the jurisdiction of the governing body may attend any meeting of the governing body for such period as the governing body may determine.

(5) Any officer authorised thereto by the Director-General or by the regional chief director or circuit inspector concerned shall have the right to attend any meeting of a governing body in an advisory capacity or as an observer.

Procedure in respect of vacancies and the absence of members of governing bodies

16. (1) A member of a governing body referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b) —

- (a) who resigns;
- (b) who dies;
- (c) who no longer, in terms of the regulations referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b), qualifies to be a member in terms of that regulation;
- (d) who has been absent without notice or a reason acceptable to the governing body from three consecutive ordinary meetings; or
- (e) whose membership is terminated in terms of regulation 6;

shall cease to be a member of the governing body concerned.

(2) If the office of chairman, vice-chairman or secretary becomes vacant, the members of the governing body shall, from among their number, elect a person to the office in question.

(3) If the chairman is absent from a meeting of the governing body, the vice-chairman shall act as chairman, and if both the chairman and the vice-chairman are absent from a meeting, the governing body shall, from among their number, elect a person to preside at the meeting.

(4) If a member is absent from any ordinary meeting of the governing body without stating a reason acceptable to the governing body for his absence, the secretary of the governing body shall request him, in writing, to state the reason for his absence.

(5) If the office of a member of any governing body has become vacant in terms of subregulation (1), the chairman shall at the next meeting declare that such vacancy has occurred and shall state the reasons for the vacancy.

(6) 'n Vakature veroorsaak deur die dood of ont-ruiming van die amp van 'n lid in regulasie 3 (1) (b) bedoel, word gevul by wyse van verkiesing deur die ouers van leerlinge ooreenkomstig daardie regulasie, vir die oorblywende deel van die ampstermyn van die lid wie se amp vakant geraak het.

(7) Die sekretaris van 'n bestuursliggaam moet onmiddellik nadat 'n vakature ingevolge subregulasie (2) of (6) gevul is, die betrokke kringinspekteur in kennis stel van die naam van die lid wie se amp vakant geraak het, die redes vir die vakature en die naam en adres van die lid wat verkies is om sodanige vakature te vul.

(8) Die kringinspekteur moet onverwyld—

- (a) die lid wat ingevolge subregulasie (2) verkies is, van sy verkiesing en ampstermyn in kennis stel;
- (b) 'n lid wie se lidmaatskap ingevolge subregulasie (1) (c) of (d) beëindig is, van die beëindiging van sy lidmaatskap in kennis stel;
- (c) die inligting beoog in subregulasie (7) skriftelik aan die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur verstrek.

Bevoegdhede en werksaamhede van 'n bestuursliggaam

17. (1) Benewens die bevoegdhede en werksaamhede wat bestuursliggame by hierdie regulasies verleen of opgelê word, is die bevoegdhede en werksaamhede van 'n bestuursliggaam—

- (a) om te voldoen aan die voorwaardes vir die registrasie van die skool soos opgelê kragtens artikel 8 (4) van die Wet;
- (b) om onderwysers aan te stel, te bevorder en te ontslaan, onderworpe aan die goedkeuring van die Minister kragtens artikel 13 (1) (b) van die Wet, en in die algemeen te voldoen aan die bepalinge van die Wet en die regulasies betreffende die diensvoorwaardes van onderwysers;
- (c) om verantwoordelikheid te aanvaar vir die ontvangs, oorhandiging of terugstuur van onderwysers se salaristjeks en in die algemeen te voldoen aan die regulasies betreffende die subsidiëring van onderwysposte by die skool;
- (d) om toesig te hou oor die prinsipaal en onderwysers, onderworpe aan die beheer wat deur die kringinspekteur uitgeoefen word;
- (e) om korrespondensie in verband met die skool te behartig;
- (f) om beheer uit te oefen oor Departementele toerusting;
- (g) om rekords te hou en sodanige opgawes, verslae en inligting in te dien as wat kragtens enige regulasie deur die Direkteur-generaal vereis word;
- (h) om inspeksieverslae te oorweeg;
- (i) om te voldoen aan die regulasies betreffende die toelating van en beheer oor leerlinge;

(6) Any vacancy caused by the death or vacation of office of a member referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b) shall be filled by election by the parents of pupils, in accordance with that regulation, for the remaining portion of the term of office of the member whose office has become vacant.

(7) The secretary of any governing body shall, immediately after any vacancy has been filled in terms of subregulation (2) or (6), inform the circuit inspector concerned of the name of the member whose office became vacant, the reasons for the vacancy and the name and address of the member elected to fill such vacancy.

(8) The circuit inspector shall without delay—

- (a) inform the member elected in terms of subregulation (2) of his election and term of office;
- (b) inform a member whose membership has been terminated in terms of subregulation (1) (c) or (d) of the termination of his membership;
- (c) provide the regional chief director concerned, in writing, with the information contemplated in subregulation (7).

Powers and functions of a governing body

17. (1) In addition to the powers and functions vested in or conferred upon governing bodies by these regulations, the powers and functions of any governing body shall be to—

- (a) comply with the conditions of registration of the school as imposed in terms of section 8 (4) of the Act;
- (b) appoint, promote and discharge teachers, subject to the approval of the Minister in terms of section 13 (1) (b) of the Act, and in general to comply with the provisions of the Act and the regulations relating to the conditions of service of teachers;
- (c) assume responsibility for the receipt, handing over or return of teachers' salary cheques and in general to comply with the regulations relating to the subsidisation of teaching posts at the school;
- (d) supervise the principal and teachers, subject to the control exercised by the circuit inspector;
- (e) attend to correspondence in connection with the school;
- (f) exercise control over Departmental equipment;
- (g) keep records and submit such returns, reports and information as may be required by the Director-General in terms of any regulation;
- (h) consider inspection reports;
- (i) comply with the regulations relating to the admission of and control over pupils;

- (j) om 'n skoolfonds te beheer ooreenkomstig die regulasies betreffende die beheer oor geld wat vir of met betrekking tot die skool ingesamel word; en
- (k) om enige regsaksie waarby die skool betrokke is, in te stel of te verdedig.

Lede van die bestuursliggaam ontvang geen betaling nie

18. (1) Geen lid van 'n bestuursliggaam mag enige betaling, regstreeks of onregstreeks, geldelik of ander, vir of in verband met sy dienste as lid van enigiemand ontvang nie.

(2) 'n Lid van 'n bestuursliggaam wat enige bepaling van subregulasie (1) oortree, is aan 'n misdryf skuldig en is by skuldigbevinding strafbaar met 'n boete of gevangenisstraf vir 'n tydperk van hoogstens drie maande.

Toegang tot boeke en dokumente

19. Die Direkteur-generaal, of enige beamppte beoorlik deur om hom daartoe gemagtig, het te eniger tyd toegang tot die boeke, notules en dokumente van 'n bestuursliggaam.

Opskorting van hierdie regulasies

20. Indien die Minister van oordeel is dat, in die geval van enige bestuursliggaam—

- (a) die persone in regulasie 3 (1) (b) bedoel, aanhoudend in gebreke gebly het om hul pligte bevredigend uit te voer of op 'n wyse opgetree het wat nie in die beste belang van die betrokke skool of van die onderwys is nie; of
- (b) die getal persone wat nie bereid is om ingevolge genoemde regulasie in die bestuursliggaam te dien nie, sodanig is dat dit die vorming van 'n kworum verhinder;

kan hy die toepassing van hierdie regulasies ten opsigte van die bestuursliggaam opskort vir die tydperk wat hy bepaal en gelas dat die persoon in regulasie 3 (1) (a) bedoel, vir alle doeleindes en vir die duur van die opskorting die bestuursliggaam moet wees.

Kort titel

21. Hierdie regulasies heet die Regulasies betreffende Bestuursliggame vir Staatsondersteunde Plaasskole, 19..

**PROVINSIALE ADMINISTRASIE VAN
DIE ORANJE-VRYSTAAT**

No. R. 1192

30 April 1992

**REGULASIES OOR HOSPITAALGELDE:
BLANKE EIESAKEHOSPITALE**

Kragtens artikel 22 (1) (e) en (2) van die Ordonnansie op Hospitale, 1971 (Ordonnansie No. 8 van 1971), vir sover die bepalings van Deel IV van die Grondwet van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1983 (Wet No. 110 van 1983), kragtens paragraaf (a) van Proklamasie No.

- (j) control any school fund in accordance with the regulations regarding the control of moneys which are collected for or in respect of the school; and ³ can
- (k) institute or defend any legal action involving the school.

Members of the governing body shall not receive payment

18. (1) No member of a governing body may receive any payment, direct or indirect, pecuniary or otherwise, from any person for or in connection with his services as a member.

(2) Any member of a governing body who contravenes any provision of subregulation (1) shall be guilty of any offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

Access to books and documents

19. The Director-General, or any officer duly authorised by him thereto, shall have access at any time to the books, minutes and documents of any governing body at any time.

Suspension of these regulations

20. If the Minister is of the opinion that in the case of any governing body—

- (a) the persons referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b) have consistently failed to carry out their duties satisfactorily or have acted in a manner which is not in the best interests of the school concerned or of education; or
- (b) the number of persons who are not prepared to serve in the governing body in terms of the said regulation is such as to prevent the formation of a quorum;

he may suspend the operation of these regulations in respect of the governing body for the period determined by him and direct that the person referred to in regulation 3 (1) (a) shall, for all purposes and for the duration of the suspension, be the governing body.

Short Title

21. These regulations shall be called the Governing Body Regulations for State-aided Farm Schools, 19..

**PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF
THE ORANGE FREE STATE**

No. R. 1192

30 April 1992

**REGULATIONS FOR HOSPITAL FEES:
WHITE OWN AFFAIRS HOSPITALS**

In terms of section 22 (1) (e) and (2) of the Hospitals Ordinance, 1971 (Ordinance No. 8 of 1971), in so far as the provisions of Part IV of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, 1983 (Act No. 110 of 1983), have under paragraph (a) of Proclamation No. 40 of 31

IS the problem in South Africa a colonial problem, or a special colonial situation or simply a question of human rights violation in a sovereign country?

These are the questions that Pheko sets out to answer in his 154-page book published recently.

Pheko, an obvious sympathiser of the Pan Africanist Congress, is a lawyer whose training is used to the full in both research and argument for his views.

Land the basis of liberty

Title: SA betrayal of a colonised people, issues of international human rights law.
Author: SEM Pheko
Publisher : Skotaville Publishers, R28,55
Reviewer: Mathatha Tsedu

He argues that those who push for anything less than defining South Africa as a colonial problem that needs decolonisation are inherently against restoration of full land and human rights

to those dispossessed by the colonising marauders who landed at the Cape in 1652.

Referring to South Africa in its PAC and Black Consciousness name of

Azania throughout the book, Pheko says the fact that Britain handed the country to another group of settlers without decolonising meant that South Africa remains a colony of Britain.

He has harsh words for those, like the ANC, the SACP and Western governments, who argue that South Africa was a sovereign State.

"International Law would be abetting Britain's colonialism and its consequences of apartheid, genocide and theft of African land if it were to lend any legal validity to the status of South Africa as an 'independent' State based on the abuse and manipulation of international law by Britain.

"The only time that South Africa will be an in-

dependent State in international law shall be when the vast dispossessed indigenous African majority has regained control of their country."

Pheko argues that land forms the basis for State independence.

"All nations or people fighting for liberation, against alien rule and seeking self determination are fighting for land."

The book is a welcome read, especially in the present political climate in the country, with different political organisations putting divergent views about the State and solutions of the problems of this country.

It is bound to become a controversial book judging by quotations and assertions made about the positions of several people.

Sowetan

Correspondent

THE Kruger National Park is dry, but it still looks as if someone has been up all night polishing the Impala to a fine gloss.

The park, according to its head, Dr Salomon Joubert, is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. Accurate records stretch back to 1919.

There simply will not be enough water to carry all the animals through the dry season coming up. But the drought has had no visible effect on the animals yet.

There are no buck with ribs showing or lacklustre lions - at least not in the south and middle of the park.

And despite the fact that many animals are bound to die, Joubert is comparatively optimistic about what he calls a "once-in-a-century" event.

An ecosystem under stress like this is not necessarily a bad thing. Tourists will be able to see greater concentrations of game than ever before.

And the species themselves will be strengthened because the drought will wipe out the weakest.

Severe drought hits the Kruger National Park

Sowetan 30/4/92

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In Pafuri, in the northern part of the park, and usually the driest, animals are far more resistant to drought than in the south, said Joubert. Fewer animals there died under stressful conditions, as a rule.

Some animals have already died in the north, but this was due to the unusually high temperatures, he said. Chingwedzi measured a record high of 48deg C, and Skukuza a high of 45,6deg C on February 26 this year.

It is this incredible heat, combined with little seasonal rain and the comparatively low rainfall in the past few years, that is making this the worst drought ever for the park.

There is nothing park management can do to save the animals from dying of thirst and hunger.

The Department of Water Affairs has notified the park that the water flow to the Crocodile and Olifants Rivers will be restricted by up to 60 percent.

The priority, by law, is human and agricultural use. The artificial waterholes cannot be filled, since there will be nothing to fill them with. "We can't create water out of nothing. We can't make rain," said Joubert.

He added, however, that boreholes might be sunk to help animals over a critical time.

It would also be impossi-

ble to feed the animals with trucked-in lucerne, since cattle get first priority, and because such vast quantities would be needed.

What Kruger Park management can and is doing is to step up its monitoring of the drought's effect on the entire ecosystem.

Some animals, like zebra and wildebeest who like wide-open, arid plains, might even increase in numbers because of the drought.

Other factors to be monitored are conception and survival rates and at what stage animals start to die off.

"It would give us an insight into aspects of ecology that cannot be simu-

lated in a laboratory," said Joubert.

Recent research has shown that buffalo are more sensitive to drought than previously thought.

So this year, the usual 3 000 buffalo might not be culled.

But elephants, 300 this year will still have to be culled. The culling operation is taking place now, with over 30 young animals simultaneously being captured and transferred to KaNgwane and Bophuthatswana parks.

"Elephants are too competitive when it comes to food and water," said Joubert.

"They can eat anything, trees, shrubs, roots and



No lacklustre lions in the Kruger National Park.

grass, at a rate of 30 to 70kg or more a day. Other animals usually depend on one certain type of food," he said.

"They can also dig for water, where other animals cannot or are confined to a particular type of food," said Joubert.

He said: "Elephants also muddy precious waterholes.

"In the long term they are valuable because on their huge bodies they carry away mud, and enlarge waterholes, but they could endanger lives in a short-term crisis, when there is no water.

"So until the park can be enlarged, elephants will have to be culled.

"The danger of anthrax, which spreads fastest when many animals gather at fewer waterholes, and when they are under stress, is not as big as initially thought," said Joubert.

He did not see anthrax as a major killer, although carcasses of animals that had died from it were still being burnt to prevent the disease spreading.

When the drought finally ended the numbers of animals would rise dramatically, as they had after previous serious droughts, predicted Dr Joubert.

And the public would be informed fully on what was happening in the park through the Press, he promised.

THIS week, greater Cape Town came under the icy lash of the first winter rains. For the thousands living on the Cape Flats without basic services, the deluge meant added misery: water everywhere, and not a drop to drink. For those with water on tap, the heavens opening served simply to shore up the notion that Cape Town has all the water it will ever need.

Not so. While relatively better watered than other parts of the country, the western Cape's resources of good quality water are limited. Rapid urbanisation, population growth and improving the living standards of those forced to fetch and carry their own water are putting the region on course for a water crisis soon after the turn of the century.

Economic growth is another factor: during the boom years of the 1960s, water demand surged by 2,06 times more than the growth in population, according to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Water use varies, depending on income levels. In affluent areas it goes into swimming pools, frills, washing machines and keeps lawns lush. A survey carried out in Constantia's plush Southern Cross Drive, where plots range in size from 4 500 to 8 000 square metres, household usage ranged from one kilolitre to 50 kilolitres a day — averaging at seven. By comparison, usage in a medium-income area like Mitchell's Plain was about 150 litres a day per person. And in Khayelitsha, shack dwellers were shown to use about 15 litres a day, while those in site and service schemes used 90 litres and those in brick-built houses, 120 litres a day.

The department is using figures like these to illustrate how demand will increase as the living conditions of people improve. It points out, in an information package released last month, that agricultural demand will also increase, especially under the influence of overseas demand for the Cape's apples and other deciduous fruit and a favourable exchange rate and because farmers will have to produce more to feed the region's growing population.

Farmers make use mostly of water from their own dams or irrigation schemes, but water is also supplied from Voelvlei Dam and the Rivieronderend Government Water Scheme — which serve the urban sector as well. Water from Voelvlei Dam is fully utilised, while that from the Rivieronderend Scheme is not — yet.

Urban water supplies come chiefly from Table Mountain dams and springs, the Steenbras Dam, Wemmershoek Dam and dams in Stellenbosch, the Boland and the Lourens rivers, near Somerset West.

Projected urban growth and increased agricultural demand will outstrip existing water supply sources by the year 1995.

Residents of Cape Town, judging by the way they use water, are unaware of this. Like the ozone hole, the problem can't be seen — and is thus deemed not to exist.

Fully 59 percent of the city's water is used in the home, with commerce and industry accounting for 24 percent of the consumption pie-chart. Typical water usage in a home in one of Cape Town's higher income suburbs looks like this: 50 percent goes on the garden, 22,5 percent on flushing the loo, the laundry and dishes takes up 10 percent and bathing, 15 percent. Drinking and cooking accounts for only a fraction — 2,5 percent.

Unconventional sources of water considered by the department include re-using sewage effluent, which is what Windhoek does for its water. Reclaimed effluent could be used to water golf-courses and parks — or given to farmers to irrigate crops in exchange for their fresh water. But both these options are costly, while the first involves a measure of risk: how to control what goes into the sewers and may later turn up in the water supply?

In the Middle East, there are several large desalination plants. Cape Town has unlimited access to sea-water. But both the initial costs and running costs are, according to the department, much higher than for conventional sources: a staggering R970-million in capital costs and R142-million in annual operating costs, according to a recent study (and based on 1992 prices).

Towing icebergs from the South Atlantic sounds like an Alice in Wonderland scheme, but has also been considered. The department notes that the technology involved is "totally unproven" and that capturing the icebergs, contending with wind and current to bring them to Cape Town, and then, when they arrive, turning them into a usable supply of water, all present formidable problems.

What about two water supplies — one "high-class", for cooking and drinking, and one second-

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK

W/Mail 30/4 - 7/5/92

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In cities, shanty-towns and forests, a quiet but desperate war is being fought over one of our most precious resources: water. BY GAY DAVIS



The struggle for water has brought new forms of employment ... like professional water carriers

class, for loo flushing and gardening? It might be possible in new residential areas, says the department, but the costs of installing a second reticulation network would be high, more so in established areas.

From the department's point of view, the most efficient and cost-effective option lies in damming the Palmiet River — and here it has clashed head on with conservationists.

For the Palmiet River is not only the last pristine river system in the region, flowing undisturbed by dams or other manifestations of human interference from its source to its exit into the sea near Kleinmond, but also flows through 30 000ha of conserved land which comprise the heart of the Cape floral kingdom — the Kogelberg.

Little wonder, then, that conservationists are ral-

lying to ensure that damming the Palmiet is delayed until every other possible alternative is thoroughly explored.

But part of their problem is that just as few are aware of the western Cape's potential water crisis, so are few aware of the Kogelberg or its importance: much of it proclaimed state forest and thus out of bounds to the public.

Within it, occur one-fifth of all known species of fynbos — the plants making up the Cape floral kingdom. One of six floral kingdoms recognised throughout the world, the Cape's is unique in that its species occur in the Cape only.

Beyond its flora, the Kogelberg offers a biological diversity said to be so unique that an application to have it declared a biosphere reserve — recognised worldwide as an area of unique conservation

importance — has been submitted to the United Nations for consideration by its Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

Biosphere reserves allow for core conservation areas which remain untouched, bounded by transitional areas which, within the framework of a conservation strategy, can be developed for recreation and education.

But if plans to dam the Palmiet River go ahead, the application will be automatically disqualified, according to Greville Ruddock, one of the Cape Nature Conservation officials responsible for conserving the area. "The different dam options under the scheme fall right within the core biosphere area," he said. "If we dam in the Kogelberg, it will disqualify it."

Of the plant species found in the area, 77 occur nowhere else in the world. Thirty-four plant species found in the Kogelberg have been classified as red data book species, meaning they face threat of extinction, according to Douglas Jeffery, chairman of the Botanical Society's Flora Conservation Committee.

"There are a variety of other water sources which do not involve the damming of the Palmiet River," he said. "These include various dam options on rivers which have already been heavily impacted by human activity, removal of water from underground aquifers, recycling of waste water, desalination of sea water and reducing current water demand."

"The biosphere reserve proposed for the area by Cape Nature Conservation requires that there be a pristine area with no human structures within it. Certain dam options (proposed by the Department of Water Affairs) will be in direct contradiction to this proposal. We feel it is essential that all other options of water supply are considered before the damming of the Palmiet River is embarked upon."

To this end, the Botanical Society recently formed a Palmiet River Special Interest Committee, which hopes to persuade the department to delay taking any final decisions until all other possible water options have been thoroughly investigated.

According to committee member Dermot Judge, the various options proposed for damming the Palmiet will provide sufficient water to meet the burgeoning demand for only five to 10 years.

"Then other options will have to be followed, such as desalination — and the Kogelberg will have been destroyed."

The committee is planning an awareness campaign, to bring the message home to western Cape residents that water is not in unlimited supply.

"Exploding population growth is not the chief problem and won't be for a long time," said Judge. "Fifty percent of our water is used on gardens and in flushing toilets. We're hoping to improve the public's awareness of the need to use water more carefully."

According to Cape Nature Conservation official Greville Ruddock, almost 50 percent of the south-western Cape's fynbos has already been lost to agriculture and urban development.

"The Department of Water Affairs is aware of the importance of the area — but their bottom-line is cost," he said. "People have to decide whether it's worth paying more for their water — and saving the Kogelberg."



The long haul ... Women walk many kilometres every day, fetching water for their families

Photos by KEVIN CARTER

All we want is a tap of our own

Chicken Farm squatters spend four hours a day collecting water from a distant source. Households in nearby suburbs receive 20 000 litres a month — on tap. By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

IT'S not even nine on a weekday morning, and already the women from Chicken Farm are streaming to the only tap near the squatter camp to collect water in 20 litre drums.

The sprawling camp is situated in Soweto's Pimville, near Baragwanath Hospital. For many it is the second trip of the morning and it isn't an easy one. The 1km walk to the tap is along a pathway pockmarked with ridges and bumps, long grass and stones.

Pinky Mathole fetches her water in a wheelbarrow borrowed from a neighbour. She collects five 20 litre drum-fuls four times a day.

She gets to the tap at seven in the morning and often waits up to an hour for her water because it's peak time as workers collect water for a wash or early-morning coffee. When we saw her, she was fetching a second round of water to "scrub the floors, pots and the kettle". Later she will come back for another load, this time "to wash myself and the children".

The final haul comes at five when she fetches water for the evening's cooking, for tea and for her husband to wash in.

Mathole, and most of her neighbours, spend up to four hours a day collecting water. Even this is not enough.

"The World Health Organisation estimates that basic health criteria can only be met when every person has access to at least 50 litres of drinkable water every day," said Henk Coetzee, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

The tap is a meeting place for the women, who gossip while they enjoy the "luxury" of washing with as much water as they like. The children play in the mud and mimic their mothers, filling their Coke bottles and baking powder tins with water.

The tap that Chicken Farm residents use was not meant for them: it belongs to the nearby scrapyards. There is a tap in the camp but nobody uses it since all it yields is a trickle.

By contrast, the average suburban household of four and six people



Washing is done where there is water — usually a long way from home receives about 20 000 litres a month tapped directly to their homes.

The council has installed about 40 mobile toilets in the camp. But, says Kenneth Mhlangu, "individuals keep it for themselves". Three or four families claim a toilet by putting a lock on the door and writing their names all over it.

Mhlangu, who is unemployed and unmarried, is one of few men at the tap. Fetching water is women's work, says Mhlangu as he guides his wheelbarrow along the path.

One of his drums topples to the ground and spills the water he has taken half an hour to collect, but he merely shrugs his shoulders.

The struggle for water has brought with it a thriving little industry. Professional carriers fetch the water for residents. Using "nation-

alised" trolleys from nearby Highgate shopping centre, they charge R4 for 100 litres of water delivered to your door. This is 25 times more than piped water supplied to Johannesburg's suburbs where R4 buys 2 500 litres.

Seven million South Africans live in shack settlements and half of these are in the PWV area in the Transvaal.

Trying to get answers from the authorities on who is responsible for supplying water to squatter areas is as much of a problem. The government departments of National Health and Water Affairs said it was not their responsibility and referred the questions to the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The TPA said responsibility rested with the local authorities but they referred the question back to the TPA.

"Shack settlements are regarded

as transit areas and infrastructural costs are discouraged," says Henk Coetzee, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

Studies of 12 050 families on the West Rand, carried out by the Department of Community Development, showed that 23.8 percent had no water source, 2.6 percent used river water, 49.7 percent collected water from neighbouring townships and 24.8 percent were supplied by TPA water trucks.

Almost 80 percent of the families surveyed used pit latrines, 17 percent had toilets and 2.9 percent used the bucket system.

However, "many squatters, including those from Chicken Farm, get their water from rivers. But, South Africa's rivers are among the most polluted in Africa," says Coetzee.

The PWV settlements draw water mainly from the Vaal River where contamination begins at its headwaters in the eastern Transvaal at the power stations and increases as it flows through the Witwatersrand.

Tests by the Rand Water Board in the catchment area of the Vaal Dam found amounts of mercury, arsenic and sulphates which "far exceed European standards for surface water".

A Rand Water Board official told *The Weekly Mail* that inadequate maintenance and overload of toilets in Soweto caused burst sewage pipes and contamination of ground water.

Water supply is often the pawn in struggles between residents and local authorities. Often, water is cut to force residents into compliance with local government regulations. When water is supplied by local authorities there are so many problems, such as the high cost and interrupted service, that more and more civics in squatter camps are demanding that local authorities be by-passed and that the government be solely entrusted with this responsibility.

Meanwhile, Mathole's wish is for "a toilet and a pump in my own yard". She says that as if it is as far from her reach as the sparkling swimming pools in the suburbs where some of her friends work.

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

1992

MAY - AUGUST.

8.2 January/February 1990:

No multiple-choice questions will be asked. The paper will consist of sections A and B. In section A students have to answer 2 out of 4 essay-type questions, and each question counts 25 marks. In section B, 4 out of 6 mini essay-type questions must be answered, with each question counting 12,5 marks. In section A each of your answers should be roughly 1 000 words long, while in section B each should be approximately 500 words long.

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We wish you a pleasant and successful year's study.


A. V. SEBER

Land evictions go private

South. 2/5 - 7/5/92.

THE 'new' South Africa has spawned a new type of forced removal — by the private sector.

In the past, attorneys have successfully defended platteland communities, such as those at Reagile near Kostef and Oukasie outside Brits, against forced removal by the state.

With the repeal of racial land legislation, communities like those at Goedgevonden and the Mfengu in the Eastern Cape have also sought legal help to return to land from which they were forcibly removed.

In the Eastern Transvaal, the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) has been involved for the past four years, through its rural legal clinics, in defending labour tenants faced with eviction.

Members of this group are among the most vulnerable in terms of land rights.

During an 18-month period up to July 1991, the LRC represented such tenant families.

But the tempo of eviction of ten-

ants, many of whom have been there for generations, is increasing noticeably.

About 80 clients recently asked for help because they had received eviction notices, known as "trekpasses", or believed they were under threat of eviction.

Political flux, and perceptions about a possible re-allocation of land under a future dispensation, underlie what appears to be concerted pre-emptive action by a growing number of farm owners against possible future land claims by tenants.

Litigation in the local magistrate's courts and negotiation with farm workers has yielded limited success in promoting the legal rights of tenants.

It has not been possible to obtain for them the right of security of tenure.

Considerable success has been achieved concerning the right to a period of notice and correct legal procedures before eviction.

For some families negotiation has achieved more favourable terms of eviction.

But as an LRC attorney told a recent tenant meeting: "One thing we have not been able to win is the right to live on your land forever."

In this crisis, it has become apparent that the potential of protecting tenants' interests through litigation and negotiation in individual cases has been exhausted because of the limited legal rights tenants have.

In one Supreme Court case the judge said three months' notice was the minimum reasonable requirement.

Following advice by the the South African Agricultural Union, most farmers are now issuing three-month "trekpasses".

A successful challenge to this notion in the Supreme Court is still needed.

It is the LRC's view that notice must, at the very least, allow a tenant to sow and reap his annual crops, and to find adequate alterna-

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tive accommodation.

A legal strategy alone can ultimately do little to protect people, other than to help highlight their problems.

What is required is collective political lobbying by tenants. Although some of the evictions will continue to be challenged in court, land rights groups and tenants are now acting to elevate their struggle to the level of national politics.

A meeting of the National Land Commission (consisting of land rights groups and attorneys involved in land rights issues) was held in November.

In February, a committee was elected at a conference of labour tenants as a start to articulating their needs and demands.

The conference called for, among other things, a moratorium on all evictions and resolved to meet the relevant sub-committee of Codesa, as well as arrange urgent political meetings with political leaders.

— The LRC Review

Barolong in danger of losing land forever

(PREM) 3/5/92.
By DAN DHLAMINI

THE Barolong ba Modiboa's land of birth, Machavie, which they have been fighting to get back for the past 31 years, may soon be turned into a game reserve, it was revealed this week.

Barolong Chief TS Makodi received a letter from the National Parks Board informing him that they and the Potchefstroom Town Council had agreed in principle on the sale of Machavie after two years of negotiations.

The letter stated the NPB would allow the tribe to visit and tend their forefathers' graves, which will be well protected and looked after.

Makodi, whose faction still resides at Rooigrond

near Mafikeng in Bophuthatswana - where they have been since they were forcibly removed from Machavie in 1971 - said the letter came as a surprise. It came at a time when Barolong hopes had been high that the Land Commission would recommend that they be allowed back to Machavie.

"We have been talking to the government since 1961 without success and yet the NPB, who started negotiating only two years ago, have already succeeded in their aims," said Makodi.

"This shows that apartheid is still alive and kicking, because the Potchefstroom Town Council should have given us first option to buy our own land back.

"We would have got funds from the outside world to develop Machavie into a farming area. We are, however, prepared to negotiate with the NPB," he added.

Chairman of the Ikageng-based Barolong Action Committee, Joseph Ntsimane, who was among 75 arrested for trying to re-occupy Machavie two weeks ago, said he rejected the idea.

Potchefstroom Town Clerk J. du Plessis confirmed the negotiations with the parks board over the purchase of Machavie were at an advanced stage.

Parks board secretary Herman Botha said he was aware that Barolong had an historical claim to the land.

COMPANIES

Omnia hopes to beat high tax and drought

Business Day Reporter *3 Ben*

THE Omnia group expects to improve earnings again in 1992 in spite of higher taxation and the devastating effect of the drought on the agricultural market, chairman Joachim Winkler says in the 1991 annual report published at the weekend.

He noted, however, that prospects for the agricultural sector were clouded by uncertainties about the timing and extent of government aid to farmers, and about the effects of a confirmation of adverse climatic conditions. *BID 4/5/92*

The group had spent about R50m over the past three years on diversification and broadening its base, and was seeking more expansion opportunities.

"At the same time, we still see considerable profit potential in our fertiliser business. Although our manufacturing facilities are fully utilised, there is scope for improving income through product rationalisation within the overall industry.

"It must also be said that the present distribution system is extremely costly and is a significant component of our selling prices. If the fertiliser industry is to survive and prosper, it will have to make its prime objective the development of manufacturing and distribution systems which allow it to be internationally competitive," Winkler said.

The group reported a 10% increase to R31,8m in net earnings for the year ended December 1991.

This performance, Winkler said, was attributable to the fertiliser division maintaining its strong position and to a growing profit contribution from the group's new businesses — seeds, explosives, industrial chemicals and commodity trading.

"The group now has a portfolio of high quality businesses with the potential to generate the required increase in earnings and to extend its reach further into new markets and technologies beyond its traditional base in fertiliser," Winkler said.

NBS takes over village development

3 Gen ~~1/2~~ ~~1/2~~ ~~1/2~~
Business Day Reporter

ZEVENWACHT farm village, a luxury housing development adjacent to the recently rescued Zevenwacht wine estate near Stellenbosch, has been taken over by NBS Developments.

This follows the recapitalisation of the wine estate — previously under provisional liquidation — by a consortium of Johannesburg investors, who now own 83% of the estate. *Bibay 6/5/92.*

Announcing the takeover of the village by holding company Zevenwachtdorp, NBS Developments MD David Gorven said that his company and the consortium were previously joint developers of the village.

They were anxious to foster a good relationship between the farm village and the wine estate.

To this end, they had agreed to honour the shareholding awarded to each buyer

of a house in the village, and to give house owners and their families access to the estate for recreational purposes.

Gorven said this would help preserve one of the attractions of village life at Zevenwacht.

Only two of the existing houses had yet to be sold.

Construction on another 12 was scheduled to begin soon.

A further nine houses had to be built to complete the first phase of the development; another 45 homes would be built after that.

"With the entire development now under the aegis of the NBS group, the security that represents is likely to be a major attraction to buyers," said Gorven.

Daisy de Melker: Douglas Bailer and Jack the Ripper and Winston Churchill and Rudolf Hess. [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, with respect, I think the joke which the hon member tried to make about a very serious matter, does not belong here at all. [Interjections.] I did not try to link together these people with other prisoners who were regarded as political prisoners. These people committed crimes. In terms of the provisions of the Corrective Services Act the Minister of Correctional Services is, however, empowered to take action. He exercised his powers with the necessary responsibility.

There were also political prisoners who qualified in terms of rules which were laid down and which were agreed upon with the ANC. Those people were released. [Interjections.]

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Release of person from Zambian prison

*5. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has taken any steps to secure the release from a Zambian prison of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, to give evidence in a criminal case involving Mrs Winnie Mandela; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant particulars;
- (2) what is the name of the person in question;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B569E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) No, not for the purpose mentioned by the hon member in his question. As in the case of any South African citizen who is detained in a foreign country, my Department has made enquiries into the well-being of the person.
- (2) Mr Katze Cebekhulu.
- (3) No, not at the present time.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Reopening of criminal case against Winnie Mandela

*6. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether, with reference to recent statements in the media by two persons whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, he intends to invoke the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, No 51 of 1977, to reopen the criminal case against Mrs Winnie Mandela; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, with reference to the trial of Mrs Winnie Mandela, attempts have been made to take statements from certain persons whose names have also been furnished to the Minister's Department; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will furnish the names of the persons referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this question; if not, why not; if so, what are their names? B570E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) and (2) In view of the pending appeal, the matter is *sub judice*. The requested information can therefore not be furnished. In addition the South African Police is investigating certain allegations and the required information may affect the outcome of the investigation.
- (3) A list of the names of the persons who may be involved or may become involved has not been finally established and the furnishing of such a comprehensive list may in any event infringe upon the *sub judice* rule.

Number of applications for SA citizenship

*7. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

How many persons (a) applied for and (b) obtained South African citizenship during the period 20 February to 17 March 1992?

B572E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (a) and (b)
- Altogether 24 487 naturalizations were ap-

proved. It has however not been possible to verify to date whether all applications lodged within the relevant period were finalized timeously. It is quite likely that applications submitted during the two or three days prior to 17 March 1992 were not finalized timeously. Presently only accurate statistics of approvals are readily available. If the hon member, however, insists on statistics of the number of applications submitted during the period in question, a survey will have to be made at all the offices of the Department. I can merely add that no applications that complied with requirements were turned down.

Constitutional future of Doornkop

*8. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:†

- (1) Whether the Government intends taking any steps in respect of the constitutional future of Doornkop, in the district of Roodepoort; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B573E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) (a) and (b)

Yes. The Cabinet has already granted permission for the purchase of Doornkop agricultural holdings No 239 IQ. A decision on the constitutional future and use of the land will be determined in due course.

- (2) No.

South African Rail Commuter Corporation: personnel transfers

*9. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport:†

- (1) Whether a former chairman and managing director of the South African Rail Commuter Corporation Limited were recently transferred from these posts; if not, what are the relevant details; if so, why;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B574E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) Yes. It was done in the light of investigations into events surrounding investments done with the Cape Investment Bank which has since been liquidated and important changes in the field of urban transport. I suffice with the media statement issued on 7 April 1992, my contribution to the interpellation which took place in the House of Assembly on 29 April in which case this matter was debated, and the discussion on the Transport vote on the same date.
- (2) No.

Black schools: amount needed to replace textbooks

*10. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Education and Training:†

- (1) What total amount is needed to replace textbooks that were not returned in Black schools at the end of 1991 and 1990, respectively;
- (2) whether there are any Black schools where in 1991 fewer than 25% of the textbooks that had to be returned were in fact returned; if so, (a) which schools and (b) what steps are envisaged in this regard?

B575E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- (1) The information is not available.

The Department supplied textbooks and prescribed books to the value of R60 140 094.00 and R66 731 270.00 for the school years 1991 and 1992, respectively. The books were supplied to provide for the increase in the number of pupils and the replacement of worn-out and lost books.

- (2) No. (a) and (b) fall away.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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AK 47 rifles

*11. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

- (1) How many AK 47 rifles were confiscated by the South African Police in 1991;
- (2) whether any estimate was recently made of the number of AK 47 rifles in South Africa at present; if not, why not; if so, what is this estimate;
- (3) whether the South African Police is being informed of steps that have been taken by the ANC, in terms of the D F Malan Accord reached between the Government and the ANC, in respect of illegal arms and arms supplies; if not, why not; if so, what steps have already been taken by the ANC in this regard?

B576E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) 948.
- (2) No.

It is impossible to estimate how many AK 47 rifles are unlawfully in South Africa at present. However, every possible attempt is being made to trace and prosecute offenders. Rewards of up to R6 000,00 have been offered for information received from the public which could lead to the arrest of persons in possession of illegal AK 47 rifles.

- (3) Yes.

The South African Police is part of the Working Group which functions in terms of the D F Malan Accord.

Accept for a single case in which a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC submitted a consignment of 6 new Makarov pistols and 64 rounds of 9 mm ammunition together with 5 applications for licences at John Vorster Square charge office, Johannesburg on 16 March 1992, the ANC has not taken any other steps in terms of the accord to declare and/or hand in any illegal firearms.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

OFS: joint local committees

*1. Adv C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

- (1) How many joint local committees are functioning in the Orange Free State at present;
- (2) whether there are any magisterial districts in that province in which such committees are not yet functioning; if so, why is that the case? 3 Gen

B594E.INT

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, the answer is that there are already 61 joint local committees in the Free State. The second answer is no, not as far as we are aware, because there is no reason for such a committee not yet to have been formed.

With reference to that the head of the department issued an instruction on 14 February 1992 that magistrates be notified in writing to convert the present Agricultural Credit Committees to joint local committees by co-opting representatives of the commercial banks, the Land Bank, agricultural co-operatives and organised agriculture to the ranks of Agricultural Credit Committees. Co-opting financial role-players in the handling of a client's application is thus optional.

A task group under the chairmanship of Mr H F van Zyl, chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board, members of the Agricultural Credit Board, organised agriculture, the regional directors of the Department of Agricultural Development and representatives of clearing banks and the Land Bank was formed to train the committees concerned. Fifteen of the 17 briefing meetings planned have already been held country-wide, with an average attendance of 70 to 80 persons per meeting.

In the Orange Free State and the Northern Cape meetings were held in Kroonstad, Glen and Kimberley. The magistrates, members of Agricultural Credit Committees, agricultural co-operatives, commercial banks, the Land Bank,

organised agriculture and regional staff of the department attended these meetings.

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Hon members must not talk so loudly. The hon the Deputy Minister may proceed. 3 Gen

*The DEPUTY MINISTER: Further follow-up sessions of the individual committees are planned to commence shortly. The Agricultural Credit Board has undertaken, whenever local committees request assistance, to give assistance and guidance, especially with the initial meetings. The case of Petrusburg is an example of this, where members of the Agricultural Credit Board have in six cases already been present when these applicants' cases were dealt with.

In the case of Brandfort there are at present 22 applications from farmers to be attended to and the Agricultural Credit Board has agreed to attend a meeting of this joint local committee on 11 May. In cases where there are a fair number of applications with the magistrate concerned, the Agricultural Credit Board will give the necessary assistance.

Very favourable comment has in the meantime been received flowing from the training sessions that have been presented, and in numerous magisterial districts we are already getting feedback to the effect that the system is running smoothly. Financial role-players highly commend the fact that they now have a say in these committees. Of course, it will take a while for this new system to become fully established. [Time expired.]

*Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, the hon the Deputy Minister is very deftly trying to create the impression here that these matters are running smoothly. He mentioned Petrusburg as an example of how well things are working. The situation in Petrusburg was the cause leading to the formation of these committees. That is where the pilot model was launched and put into operation as early as last year.

The hon the Deputy Minister also very deftly says that these committees exist. However, the question is how many are functioning. There is a very big difference between existing and functioning. The hon the Deputy Minister of Defence sitting over there, exists as Deputy Minister of Defence, but he does not function as Deputy Minister. That is the difference. [Interjections.]

The hon the Minister of Agricultural Development has already admitted that agriculture is a strategic industry. We did have to force it out of him, but he eventually conceded this. His department, however, does absolutely nothing on earth to protect this strategic industry. [Interjections.]

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

*Adv C H PIENAAR: We are faced with the situation in which food imports have such an effect on the macro-economy that the hon the Minister of Finance retired from politics in a state of great exhaustion. It seems to me that the hon the Minister of Agriculture will be the next candidate to become exhausted. These letters about which the hon the Deputy Minister spoke so admirably, were sent out after the hon the Minister of Justice had made a call to ask what this matter entailed because the magistrates had to act as chairmen of these committees.

When on a previous occasion, say 2½ months ago, we asked questions about it in an interpellation, he telephoned to find out which bodies the magistrates now had to be chairmen of! That was after the hon the Minister of Agriculture had said as long ago as November last year that these joint local committees were going to be formed and that they must rescue the farmers.

From the meetings of which the hon the Deputy Minister has just spoken, we discover that the same norms which applied to the earlier agricultural credit, now also apply there. They are treading water! They are propelling themselves on the way to nowhere. The criterion that applies there, is the security which the farmer can offer, in other words his solvency. The farmers have no solvency!

As far as creditability is concerned, they speak of the jockey who must ride the horse. After all, the hon the Minister of Agriculture says that the farmers' debt is caused by their buying horses. Apparently he has a jockey syndrome in connection with that.

They also mention the size of the operation. It is the same old story. There is nothing new in it whatsoever.

The hon the Minister of Agriculture was at a meeting of farmers in Kroonstad, at which I proposed to him that funds from the strategic oil reserves, which are being used for rudimentary

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services in squatter camps and for the Department of Foreign Affairs . . . [Time expired.]

Mr E K MOORCROFT: Mr Chairman, the DP shares the grave concern felt by all agriculturalists about the state of our industry. [Interjections.] This has been brought about by drought and other factors beyond our control. [Interjections.] The situation, we know, is particularly bad in the Orange Free State and other summer grain-growing areas.

However, the DP acknowledges that the hon the Minister and his department are giving serious consideration to the financial plight of farmers in these areas. We accept that the creation of joint local committees is an attempt by the department to determine, as fairly and accurately as possible, the creditworthiness of applicants for State aid.

We believe that the functioning of these joint local committees depends on both organised agriculture and the department. The onus rests as much on organised agriculture and the local farming communities as it does on the State when it comes to getting these organisations off the ground and getting them functioning.

The President of the OFS Agricultural Union is an hon member of this House and of the CP. I would suggest that if there is dissatisfaction about the functioning of these joint committees, then the hon member for Parys should do his bit and see to it that the committees are also made to function in the Orange Free State. The CP must not pass the buck to the hon the Minister and his department.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the hon member for Albany for pointing a finger in the right direction. I believe that organised agriculture has a very important role to play within the structure of assistance to farmers.

*I want to say furthermore that it seems the hon member for Heilbron is not in communication with organised agriculture. He does not speak to the people who support the system. [Interjections.] I do not know whether the hon member has any knowledge of farming. I can tell him what happened. The chairman of Boere-Krisis-aksie was in my office the other day and he singled out certain problems. He did not direct criticism at the committees through the post or via public meetings. He said thank you very

much, as did Mr Willie Lewis, Vice-Chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, and said that this was an instrument they could use to help the farmers. He said we should correct the mistakes from within, we should make it streamlined. We should help them to create structures with which to address the farmers' problems.

We are also going further. This morning, following on this discussion with Mr Leonard Venter, I again told the Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board to speak to the banks so that we can get together around a table in Pretoria to find further solutions there to the problems.

Let us admit to one another today that we created Petrusburg as the pilot project, and there around the table we distributed money to keep the farmer on the land. Out of 39 cases 34 have stayed on the land. Do hon members want to tell me that we have not done our share?

That was the beginning, and it is not easy to turn the rudder of this steamship which is proceeding on a certain course, but we are working on it, and if organised agriculture plays its role, we will do it. [Time expired.]

*Dr P J GOUS: Mr Chairman, I want to approach the hon the Deputy Minister on another level in the discussion on this matter. On 12 February 1992 the hon the Minister of Agricultural Development undertook a tour of inspection in the Free State and other areas. In a press statement he then expressed the view, *inter alia*, that the sequestration of thousands of farmers in the summer grain areas was in fact staring us in the face. He then went further in this same press statement, and I just want to point out two other matters. He says that action will have to be taken as quickly as possible with the co-operation of the Department of Justice, and that negotiations will have to take place with creditors. At issue, therefore, are co-operation with the Department of Justice, negotiations with creditors, and then the point which I find of fundamental importance in this connection. I quote:

Dr Van Niekerk het hom vereenselwig met die Staatspresident se versoeking aan die boere van Suid-Afrika, naamlik dat die Regering weer eens in hierdie uur van nood alles in sy vermoë sal doen om soveel as moontlik boere vir die landbou te behou.

Now I associate myself with the hon member for Heilbron, who says that it is not merely a matter

of the existence of these committees, but of their functioning. In connection with this discussion which is being held today, I spoke to quite a number of people from the Free State yesterday who serve on these committees and have attended meetings. We could possibly bring it to the attention of the hon the Deputy Minister on another occasion, but I am doing so here today. We are faced with a problem. According to these observers most of those banks are in fact merely out to protect their own interests, and they are in effect not engaged in co-operation. That is the first point.

The second point is the physical burden of thousands of farmers which will be off-loaded onto these magistrates, who will not be able to deal with it. Additional help will have to be provided in the weeks and months ahead.

The third point . . . [Time expired.]

*Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, this hon Deputy Minister, that is the one who says that he would rather live next to a Black than next to a CP, says he is a better farmer than I am. I challenge him. Let us put our bank overdrafts, our co-operative accounts and our mortgages on the table and see who is the better farmer. [Interjections.] I do not have the Broederbond behind me to help me at the co-operatives, as the hon the Deputy Minister has, and to see that they do not call in the debt. [Interjections.] I must pay my debt myself. [Interjections.] Let us leave it at that.

Now he says they must speak to the banks. That is the very point. In these committees the banks merely fleece the farmers. That hon Deputy Minister, his department and his Government are doing absolutely nothing to protect the farmers. They are dragging their heels. These committees have now been operating for six months. Now he cites Petrusburg, which was used as a pilot project in October last year, as an example of how well these things are functioning.

Speak to the banks, he says. What has he done to keep the commercial banks from the farmers' throats? The norms which the hon the Deputy Minister lays down, leave them at the mercy of the banks. [Time expired.]

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, I do not think we should now place our personal

accounts on the table here. [Interjections.] The hon member has not been listening. I said he was not a farmer. I am still a farmer, because I have an account with the co-operative as well as with the bank. [Interjections.] The problem is that the hon member did not listen carefully when I said that I had spoken to Mr Leonard Venter, as he was again busy taking the wrong notes.

Let us admit to one another that the point that he highlighted there was a valid one. It is perfectly valid, but I spoke to one of the clearing banks yesterday and said to them that we would have to create a crisis room in Pretoria where we could adjudicate the debt settlements around a table, because some of these debt settlements could not even be dealt with by the regional manager of a bank. That is why we are now going to do it in Pretoria, where we can sit around the table with the clearing banks.

*Adv C H PIENAAR: When?

*The DEPUTY MINISTER: The discussion with these people has already been convened. It will be on the 18th of this month.

*Adv C H PIENAAR: Why not long ago?

*The DEPUTY MINISTER: That is the type of action that we are taking. We get the feedback. We had this discussion with Mr Leonard Venter last Thursday and I want to tell hon members that we are working at it.

I want to link up further with what the hon member for Parys said. I thank him for the responsible manner in which he put it, but I want to say that if one takes the period since 12 February and looks at where we are today, one has to admit that there has been tremendous progress. I think the hon member will be appreciative of the effort which has been put in by organised agriculture, of the work of the Department of Agriculture and of the Government, because in the meantime an additional R1 billion has been placed on the table to be used, and with which to keep the farmer on his farm.

When those funds become available, we shall also to a large extent be able to obviate the problem of the hon member for Heilbron. Adjustments will have to be made, and debts will also have to be written off by the banks. We will have to find the means by which to achieve this and we will work hard at it.

Debate concluded.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Court actions to defend Department

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) What total amount was paid in legal costs to defend his Department in court actions during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether he has taken a decision in regard to the engagement of any member of the legal fraternity to represent the Administration: House of Delegates; if not, why not; if so, what did he decide?

D152E.INT

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman, due to the unavoidable absence of the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition, I have been informed by the opposition Whip that this interpellation has been withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Interpellation No 1 has been withdrawn.

Housing Development Board: lease agreement

2. Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture (3) Gen

- (1) Whether the lease agreement between the Housing Development Board and farmers in Lenasia and other areas in the Transvaal has been cancelled; if so, what are the reasons for the cancellation;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D148E.INT

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, no lease agreement between the Housing Development Board and

farmers in Lenasia and other areas in the Transvaal has been cancelled. (3) Gen

I am prepared to make the following statement on the matter. In accordance with a decision of the Housing Development Board, certain portions of land in Lenasia and Palmridge which were not required for housing purposes have been made available for farming purposes. In the case of Lenasia 11 units are being utilised in this manner at present. It has been brought to the attention of the Administration that some of these units are not being utilised for agricultural purposes as originally intended. These matters are at present being followed up with a view to the possible cancellation of the leases.

Mr D K PADIACHEY: Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister is not well informed about this lease agreement. There was an agreement between the Housing Development Board and the farmers who are on the Housing Development Board's land at the moment.

The former hon Minister of Agriculture, who is here today, promised these farmers faithfully that they would be able to remain on that land and that they would have leases for a five-year or a 10-year period. That was a year and a half ago, and to date nothing has been done.

We know for a fact that the Indian community does not have many farmers in the Transvaal. Where there are farmers, we cannot get land for them. This is very disappointing, because some of these people have given up their rights. They were living in Kliptown where they had farms, but because of the unrest in that area, they moved to the Lenasia area. They were promised land there by the Housing Development Board and they lived there.

There was one particular farmer who was running a dairy farm and was doing quite well, but when he was told that the agreement between the Housing Development Board and the farmers had been cancelled and that he had to wait for a lease to be drawn up, he did not know what to do. He had to sell most of his cattle. Today he is waiting to find out what is going to happen to him.

There was also the case of a person's having been given seven days' notice to vacate his farm. The

hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council had to step in to resolve this matter. The hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council is well aware of that issue. This man was given seven days' notice. When the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council found out about this, he took a decision. He said this was unfair, and that the farmer should stay on until the matter had been investigated. (3) Gen

This is not an isolated case. This kind of thing has happened to several farmers in the area. The same thing is happening in Palmridge. People are waiting for an agreement. We have land that will never be utilised for housing, and it is only fair that the hon the Minister take a decision today on what is to be done. [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I have no specific knowledge of this matter, but it does seem clear to me that the hon the Minister has inherited this problem as a legacy of the portfolio he now holds. It seems clear to me from what I have heard from my colleague the hon member for Central Rand, that a promise was made to these farmers in the Transvaal that a lease would be granted to them and that the department would negotiate the terms and conditions of such lease with them.

It is quite clear to me that if that is what has been conveyed by an hon Minister or a departmental official, it behoves the Ministry to go ahead with the matter and honour the commitment that was made.

I therefore take this opportunity to call upon the hon the Minister of Housing and Agriculture to do just that, and to investigate this problem thoroughly. If the people out there deserve to be granted a lease in terms of which they can farm, I urge the hon the Minister to grant that lease.

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES AND OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Mr Chairman, I want to assure hon members that the question of leases for agricultural purposes was intended to be only a very temporary measure. I had occasion to inform hon members in this Chamber, when I was entrusted with that portfolio, that this land had been earmarked for urbanisation purposes. There is a great demand for land for urbanisation, especially from the Black communities.

[Interjections.] Circumstances have changed since the Group Areas Act was abolished. [Interjections.]

I do not blame the hon member for Springfield for his views, as he was simply relying on what the hon member for Central Rand had said. However, the hon member for Central Rand wrote me a letter which he has forgotten about, asking us to cancel the lease. [Interjections.] He wrote me a letter to say land was being abused. [Interjections.] He said that people were not using the land for agricultural purposes, but were in fact using it for the purpose of squatting. He said that in his letter to me. I remember it well. He said some people were using the land for clubhouse purposes, and his request was that we cancel those leases. [Interjections.] I cannot understand the hon member's submissions in this regard.

I think, however, we must promote agriculture. [Time expired.]

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman, unfortunately I cannot enter into the fray, but I have also been approached by several of the individuals who have leases. (3) Gen

The basic history is that four years ago most of these farmers were on the old farms in Extension 4. They were forcibly removed.

Unfortunately the present department has given them 30-day leases. It is not a very good situation. It is actually ridiculous. I spoke to a farmer earlier this morning, because I was going to participate in the debate. I would like the hon the Minister to listen to what I am going to say now. Sheiks Poultry Farm, for instance, have plans to develop the area, but they may spend a million rand in developing the area and 30 days later the lease may be cancelled. It does not make sense.

I think all the responsible officials, hon Ministers and hon MPs should get together to try to resolve this problem, because we do have *bona fide* farmers and we need to give them security of tenure, even if it means selling the land to them. One particular individual is at present leasing a piece of property which is on a 50-year floodline. That situation is really not acceptable.

I trust that the hon MPs who are responsible for the Lenasia area—there are many of us—will get together with the hon the Minister and the officials, as promises have been made to resolve the issue. [Time expired.]

Mr D K PADIACHEY: Mr Chairman, I probably have a short memory, but I think the hon the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services and of Local Government has no memory at all. As a Minister he has done nothing whatsoever. If he remembers correctly, I sent him a letter stating that we should do something about the farming. If the farmers have abused their land, we should now draw a line so that we can give all proper farmers land. This is what we are saying today. Give the genuine farmers the land. For one and a half years the hon the Minister sat on his backside and did nothing. [Interjections.]

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman . . . [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member for Central Rand may proceed.

Mr D K PADIACHEY: I apologise, Mr Chairman. He sat on his behind. [Interjections.]

The time has come for us to do something constructive. The hon member for North Western Transvaal has said quite clearly that this is happening. All hon MPs in the Transvaal have this problem. The farmers have approached us.

The hon the Deputy Minister was there last week and he saw for himself what was happening. People are waiting and sitting . . . [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, it must be categorically conceded that we are discussing the matter in a very generalised manner this afternoon.

The hon member for Springfield made a specific suggestion. I have a lot of respect for people like that who look at these problems and suggest something that is worth pursuing. He suggested that, if necessary, the issue be investigated and that that the matter be set straight with these farmers, regardless of any injustice that has been done to them. In that regard I want to suggest for the present and the future, that complaints should be specific in order to make the direction

one should take absolutely clear. It must be stated whose lease has been cancelled, when this was done and by whom. [Interjections.]

Mr D SAKALINGUM: By your department's officials! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES AND OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Bring the evidence!

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: If we receive such a complaint, it will be information on which we will have no option but to take action. [Interjections.] We will then pass such information . . . [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Minister is on his feet.

The MINISTER: We will then pass such information on to the department so that the relevant action can be taken. I cannot say anything more. I can say a lot about other areas, for instance about the agricultural land that is under investigation at Klip River. I can talk about the Palmridge area where 19 plots were identified and nine have already been allocated. I can talk about Rietfontein where it was intended to have agricultural holdings. That matter is being investigated.

To conclude, I want to make it very clear that there must be some agreement between the lessor and the lessee, namely the House of Delegates and these market gardeners or farmers. That aspect is being given due consideration and will be regularised in the future.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Two former Ministerial Representatives: debt

*1. Mr K CHETTY asked the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services: ~~353~~

(1) Whether two former Ministerial Representatives for the Minister's Council of

the House of Delegates, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, owe any moneys in respect of motor-vehicle loans granted to them by his Department; if so, (a) what are the details in this regard and (b) what are their names;

- (2) whether it is the intention to take any action in regard to these moneys; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D125E

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES:

- (1) (a) Both former Ministerial Representatives for the Minister's Council in the House of Delegates participated in the Motor Finance Scheme for Ministerial Representatives. Participation in the scheme immediately ceased when their services were terminated and in accordance with the rules of the scheme the full balance on the loan plus interest should have been immediately paid to the State in one amount.
- (b) The hon member for Durban Bay and the hon member for Clare Estate.
- (2) (a) Action has already been taken in regard to recovery of the outstanding moneys and summonses have been issued in the Supreme Court, Durban under Case Nos. 9643/90 and 9644/90. Both persons are presently defending the action against them.
- (b) Summonses in respect of both cases were issued in the Durban Supreme Court on 29 November 1990.
- (3) No.

Community hall: Merebank

*2. Mr K CHETTY asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

- (1) Whether a community hall is to be built in Merebank; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) at what cost;
- (2) how many community halls are in service in the Merebank area;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D127E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

- (1) No.
 - (a) Falls away.
 - (b) Falls away.
- (2) The Durban City Council indicated that there are 12 halls, all in private ownership in the Merebank area, of which the majority are available to the community for hiring.
- (3) Yes.

Mr Chairman,

Although this matter really falls within the jurisdiction of the hon the Minister of Education and Culture I wish to point out that in view of, inter alia, the concerted effort by my colleague's Department to promote culture, a need was identified for the provision of a suitable facility for the schools in the area and consequently a decision in principle was taken to provide a regional school hall which can be used by the schools in the area, as well as the community at large, if necessary.

However due to the severe financial constraints this Administration has to contend with, the matter is under review and no final decision has been taken as to when and at what cost such a facility will be provided, if at all.

Hon members will recall that in my reply to Question No 3 on Wednesday, 22 April 1992, I indicated that community halls are not regarded as a priority as the limited funds available in the Housing Development Fund are urgently required to provide housing for the many poor families awaiting a roof over their heads.

Help Cluny Farm to beat the dry season

STAR 615792

By Shirley Woodgate



The ravages of the drought have been measured nationally in millions of rands.

At Cluny Farm near Kyalami, the losses are measured in bales of hay and the failed vegetable crop.

But the significance to the 40 ha farm tended almost entirely by about 40 intellectually handicapped adults, is as dramatic as the countrywide crisis.

Less than 20 km from the lush gardens of Sandton, the searing heat of the past few months, combined with a lack of summer rains since September, has slashed the annual hay crop at Cluny from 3 000 bales of hay to only 50.

Administrator John Cruickshank said instead of being able to produce enough cattle fodder for the winter, lack of water had forced him to buy bales of hay for the small Jersey herd which supplies milk for the residents, with enough over to produce the famed Cluny cream.

The farm, established 30 years ago as a welfare project deriving its income from the sale of surplus produce, contributions from residents' families and Government subsidies, is

③ Ben experiencing a sudden shortfall of funds.

This means little to Anthony, who has worked in the bakery making the popular Cluny bread for all of his adult life.

As one of the severely brain-damaged residents aged between 18 and 60 who spend their days working on the farm, his condition is incurable, his chances of mental improvement are nil.

But he has become a master baker specialising only in the 200 high-protein wholewheat loaves he produces with pride virtually every day of his life.

Like Anthony, the other residents specialise in their own fields: working in each of the four residential homes, preparing meals, caring for the fowls, tending the vegetable garden or cleaning the stables and working in the dairy.

The drought is an administrative nightmare to John Cruickshank, who has appealed to the people who live nearby, who have tasted Cluny bread or Cluny cream, to donate funds to the ailing farm.

Telephone him at (11) 702-1690 if you can help beat the drought which has crept right on to the doorstep of the city.

tape blamed in famine forecast

③ CT 7/5/92

The agency estimated the region needs about 13,5m tons of grain. AID said that economically Zimbabwe would be hardest hit by the shortages. Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, told the panel her organisation would need R9m a month until January to feed the 2,2 million people who had applied for help, but she hoped this would be provided by the South African government. However, she said the state was wasting

deperately needed funds on its nutrition development programme, which was "not appropriate in the context of massive hunger relief". In addition, there were "clear indications" that South Africa's "top-heavy bureaucracy" had already been holding up funds promised to Operation Hunger and was causing "unacceptable levels of delay and interference". Acting Assistant Secretary of State for

Africa Mr Jeffrey Davidow told the panel the region's "fragile" democratic reforms were at risk. South Africa was being forced to divert roughly \$1bn (about R2,8bn) from "essential outlays for the socio-economic needs of its poor majority", he said. Furthermore, the migration of rural farmworkers to the cities — more than 100 000 so far — was creating "additional strains on housing and social programmes and could push urban crime rates even higher."

Govt expected to ^{Gen}₍₃₎ increase drought aid

CAPE TOWN — Government is expected to announce a large payout in drought relief to farmers today.

One of the major items on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting yesterday was deciding the amount of drought aid for farmers.

Former finance minister Barend du Plessis provisionally allocated R1bn for relief with the qualification that it might be increased once the situation had been fully investigated.

According to sources the R1bn is likely to be doubled and possibly even trebled.

Auction

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk recently stated that about R3bn was necessary to bring relief from the drastic situation caused by the drought, taking into account the imports of maize and wheat.

GERALD REILLY reports that last year the Land Bank was forced to auction 267 farms — double the number for 1990 — and agricultural authorities warned yesterday that the rate at which drought-affected farmers were sequestrated was bound to increase.

A Land Bank spokesman said the bank last year auctioned 267 farms mortgaged to it, compared to 128 in 1990.

An SA Agricultural Union spokes-

B/pay 7/5/92
BILLY PADDOCK

man said yesterday the only way to prevent more farmers being forced into bankruptcy was for government to approve additional aid of at least R2bn.

Union spokesman Koes du Toit said in the past eight years more than 3 000 farmers had been forced into bankruptcy.

Du Toit said the number would increase dramatically this year without generous state aid.

In previous years drought damage was mostly confined to the summer grain areas. However, this year distress was virtually nationwide. Cattle and irrigation farmers, he said, were probably the most distressed.

Du Toit said it was expected that Van Niekerk would make an announcement about additional aid today.

Meanwhile the National Maize Producers' Organisation has warned that unless adequate production credit is made available the area planted to maize this summer will shrink by a third.

If only 2-million hectares are planted — as will be the case if there is insufficient credit — imports will be necessary again next year, particularly if the drought persists as climatologists have warned it may.

Payout for farmers

Political Staff (3) 7/5/92

THE government is expected to announce a large payout in drought relief to farmers early today.

The cabinet met yesterday and one of the major items on its agenda was deciding the amount of drought aid that should be allocated to farmers for relief.

Initially, former Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis provisionally allocated R1 billion for relief with the qualification that it might be increased once the situation had been fully investigated.

Most significant rescue bid in history
of SA agriculture, says Minister

Food crisis: Billions in aid

(3)
ARC 7/5/92

Political Staff

DROUGHT aid to farmers and communities amounting to R3,826 billion over four years was announced today by Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk.

He said it could be regarded as the most significant rescue bid in the history of South African agriculture.

It was to help relieve the effects of the most serious drought this century which had caused the large-scale import of maize.

Loan assistance including the consolidation of debt, emergency assistance, and the allocation of some State land are included in the relief measures.

The aid was finalised at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. It is in addition to R355-million budgeted for this financial year for assistance to agriculture.

One of the steps to be taken is to provide some guarantee for farmers' debts at co-operatives and the Land Bank.

The measures are meant to prevent the sequestration of thousands of farmers, which would disrupt the rural economy and would lead to mass imports of basic food.

The assistance will also safeguard industries and business dependent on agriculture.

Farmers whose debts were too high would, however, probably have to leave the land.

Included in the relief measures is a one-off input subsidy to farmers who are members of 33 co-operatives in drought-stricken areas and the subsidisation of interest rates on production inputs.

Dr Van Niekerk said the principles taken into account in dealing with the disaster were to:

- Financially assist as many farmers as possible and keep them on the land;
 - Change the State debt guarantee and to guide agriculture back to free market principles regarding finance;
 - Retain as many employment opportunities as possible;
- Dr Van Niekerk said R2,4 billion was involved in a guarantee to co-operatives to enable them to grant production credit to farmers.

● Sapa reports that Anglican bishops have allocated R100 000 for drought relief work in Southern Africa.

The money will be made available through churches in the sub-continent.

The Synod of Bishops of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa said: "We are deeply concerned at the drought which afflicts all the countries of our Province".

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu this week added a contribution from funds under his control to bring the allocation to R100 000.

A catastrophe in the making for Southern Africa

The Argus Foreign Service WASHINGTON. — The drought in Southern Africa has caused a bigger crop loss than the devastating one in Ethiopia and Sudan in 1984 and 1985, the Agency for International Development warned today.

Executive director of Operation Hunger Mrs Ina Perlman told a congressional committee that although South Africa was able to import enough maize to meet its shortfall, up to 2,5-million destitute people in the country would go without.

The Agency for International Development, which operates under the aegis of the US State Department, said the average cereal crop loss for the region was expected to be between 50 and 60 percent.

"South Africa and Zimbabwe, which normally export

grain to their neighbours, have been especially hard hit. Their crop losses are projected to be in the range of 70 to 80 percent," the AID statement said.

"This crop loss is worse than that suffered by Ethiopia, Sudan and several Sahelian countries in the terrible African drought of 1984-1985."

It said the 1984 drought resulted the biggest emergency relief effort ever mounted in Africa.

Several factors — the developed economies of South Africa and Zimbabwe, the early recognition of the problem on the part of governments in the region and early warning of the crisis — gave realistic hope of avoiding catastrophe.

Mrs Perlman said it would need R9-million a month to feed about 2,2 million people.

Govt unveils R3,8bn rescue package for

CAPE TOWN — Government unveiled a R3,8bn drought aid package for farmers yesterday, described by Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekirk as "the most significant rescue bid in the history of SA".

The aid — to be spread over four Budgets — is in addition to the R355m budgeted for the current financial year for assistance and agriculture. It is also in addition to the 5% subsidy on Land Bank long-term loans, and includes the R1bn allocated in the current Budget for special aid.

Van Niekirk said the aid package effectively scrapped government's existing

guarantee scheme for farmers in terms of which the state made guarantees to farm co-operatives enabling them to grant production credit to farmers in difficulty.

The SA Agricultural Union — which asked government for R3bn in addition to the R1bn granted this year — welcomed the package.

Part of the package is loan assistance, which includes the consolidation of debt, emergency assistance and the allocation of some state land.

Van Niekirk said the measures were aimed at preventing thousands of farmers

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BILLY PADDOCK

from being sequestered, something which would severely disrupt rural economies, lead to mass imports of basic foods and have a major impact on the economy.

He made an "urgent appeal" to financial institutions not to foreclose on farmers as a task group responsible for implementing the plan was working out the details.

He said government had decided not to repeat the mistake of previous years when it baled out farmers by guaranteeing their debts.

The major problem farmers had was that over the years they had accumulated debts of about R2,4bn with 33 co-operatives and were now unable to get production credit following the failure of crops.

Government was helping to remove their arrear debts to enable financial institutions to consider applications for production credits according to normal financial principles.

In terms of the aid package, government was granting farmers a once-off input subsidy of R375/ha for crop farmers who were members of the 33 co-operatives operating

in the disaster areas.

Farmers would get R175/ha for carry-over debts and a further maximum of R100/ha. Co-operatives would get a further R100/ha for settlement of irrecoverable debt and to finance production credit.

With the assistance now envisaged, the state in effect buys out of the guarantee for carry-over debt at co-operatives and the Land Bank, and all agriculture guarantees fall away.

GERALD REILLY reports that agricultural spokesmen said the package had come just in time to rescue the industry.

drought-stricken farmers

R3,8bn pledged for drought aid

③ CT8/5/92

Political Staff

THE government yesterday announced a R3,826-billion package designed to ease the plight of drought-stricken farmers over four years.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said the programme "can be regarded as the most significant rescue bid in the history of South African agriculture".

He said the measures would "relieve the effects of the most serious drought yet experienced in South Africa this century" and without state intervention serious disruption of the economy could take place.

Meanwhile concerned Anglican bishops have also allocated R100 000 for drought relief.

Mr John Allen, media secretary for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, said yesterday the archbishop added a contribution from funds

under his control of R50 000 to bring the allocation to R100 000.

"It's only a drop in the ocean but the Anglican church felt it wanted to play its part as far as it can," said Mr Allen.

The drought has given rise to large scale imports of maize and has taken scores of farmers to the brink of bankruptcy.

Dr Van Niekerk said the government plan was finalised at Wednesday's cabinet meeting.

Subsidy

The relief measures comprise loan assistance and steps have been taken to guarantee farmers' debts at co-operatives and the Land Bank.

Farmers who are members of 33 co-operatives in drought-stricken areas will get a one-off input subsidy amounting to R375 per hectare.

Dr Van Niekerk stressed the aid was in addition to the R355bn budgeted "for financial assistance for normal and drought circumstances". It was also in addition to the subsidy on interest rate applicable to long-term Land Bank loans.

The minister said the measures being planned would "prevent the sequestration of thousands of farmers, an action which would lead to mass imports of basic food in the next year".

However, he said the assistance would not protect all farmers with carry-over debt against foreclosure.

The removal of arrear debts from the farmers' balance sheet would alleviate the ability of banks to grant production credit to farmers, the minister said.

"Farmers who had a total crop failure will be helped to continue their farming activities," he said.

PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK visits the frightened Free State where murder has become common and whites talk of revenge

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Gabriel Mahakoe may well be mad

that it was not ANC policy to nationalise farms by killing farmers.
Hani took the police to task for the groundless charge that ANC guerrillas were responsible for the murder of a young policeman in Bethlehem last month, a statement that predictably fanned the paranoia.

THE hakkie sped past in a cloud of dust and the driver signalled to us to pull over. It was Nick Pretorius, whose 82-year-old mother had been murdered in her farmhouse three days before. We had just talked to him back at the farm but he wanted to add something.

"I just wanted you to know she had no enemies," he said.
Pretorius got back in the hakkie and we saw him drive towards the cemetery to supervise the digging of a grave for his mother.

We had been driving slowly back towards Verkeerdevlei, the kind of place where TS Eliot could show you fear in a handful of dust.

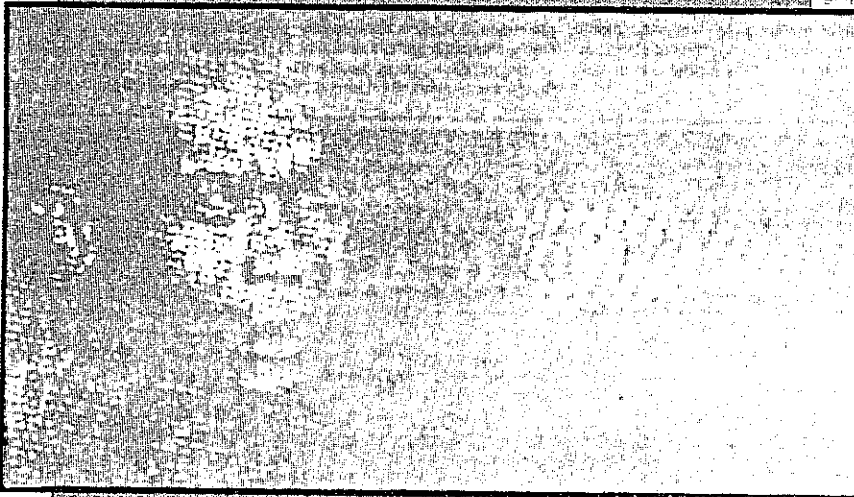
Earlier, we found the town almost deserted. The only activity was a gathering of cars outside a derelict town hall for an Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk bazaar. The people looked like they belonged in some mutant American Gothic painting and they eyed us with a faint air of menace.

Verkeerdevlei built both its cemetery and its black location a half a kilometre from town, removing the white dead and the black living to share the same flat empty vista.

Now death in the form of black men had come to visit their farms with a vengeance.

The widow Jani Pretorius was the seventh white to be murdered on a Free State farm since December and the sixth in Verkeerdevlei alone. Nothing was stolen, except a pistol.

The mystery of the motive for the killings touched a sore spot of enmity and insecurity that is as old as white occupation of the Free State, a mystery that is personified in the saga of Gabriel Mahakoe.



But in his madness, he has struck a chord

Among the platteland's impoverished farm labourers, Gabriel Mahakoe, who murdered a white family 'to cut off the hand of apartheid', has become a legend. But among the white farmers, he is the personification of an ancient fear

The ANC headquarters in the Verkeerdevlei location is marked by a milestone with the shield and colours of the movement painted outside. Local chairman Neo Banyane preaches the gospel of reconciliation, even as the township braces itself for another revenge attack from white farmers.

The Mahakoe myth has grown and been embellished as it reaches into the platteland. In Verkeerdevlei, they believe he is calling for the judge to exhume the unnamed graves of farmworkers killed by white farmers.

In fact, he does claim that he knows of a grave on a local farm where a friend of his who was beaten to death is buried.

But the myth, given wings, has turned into a demand that Judge Richard Goldstone come to Verkeerdevlei to exhume the anonymous bodies of farmworkers out of the red Free State dust.

Whether or not Mahakoe is mad, his plea strikes a chord.

"I wanted to show the tribe of Africa that we can do it, that we are tired of being slaves," he told the magistrate at Brandfort.

At the supreme court hearings in Bloemfontein last month, the courtroom was packed every day. At the adjournment blacks came to shake Mahakoe's hand and wish him well.

At Verkeerdevlei, there are old people, lifelong farmworkers, who talk of inhuman treatment, of being jailed and beaten for nothing and farmed out as convict labour for no wage, of being set on by dogs, but mostly of working a miserable job for a few rand and half a sack of mealie meal at the end of the month.

One old man has worked in the farms around here for decades. "We grew big under the white people," he says. He talks about which employers were *kwaai* (ferocious) and which were good people — Baas so-and-so was good but Miesies so-and-so poured porridge over us. He knows the murdered ones.

This is where the understanding of politics diverges. White farmers such as Chris Roux blame it all on big conspiracies — De Klerk's reforms, ANC machinations — in which the farmers are always innocent victims.

But in their fear that the land will be taken back from them lies a deeper insecurity. Verkeerdevlei is part of what is still referred to as the conquered territory — land stolen from Basutoland in the second Boer-Sotho war in 1865.

The once plentiful inhabitants of the farms in this entire swathe have been swept up and dumped in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu, so that all that remains on the farms are permanent workers.

There are two types of blacks in the Free State platteland today — the totally marginalised in the camps and the totally dependent on the farms.

Mahakoe's appearance in the supreme court was the ultimate rejection of the white man's domain. He refused to be tried or to testify before a white judge.

"I have a lot of things in my heart that I want to say," he said. "But I want to say them to a black person — an African that looks like me."

Back in Verkeerdevlei, the drought has hit so hard that the fields have been burnt yellow, the way they should look at the end of winter. Rain has hardly fallen this year.
You leave, knowing that its going to be a bad winter.

According to his own account, Mahakoe walked into the farmhouse of the Engelbrecht family on the farm Grootsteyn three days before Christmas, located the farmers' gun and ammunition, loaded the gun, tested it by shooting out a window and sat down in the lounge — "the holy room where a kaffir never sits" — to wait for the family to come home.

When they came in, Mahakoe told a magistrate in Brandfort: "I said to them 'Maatloje Afrika' That means Africa is back. Then I went on with my work."

"What do you mean when you say you went ahead with your work?" asked magistrate F van Deventer, as the stenographer scrawled away.

"I wanted to chop off the hand of apartheid but I only succeeded in chopping off the fingers. We are tired."

"How did you go about your work?" The magistrate persisted.

"As I began to shoot I said: 'I am not shooting you. I am shooting the name dog, baboon' — this is what we are called. They kill us."

Despite his protestations that it was his intention to kill the four ("I could have killed 20 to 50") and not to steal, attorney-general Tim McNally insists that the motive was robbery and Mahakoe has been dispatched for psychiatric observation.

Major A van Deventer, of the Bloemfontein police, said this week that no political motive could be found in any of the seven murders.

Yet there is a curious synchronism between Mahakoe's testimony and the primordial fears of the white farmers.

"It's very clear they are not coming here to steal," said local Conservative Party chairman Chris Roux, whose brother Hansie found Jani Pretorius' body. He believes the killings have political overtones.

The Free State is "getting like Rhodesia", said Roux. There, farmers were "uitgemeor" — murdered to drive them off their land.

"All because of (President FW) De Klerk's reforms, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress and all the bandit organisations are in the townships now," he said.

"The educated ones who are not so stupid come and talk and the others listen to them. It's very clear that these killings are not just accidental."

In the Free State politics and revenge are a strong brew. Paranoia swept the province following a spate of murders and attacks early this year, fuelling Ku Klux Klan-style vigilantism.

The local community's natural reluctance to talk to strangers has turned to stony silence since the incident on January 12 after a break-in at the Grootgewag farm, in which the elderly Pienaar couple were shot and beaten by four intruders.

Even those farmers that will speak to the press leave out the bit about how an armed posse of farmers and townspeople captured three of the four suspects, and lynched them. One man died.

Police said they were opening a murder docket, but — even though prominent leaders of the community were implicated in the mass lynching — four months later no-one has been charged. The matter has been referred to the attorney general.

"Mahakoe found the farmer's gun, tested it by shooting out of the window, sat down in the lounge — 'the holy room where a kaffir never sits' — and waited. When the family arrived, he greeted them with the words: 'Africa is back'"

FARM IMPORTS FM 8/5/92
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Droughts and windfalls

The drought has knocked farmers flat on their backs, threatened rural economies and raised prices for consumers. But, amid all the losers, there is one winner: government.

The fiscus could collect a windfall of more than R200m from imports of maize and soya oil-cake needed to offset the crops lost to the drought. Government could make R138m by importing maize at the cheap world price and selling it at the higher local price, which is set by the Maize Board for all maize sold in the country.

And it should collect another R70m-R80m from the tariffs it charges on imports of soya oil-cake for the animal feed industry. The R200/t tariffs were imposed a few years back to "protect" local soya producers. Little, if any, soya cake is ever imported. But now government and local oil expressers,

who take the oil out of the seeds, don't want a drop in the tariffs on the huge imports of soya oil-cake forced by the drought.

The total windfall, which could reach R220m, will exceed government's R90m net "profit" last year, when the wheat crop suffered from erratic rains and government imported wheat at low prices to sell to consumers at high local prices.

The high tariffs on a product — soya cake — that SA cannot supply has created the most controversy. "The drought has slashed the sunflower seed crop to about 170 000 t, compared with last year's 590 000 t," says Barry Hundley, feed committee chairman of the SA Poultry Association.

"This will force us to import about 400 000 t of soya oil-cake (which is more protein-rich than sunflower cake) at a cost of about R360m, of which about R80m will go into the State's coffers. We asked the oil expressers for support to get the tariffs dropped, but, because they refused, we will now have to pay the premium."

As for maize, the board now expects local deliveries of only about 400 000 t of white maize and 700 000 t of yellow maize from farmers this year. SA's annual maize consumption totals about 6,5 Mt, meaning that imports of about 4,6 Mt are required, taking into account part of the 1 Mt the board retained from last year's 7,8 Mt crop.

Last week's maize-price rise will mean larger profits when the board begins to sell the imported maize.

"The board announced a 13,4% increase in the price for yellow maize to R475/t — but this is based on last year's list price of R419/t," says Hundley, who is also production director at Rainbow Chicken. "I understand that about 92% of all the yellow maize was sold last year to contract buyers. These buyers paid only about R383/t for their yellow maize, based on the board's discount scheme."

Due to the shortage, there will be no contract sales this year. So the new price represents a 24% increase over the price of most of last year's crop.

Government makes its money from the R30 difference between the new maize price of R475/t and the current landed price for US maize of less than R445/t. With 4,6 Mt coming in — shipments began a few weeks ago — the windfall could be R138m.

The unexpected receipts from the soya cake tariffs will go straight into government coffers. But the maize money will go towards subsidising the fixed costs of the under-used northern grain silos, hard hit by the drought: 70% of the costs will be paid by government, a total of R173m.

"The maize industry's share of this subsidy has enabled us to keep the selling price within the inflation rate," says the board.

Hundley does not agree with this interpretation. "Not only will the effective yellow maize price increase be well above inflation, but the R138m will not be 'the maize industry's share' of the huge subsidy — it will be paid by the buyers of maize. The co-ops

(owners of the silos) will not be forced to suffer any loss due to the drought, but will be bailed out by government soaking the board's consumers."

But board deputy GM Hans Swart says: "The board trusts that any profits made on government's import account for maize will be used to benefit the maize industry and specifically for the benefit of the end-user."

All of this, of course, could easily become academic. Prices are rising on the Chicago Board of Trade, with US maize prices increasing by about R12/t "over the past few days," says Swart.

So, by the time the final maize shipment arrives almost a year from now, that big windfall could be just a memory.

"The Chiavelli empire is insolvent. This is not a small case. The amounts involved are not small amounts. The applicant needs time to complete its investigations," Mr

others are misleading. His business associates don't want to do business with him and this cloud has been hanging over his head for the last three months," he said.

Farmers grateful for R3.8-bn aid scheme

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The drought-ravaged farming community breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after learning of the Government's R3,8 billion farmers' aid programme, launched in a bid to stave off ruin for South Africa's rural economy.

Thousands of farmers have lost entire maize plantations as a result of the worst drought this century, and would have had to wait another 15 months for their next income.

In a statement yesterday, SA Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie expressed thanks and appreciation to the Cabinet and the Ministry of Agriculture for the extensive aid measures.

The measures were in accordance with the union's representations and would bring great relief in respect of carry-over debt and new production credit, ultimately making an important contribution towards increasing the profitability of agriculture, he said.

Koos Botha of the

Free State Agricultural Union said: "We are very pleased with the amount. The northern Free State farmers are in a very bad situation and can't wait for the income from next year's maize harvest."

Meanwhile, farmers in the eastern, western and northern Transvaal are struggling to irrigate even subsistence farming land.

Hotels in the Tzaneen area are imposing voluntary water restrictions and are leaving their gardens unwatered.

Dams near Rustenburg, including the Olfantsnek dam, are completely dry. However, drinking water is being supplied by the Rand Water Board.

A farmer on the Springbok Flats said he had never seen the water level in dams as low.

Compared to last year, Transvaal dams have extremely low water levels. The Hartbeespoort dam, 93 percent full last year, is only 43 percent full. The Vaal dam, 86 percent full last year, is 39 percent full.

Should the public be told?

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R3,8-bn rescue bid for farmers

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Sowetan Correspondent

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THE Government yesterday announced a R3,8 billion rescue bid for farmers currently in the grip of the worst drought this century.

The aid will be distributed over four Budget years in an effort to keep farmers on their land, to save their workers from starvation, to stave off ruin for South Africa's rural economy, and ensure food security for the country.

One billion of it, already set aside in the Budget, will be spent this year.

The Cabinet yesterday approved what Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk called "the most significant rescue bid in the history of South African agriculture".

But he also announced that the Government would simultaneously buy itself out of guarantees it had issued on behalf of cash-strapped farmers hit by repeated crop failures.

Guarantees

Van Niekerk signalled that the State would in future not offer ready guarantees when farmers were in trouble. Farmers would be exposed to market forces in applying to financial institutions for loans.

"There is pain attached, hard pain," he warned farmers.

The State's withdrawal from the guarantee system would also improve discipline among financial institutions, which had in the past freely given farmers loans in the knowledge that the State would intervene and make good debts that farmers could not meet.

"However, it does not mean that the Government does away with its responsibility towards the farmer regarding disasters and other factors beyond his control," he noted.

The State had since 1984 guaranteed R2,4 billion to co-operatives, to extend production credit to farmers.

It is understood an estimated 7 000 farmers presently face sequestration. This would hit roughly 200 000 people on their farms.

Softly, softly on land issue



TITO MBOWENI ... "There are people alive whose land was expropriated by government."

By SEKOLA SELLO

THE ANC, only three weeks away before holding an important policy conference,

does not seem anywhere near resolving one of the major problems facing it, the question of the land.

A draft document of the ANC which is currently being discussed by the membership before the policy conference at the end of this month, clearly shows the dilemma facing the organisation.

Objectives

The introduction to the document says two of the three basic objectives of the ANC policy are:

■ First, to overcome the legacy of inequality and injustice created by colonialism and apartheid.

■ Second, to develop an economy and state infrastructure that will progressively improve the quality of life of all South Africans.

These objectives go to the heart of the South African problem. The legacy of State-created inequality is largely responsible for a situation where 87 percent of the land is owned by whites who constitute only 13 percent of the total population of the country.

The other side of the dilemma is how to redress the inequalities without creating serious economic disruptions. The ANC is aware of the trials and tribulations faced by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe who has been trying to solve a similar problem for the past 12 years.

The ANC's draft document on

land and agricultural policy clearly reflect this dilemma. The document notes that "dispossession and denial of rights to land have resulted in the present unequal division of land and landlessness, which will require legislative intervention far beyond the mere repeal of apartheid land laws".

Aware of the opposition land redistribution policies will definitely elicit among whites and most likely also taking international opinion into account, the document calls for a very cautious approach on this issue.

The document calls for a comprehensive land reform programme which will include the following:

■ Redressing the injustices caused by apartheid's policy of dispossession;

■ Addressing demands and grievances concerning land restoration and ownership by the creation of a special land court through which competing claims to land can be resolved;

Diversity of tenure

■ Creating institutions to which the homeless and landless will have access in order to obtain land, shelter and necessary services;

■ The recognition and protection of the diversity of tenure forms in our country;

■ The promotion of a policy of affirmative action within a viable economic development programme to ensure, among other things, access to land with secure rights for residential settlement, as well as access to good agricultural land,

which will create new opportunities in this sector.

The ANC envisages a land claims tribunal which will hear cases of people competing over any piece of land. According to the document, priority will be given to victims of forced removals, "who had their lands taken by the apartheid state".

ANC economist Tito Mboweni recently explained on SATV that there are cases "in living memory" of people whose lands were expropriated by government. These people, he said, had a strong case to demand their land back.

Allay fears

In order to allay the fears of those who may be affected by these land reform measures, the document proposes that "compensation will have a big role to play in dealing with competing claims".

However, the document is less clear on how an ANC-led government will recognise and protect tenure under which most whites own the land – and their expected resistance to giving it up – while at the same time being legislatively able to acquire land for the dispossessed.

Twelve years after independence, Mugabe is still trying to resolve an almost identical problem.

Can the ANC succeed in reconciling the needs of the dispossessed and the dispossessors? The ANC document on land policy – it must be emphasised this is still in a draft form – does not seem nearer solving this vexing problem.

Horror on our doorstep

SI Times 10/5/92

PETER VALE and DAVID CATLING call for a joint effort to combat the worst drought this century

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SOUTHERN AFRICA faces a cataclysmic crisis — a famine with the proportions of the great disasters on the Indian sub-continent.

The images of famine to which South Africans have been exposed have been projected from a comfortable distance. The horror pictures of emaciated mothers and babies, of scuffles for grain handouts: these no longer have to be imported. The sheer hopelessness of famine laps at our borders.

The drought which has dehydrated the country's farms has visited itself upon our neighbours a thousand-fold. Their fragile rural base has been savaged. As a result millions across our borders face starvation as winter approaches.

In countries like Mozambique, a delicate agricultural sector has been brought to its knees by the long-lasting effects of strife spawned by destabilisation and civil war.

Zimbabwe is the worst affected by the famine: its projected yield is only a quarter of the previous year's production and the proposed nationalisation of commercial farms has punched a hole in

agricultural confidence.

Clearly, drought and famine pay no respect to ideology or to forms of government. But political change can deepen their effects. The ending of apartheid has made the region's borders more porous than ever. Countless pairs of feet are criss-crossing southern Africa. Most, however, have no doubt about their final destination — South Africa.

Operation Hunger estimates it will feed two-million people this year, a figure which will increase as more cross the border.

There may be the temptation to deal with the issue in the long-accepted South African way. Fob off questions, keep the public in the dark, shuffle decisions between government departments and hope that the problem will go away.

This would be a grave mistake.

This famine should be the beginning of an enduring commitment to foster and support the countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference to ensure adequate food security for the entire region.

Right now, we can help them by using our transport and communications system to ensure that the food passing through South Africa's ports reaches its destination speedily and without waste.

But there is more.

Within these countries, transport is woefully inadequate. Distribution networks will need both support and expansion. Without this, those in most need will simply starve to death.

Transport is the key. South Africa should help its neighbours increase and hone their effectiveness.

In the long-term, the region must pool its agricultural know-how. This will involve careful use of South African technical expertise. But we, too, can learn from our neighbours especially in the area of subsistence agriculture.

The end goal of this sharing will be to ensure that a robust and sustainable class of smallholder farmers takes root throughout the sub-continent. But they must have confidence in grain as a profitable crop: if not, as now, it will go unplanted.

The region also needs to

share information. South African scientists, for example, should dovetail their efforts at developing an adequate early warning system with the one used in neighbouring countries.

With this, there needs to be a regional effort at building a grain reserve.

Those touched by famine, the region's inhabitants, are the crucial players. They need to be involved in what happens to them. This means openness by the government to prevent rumours that lead to panic.

Decades of strife have battered southern Africa. If badly handled, this crisis could compound old suspicions. It should instead be creatively used to deepen understanding and so prove untrue the old aphorism "when hunger enters at the door, understanding leaves by the window".

● Peter Vale is research professor and co-director of the Centre for Southern African Studies, University of the Western Cape. David Catling is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Development.

...Klerk and his party want to cling to the monopoly of political power."

Referring to the current wave of

...ANC leader said SA would watch with interest De Klerk's reaction following allegations that the security forces were implicated in the killing of three Cradock men

...businessmen are fears about the No civil ser missed if the A although early considered, Ma

Cosatu aids drought victims

By DAN DHLAMINI

COSATU has demanded that no farm workers or other workers be re-trenched as a result of the drought. (Pen 10/5/92)

Launching a campaign this week to counter the bias in government drought relief towards white farmers, Cosatu's executive Committee noted in a statement that no effective poverty or drought relief was in place to assist the millions

of people facing starvation, especially in the rural areas.

Cosatu said the government has allocated R1 000-million in this year's budget for drought relief, the bulk of which will be used to prevent white farmers from going bankrupt and to win their confidence for votes in the forthcoming elections - instead of preventing mass starvation.

The statement claims only R20-million has been

allocated to farm workers.

It added that millions are facing famine in the bantustans. (3) (er)

As part of its drought relief campaign, a senior Cosatu delegation will meet and discuss the crisis with community leaders in affected areas.

Cosatu will also launch a nationwide campaign in factories and workplaces to collect money for those affected by the drought.

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Farmers warn on aid package

③ CT 11/5/92

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Unless the allocation and distribution of the R3,8 billion rescue package for the agricultural industry are properly targeted and managed, many of the potential benefits could be lost.

This is the view of agriculturists, who said at the weekend there had to be a acute realisation of the urgency of opening up production credit lines for summer grain farmers.

National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) general manager Mr Giel van Zyl said at least 40% of maize farmers had lost their credit-worthiness. Co-operative and bank credit was closed to them and they would be dependent on government aid to plant and grow the 1992/93 crop.

Mr Van Zyl said Nampo welcomed the aid package, saying it acknowledged the role of agriculture in the economy.

If the aid was properly allocated, one of the major benefits would be the saving of thousands of black farm workers' jobs.

Another would be the halting of the drift into economic stagnation of platteland towns, where hundreds of small businesses were threatened.

The industry was not looking a gift horse in the mouth, but the wheels of bureaucracy ground slowly and it was hoped the aid programme would be approached with the necessary sense of urgency, he added.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said

Millions face death in Moz drought

MAPUTO. — Mozambique estimates that up to three million of its people could starve to death in the worst drought Southern Africa has seen this century.

The government, in collaboration with UN agencies, plans to ask the world this week for urgent assistance for this nation of 15 million people.

"The current Southern African drought is threatening Mozambique with the worst disaster in living memory, putting the lives of millions of Mozambicans at risk," says a draft of the appeal.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in Rome on Thursday that 17,2 million Africans would need foreign help to survive the year, mostly because of drought, but also because of war.

The Mozambican government and the UN estimated in December that

1,8 million Mozambicans needed food aid to survive 1992.

That was because of the war being waged by Renamo rebels and drought in a few regions. Total aid requirements were put at 986 325 tons.

But that estimate was made before the year-end rains failed. The new appeal asks for at least 300 000 tons more.

The latest estimate puts total needs at 1 286 350 tons of food, mostly maize, rice and wheat, for the 12 months beginning May 1, 1992.

The deterioration of the situation between last December and now is stressed in the draft appeal.

The appeal document, which officials say will probably be presented to donors on Wednesday, notes that the safe passage of relief convoys is a major problem. — Sapa-Reuter

the funds were not only aimed at helping farmers, but also taxpayers and consumers.

The aim was to ensure a continued adequate supply of food. Provision had not necessarily been made to solve the core problems of the industry.

The measures indicated considerable assistance to crop farmers, but the union was concerned that insufficient provision had been made for cattle, fruit and vegetable farmers.

Mr Bruwer warned input suppliers against raising prices because of the aid, thereby sabotaging the aim of the relief measures.

Sapa reports that an urgent

campaign is to be launched by Cosatu to address what is seen to be the government's poor response to the drought in rural areas and in homelands.

In a statement issued in Johannesburg on Saturday, the union federation charged that the money allocated by the government for drought relief would go mainly to help white farmers stay off bankruptcy, and would prevent mass starvation.

"Of the amount allocated for drought relief, a measly two percent, or R20m, has been allocated to farm workers (less than R20 per farm worker). This doesn't even take into account the millions facing famine conditions in the homelands," said Cosatu.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

(c) in respect of what specified period is this information furnished?

D99E

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

(3) Gen

Additional agricultural land: Indian farmers

20. Mr K CHETTY asked the Minister of Local Government and Agriculture:

Whether his Department has acquired any additional agricultural land for Indian farmers in Natal and the Transvaal since the repeal of the Group Areas Act; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many farms were so acquired in (i) Natal and (ii) the Transvaal, (b) what is the total extent of the land involved in each case and

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

- (a) (i) One.
 (ii) None. However, in an effort to meet the demand for farming land in the Transvaal, vacant land in the ownership of the Housing Development Board was re-allocated for farming purposes in two areas. This land was not immediately required for housing projects.
- (b) (i) Natal: 365 hectares
 (ii) Transvaal: 167 hectares
 133 hectares
 Total 300 hectares
- (c) 1991/1992 financial year.

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Botha, Dr W J—

General Affairs:

Finance, 841

Burrows, Mr R M—

Own Affairs:

Education and Culture, 185, 436

Carlisle, Mr R V—

General Affairs:

Public Enterprises, 917

Transport, 848

Own Affairs:

Housing and Works, 619

Gerber, Mr A—

Own Affairs:

Education and Culture, 291, 537

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Payout calls mooted over fraud probe

By Jo-Anne Collinge
and Pretoria Bureau

STAR 12/5/92.
suffering and misery of many black rural communities who have been forced to deal with the DDA bear testimony to the incompetence and corruption of this department. Many attempts were made to bring to light the experiences of these communities, to no avail."

Rural communities who suffered as a result of massive corruption in the Department of Development Aid (DDA) would almost certainly demand compensation, National Land Committee spokesman Bahle Sibisi warned yesterday.

"The question is who is going to pay for this. Communities should not have to pay — they have already suffered enough," said Mr Sibisi, in response to the Pickard Commission's findings that millions of rands had been misused over a long period before the DDA's disbanding.

The NLC said: "The Government has not failed to point to the lack of funds available to improve the living conditions, meet development needs and make land available to black rural communities."

It added that a case in point was the Government's restriction on the restoration of land to people who were uprooted under the policy of forced removals.

Mr Sibisi said the NLC, which works extensively in rural areas, would be studying the full report of the Pickard Commission and consulting with communities directly affected by the misuse of funds.

The NLC said the commission had brought to light what people had long suspected. "The

Despite the disbanding of the DDA, the Government would be held accountable, the NLC said. The organisation stated it was astounded by the extent of mismanagement "and the duration for which it was allowed to continue. The inaction of the Government makes them accomplices in this crime."

● It was unfair to see the entire public service as corrupt because a handful of civil servants in the DDA were "bad boys", said Public Servants Association general manager Dr Hans Olivier.

Defending the more than 1 million public servants in the country, Dr Olivier said the same corruption could be found in the private sector. "That doesn't mean the whole private sector is corrupt.

"There were maybe two handfuls of bad boys in the Department of Development Aid, and proper disciplinary action should be taken against them. However, many others in the department were not guilty at all, and it is absolutely wrong to paint them with the same brush," he said.

● Lesson to be learnt

— Page 15

SA asks EC for drought aid

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa has formally approached the European Community for emergency drought relief aid for Southern Africa.

In a letter to the EC, South Africa said the drought could spell disaster for the region if emergency measures were not taken.

Confirming the request, an EC spokesman in Pretoria said the organisation would be responding regionally.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said although South Africa was traditionally not an aid recipient, the drought would place enormous pressure on the country's already restricted budget.

Meanwhile, South Africa is expected to be excluded from a UN-sponsored conference in New York at the beginning of next month when donor countries will be asked to pledge aid for the region.

● Drought aid to farmers could be withheld if they did not keep proper financial records, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr Tobie Meyer said yesterday. Speaking in an agricultural debate, he said a departmental survey had found that 41% of farmers at Petrusburg had not kept financial records.

ET 13/5/92
The Department of Agriculture had set aside R5 million in drought aid for workers on farms, he said. — Sapa (3)

his Durban office on 2 March 1992, at which the decision to allow Mr Sayed a lease pending the sale was stated.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, I do not want to become entangled in the local issues of Lenasia, but through experience I know that both the former Department of Community Development and its successor, the Administration: House of Delegates, applied the firm policy that when dealing with genuine, *bona fide* resettlement cases, transactions were concluded by private treaty. That was the case where we had fewer applicants than sites.

I agree with the hon the Minister of Housing and Agriculture that when one has more applicants who are confirmed resettlement cases than available sites, the best method is to offer them on a competition basis on the understanding that the highest tenderer will be given the site. A condition is stipulated in the tender document that if there are tenderers who are not resettlement cases, preference will be given to displaced persons, even if they do not submit the highest tender, provided that there is not a very big difference between the amount they tender and the highest tender, so that this will not cause problems with the Treasury.

I think the policy should be determined by the Housing Development Board. It reflects a serious state of affairs when hon Ministers are directly instructing junior officials on how to allocate sites and whom to allocate them to. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, with regard to the hon member for Lenasia East, I should like to point out that the letter to Mr Sayed to which she referred, was withdrawn shortly afterwards, because the regional representative acted prematurely by giving the authority without the Housing Development Board's approval.

Unfortunately I did not have enough time to conclude my statement—I shall do so later—but I think if one hears what policy and procedure are being adopted, it will leave very little room for complaint. What is important is that when we have a policy, we must pursue it rigidly to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Mr D K PADIACHEY: Mr Chairman, it seems as if there was some kind of fiddling, because if the regional representative did act prematurely,

it means that something is wrong. In that case, I would suggest to the hon the Minister that that regional director be suspended until further investigation of this matter takes place.

This is not the only issue. It seems that the regional director did bring a lot of issues to our notice with regard to certain things that have been happening and decisions that have been taken in the Ministers' Council.

The issue is not one-sided; there are many sides to it. Many people have applied for land in the Lenasia area. Unfortunately this issue of Mr Sayed came in. We do not doubt his sincerity as a trader in the area or that he is in need of industrial land, but there are many others who were waiting even before he was. [Interjections.] There is much land there. The question of how it was allocated is what is at issue here.

It seems that the issue of allocations has been questionable in the past. Some sites have been put out to tender. In the case of others, because the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council has given the okay, they have been allocated to people. That is the question that must be answered today. Where do we draw the line? Do we allow the political arm to take decisions or do we put everything out to tender? What is the situation? This is the problem we in Lenasia East are confronted with.

Some of the small businessmen are going down to the local affairs committees asking for land. These committees agree that they must get land, but that depends on the Ministers' Council, and apparently the Ministers' Council then takes a different decision. [Time expired.]

Mrs R EBRAHIM: Mr Chairman, I agree with the hon member for Central Rand. He made some very valid points.

This is a matter of principle and of who set the precedents. I believe that precedents were set by the hon the Minister of Housing. Incidentally, if the hon member for Central Rand was alleging that there was a fiddle, for his information the regional representative was totally opposed to this allocation. He made his feelings known on two occasions. A meeting took place in Durban on 2 March which was attended by the entire board, Mr Reed, and all the regional representatives—there must have been about 30 officials—and even at that meeting the regional representative opposed this allocation, but he

was instructed to carry out certain decisions. If he acted prematurely or ultra vires, he is an agent of the board and the matter can be sorted about between them. I think, however, the claim of estoppel in law might hold, in that the agent will have to bear the brunt of what his juniors did. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not want to disagree with the last two speakers. It is clear that there was some misunderstanding in respect of communication, but subsequently the matter was regularised to the extent that this person was asked to hold on so that the normal procedure could be put into effect. I am *ad idem* with the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition.

I wish just to complete my statement. There are basically four alternatives when it comes to disposing of sites. The first is to lease sites to individual applicants for a specific period at a specified rental. The second is to sell sites to individual applicants by private treaty at a specified price, normally a market-related price.

Thirdly, the sites can be sold to persons who have responded to advertisements of sale by tender of sites, and whose tenders are the highest. In this case offset prices are given and the highest prices tendered must be higher than or equal to the offset prices.

Fourthly, the sites can be sold by auction, in which case the highest bidder purchases the site auctioned. In this case a reserve price is set and the successful bid must be higher than, or equal to, the reserve price. This practice has thus far not been resorted to.

I may also mention that the Housing Development Board has recently approved that a deposit of 10% of the prices tendered be asked from tenderers in an effort to discourage successful tenderers from withdrawing before the validity period expires, as such action causes unnecessary and sometimes costly delays and duplication. In the case of unsuccessful tenderers such deposits will be refunded without interest being added. In the case of successful tenderers the deposit will be viewed as a payment towards the purchase price, but also without interest, or forfeited by the successful tenderer should he withdraw and not conclude the sale.

In conclusion, I wish to point out that the policy of the Housing Development Board in general terms is to opt for and give preference to the sale

of its property by public tender as prescribed by the State Tender Board. It is not a hard and fast rule, however, and the said board, which is the legal owner of such property, has to and does allow itself to be guided by the dictates of prevailing circumstances in special cases. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

- *1. Mr K Chetty—Education and Culture. [Question standing over.]
- *2. Mr M Rajab—Education and Culture. [Question standing over.]

Purchasing of land: North Coast area of Natal

*3. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

- (1) Whether he or his Department intends purchasing any land for agricultural purposes in the North Coast area of Natal: if so, (a) where is this land situated and (b) what is the asking price (i) per hectare and (ii) in total;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

3 Gen

D137E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

- (1) No.
 - (a) Falls away.
 - (b) Falls away.
- (2) Yes.

Mr Chairman.

Hon members of this House will agree that as in the case of land for housing, the search for and acquisition at reasonable cost, of suitable land for agricultural purposes, is an on-going process. Thus was suitable land originally identified, but the price thereof at R25 000,00 per hect-

ture, as was the case in the Doornkop area, was evidently far too exorbitant to consider. For this reason the Director-General requested that the search for other suitable and cheaper land should continue, which culminated in the identification of a farm in the Nonoti area by the Department of Agricultural Development: Administration: House of Assembly, who acted as our Administration's agent, since this Administration has no legal powers to acquire agricultural land.

The said Department appointed a valuator to value the farm and on the basis of the valuation of R4 067 700,00, recommended the acquisition thereof.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, on a point of order: The hon the Minister's answer to the first part of my question was "no". In replying to the second part of the question the hon the Minister is now covering the ground of an official interpellation that has been handed in.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! May I ask the hon the Minister whether he is responding to the question as it appears on the Question Paper or to an interpellation which is still to come?

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman, in his reply the hon the Minister said that he was making a statement as requested under section 2 of the question. As far as the interpellation is concerned, it has not gone through the Whip's committee yet and it is not on the Question Paper. Accordingly, the rule of anticipation does not apply.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Minister may proceed.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, on a further point of order: In the light of the fact that the hon the Minister's answer to question 3(1) is "no", there is no need for a statement.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! No, my interpretation is that although the request for the hon the Minister to make a statement on the matter is interrelated to the main question, it is still something that stands on

its own. The hon the Minister is entitled to make a statement on the matter.

THE MINISTER: The farm, totalling 365 hectares, is situated on the Natal North Coast about 65 kilometres from Stanger. The original asking price was R4 000 000,00, whilst the finally negotiated price was R3 332 750,00 for the land plus R567 250,00 for the pool A sucrose quota of 2 269 tons, totalling R3 900 000,00.

The farm in question is 9 kilometres from the nearest Mill and consists of—

300 hectares of registered land planted with sugar cane, 180 hectares of which is under a well developed irrigation system;

7 hectares planted with Litchis, under micro jet irrigation and which is nearing bearing stage;

0,5 hectares planted with mangoes, 2 years old; and

57,5 hectares for housing, roads and other non-usable land, such as river verges, steep bush land, etc.

The housing consists of—

a Main house of 500 square metres;

a garage of 170 square metres;

a spares/ration office of 76 square metres;

2 cottages, totalling 310 square metres;

a workshop of 264 square metres;

a packshed of 392 square metres;

16 compounds totalling 1 441 square metres.

Water for year-round sprinkler irrigation of approximately 265 hectares is available from 2 dams in the Mfengu and Nonoti rivers, even in extreme drought conditions.

Cane production over an 8-year period averages at 15 500 tons per year, which is equivalent to 1 940 tons of sucrose.

The all-inclusive price of R10 685,00 per hectare compares very favourably with the price of R12 760,00 per hectares which was recently paid for a nearby farm which lies 3 kilometres nearer to the Mill, has no irrigation infrastructure except a small portable plant and with no possibility of dam construction.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, in particular with regard to the amount of approximately R10 000 per hectare paid for this particular piece of land, is the hon

the Minister aware of the fact that the Administration is considering leasing this land back to the seller and if so, at what price? Secondly, does the hon the Minister's Department value the advice given by the Natal Cane Growers Association which, by the way, was negative? Thirdly, is it not correct that the original report of the extension officers was negative and that they were subsequently pressurised by a new Minister to change the report?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I would like some time to go into all the details. I would like to reply to the question, but my answer would not be complete.

Mr N SINGH: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply and his reference to an evaluator being appointed, could he tell us who this person is? Secondly, could he tell us whether the Agricultural Credit Committee was asked to value this farm?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I ask the hon member for Umzinto for his understanding. I will do the necessary research and give him an answer.

Mr N JUMUNA: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him when the land was acquired and what the present status of the land is? Is the land being let or not? If it is being let, what are the terms and conditions? Furthermore, since the milling season has already started, I would like to know whether the crop on the land is being harvested at this stage?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member for North Coast is a sugar cane farmer and, if I may say so, I think he ought to know whether it is the harvesting and milling season. I am not in the know about these issues. However, with regard to his two other questions, the land has been acquired by the general affairs department.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: As an agent!

THE MINISTER: Yes, as an agent. The hon member also wanted to know how long ago the land was acquired, and the answer to this is a month or two ago. I understand from reliable sources that the registration of the sale is almost through. That is all I can tell the hon member for North Coast at this stage.

Mr N SINGH: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, regarding the registration of sale, would I be correct in saying that this land will be subdivided and sold off to farmers? I also wish to ask the hon the Minister whether he can give us the value of all the items he referred to as "housing" in his reply.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I will do so with pleasure.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, is there time for another supplementary question?

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I think there have already been five supplementary questions.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, there have been three.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition may proceed.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, in any transaction relating to the acquisition of land by our Administration, is it the policy of the Department to state that no agents were involved in the transaction?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not know what specific aspect of a transaction the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition is referring to, but I do not think that is a normal practice.

Amount paid to housing consultant

*4. **THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION** asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

- (1) What amount was paid to the housing consultant in 1991;
- (2) whether the contract period of this consultant has been extended; if not, why not; if so, (a) why and (b) for what period;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D138E

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

- (1) R439 659,76.

Minister waxes lyrical

CAPE TOWN — Self-penned poetry, dusted with harsh metaphor on the ravages of drought, tied up Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk's closing speech during the Own Affairs Agriculture vote debate yesterday. (3) Gen B10ay 13/5/92.

Members sat in silence as Van Niekerk read two poems in Afrikaans he had written during his visit to drought-hit farming regions earlier this year.

"Because maize cob is empty shell/ without pip/ barren/ in the dry air ... the greatest farmer/ becomes child so young/ when drought's pain/ naggingly worries/ troubles/ even breaks him ..."

Van Niekerk said drought damage, not debt, was what would determine which farmers would be aided by the R3,8bn drought-aid package. — Sapa.

Relief programme 'includes farmworkers'

CAPE TOWN — The Agriculture Department had set aside R5m in drought aid for workers on farms, dispelling claims by Cosatu that these labourers had been neglected, Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer said yesterday.

Speaking during the Agricultural Development Budget vote debate, he said government aid for farmers included assistance for farmworkers.

Cosatu recently announced a campaign against what it claimed was government's poor response to the plight of farmworkers.

Meyer said the Health and

National Population Development Department had also earmarked R20m for poverty relief, plus a R10m grant to Operation Hunger. Another R130m had also been given to the self-governing territories. (3) Gen

Deputy Health Services and Welfare Minister Fanus Schoeman said a national co-ordinated emergency relief programme would be introduced by government to help alleviate poverty and hardship caused by poor economic conditions and the drought.

Speaking during his department's own affairs budget vote, he said the measure was aimed at strengthening

existing state relief programmes.

The present welfare scheme for farmers and farmworkers was to be integrated into the new programme, designed to provide for their immediate and urgent needs.

All government welfare departments would be involved in it.

His department was deeply concerned about the serious effects which savings measures would have on essential services it provided.

During this financial year, the department would have to absorb a deficit of R55m. — Sapa.

B10ay 13/5/92

SA asks EC for drought aid in southern Africa

8/04/92 13/5792 (3) Gen

SA HAS formally approached the EC for emergency drought relief aid for southern Africa.

Sapa reports that in a letter to the EC, SA said the drought could spell disaster for the region if emergency measures were not taken.

An EC spokesman in Pretoria, confirming the request, said the organisation would respond regionally.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said although SA was traditionally not an aid recipient, the drought would place enormous pressure on the country's already restricted budget.

However, SA is expected to be excluded from a UN-sponsored conference in New York next month when donor countries will be asked to pledge aid for the region.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk yesterday urged banks and suppliers not to sequester drought-hit farmers until his department had worked out details for distributing its R3.8bn in drought aid.

But in Parliament, Deputy Minister Tobie Meyer warned that drought aid to farmers could be withheld if they did not keep proper financial records. Speaking during the agricultural development budget vote debate, he said a departmental survey had found that 41% of farmers in Petrusburg had not kept financial re-

ords. "This raises questions about the management prowess of our farmers," he said.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that Van Niekerk said in an interview banks, other financial institutions and input suppliers had a duty to get meaningfully involved in the operation to rescue the farming industry from disaster. It could not be questioned, said Van Niekerk, that the farmers' producer price index had fallen far behind the consumer price index.

FNB senior GM Viv Bartlett said yesterday wherever possible the bank helped farmers in financial difficulties. But where it was apparent that an applicant for further aid could not trade himself out of his problems, "we have no alternative".

A Volkskas spokesman said the bank treated all cases involving financially distressed farmers with sympathy. However, there were some sequestration proceedings in the pipeline — involving heavy legal costs — which could not be halted. But these involved hopeless cases beyond further reasonable aid.

Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg) told Parliament yesterday that commercial banks had told him they were prepared to consider forming a consortium to take over the functions of the Land Bank.

Such a move would mean that the farmer, who worked with his commercial bank on a day-to-day basis, would have a more direct line to total financial servicing. A farmer often had to borrow from his commercial bank anyway when the Land Bank came breathing down his neck for repayment of loans.

Removing the administration of some Land Bank funds from the activities of co-ops might improve relationships between co-ops and their members, as the co-ops would not have to chase after farmers.

Bruwer also said the CP would oppose the establishment of subsistence farmers on high-yield agricultural land because this was not in the interests of SA. The state would have to take a very careful look at the justification for subsistence farming as against the interests of commercial farmers.

Public Enterprises Minister Dawie de Villiers said Eskom had written off almost R500 000 in unpaid electricity bills incurred by western Transvaal farmers last year.

Replying to a question from Bruwer, he said the debt of R498 634 had been notched up by 260 farmers. In the central Transvaal Eskom wrote off R158 101 owed by 78 farmers, and in the Free State debt of R52 524 was also written off.

R26-m to appease white landowners

Sowetan 14/5/92

3 Gen

Sowetan Correspondent

THE Government is forging ahead with plans to buy land from white plot owners outside Soweto for R26,5 million - in spite of warnings that the land might be useless for housing development.

According to a memorandum from the Department of Local Government and National Housing to the Department of State Expenditure, the Transvaal Provincial Administration is to buy out an area known

as Doornkop 239 IQ west of Soweto.

An unnamed Cabinet Minister allegedly promised the white owners the State would buy their land and the Cabinet was convinced it would "not be wise to not fulfil their expectations".

The memo, given to Sowetan's sister newspaper *The Pretoria News* by a source within the public

service, tells of a "ministerial liaison" with the owners who had complained of a wave of thefts and assaults in the area.

According to the memorandum, the Cabinet was approached to approve the transfer of funds set aside for the black community from the National Housing Fund to pay for the purchase because "the purchase of this land is the direct result of urbanisation and it is therefore regarded as justified to use funds allocated for the black com-

munity for this transaction".

The memorandum, addressed to the Director-General of State Expenditure, says the Cabinet approved the transfer of R26,425 million to the TPA in February this year while taking note of the "possible fruitless expenses associated with it".

The land was re-zoned in July last year for agricultural use after the TPA said the ground was dolomitic and could not be used for township development.

In an interview, one of the land owners, Mr Fanus du Plessis, a former National Party MPC for Roodepoort, said he had asked Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis to buy the land.

"He agreed with me the land should be bought by the Government," he said.

The Pretoria News has also been told the land deal had overridden normal channels and procedures because publicity might draw a flood of similar requests.

Govt to buy 'useless' land

3 Gen ~~SA~~
Pretoria Correspondent

STAR 14/5/72
The Government is going ahead with plans to buy land from white plot-owners outside Soweto in spite of warnings that the land might be useless for housing development.

According to a memorandum from the Department of Local Government and National Housing to the Department of State Expenditure, the Transvaal Provincial Administration is to buy out an area known as Doornkop 239 IQ, west of Soweto, after an unnamed Cabinet minister promised the white owners that the State would buy their land.

About 70 smallholdings form the area.

According to the memorandum, the Cabinet was approached to approve transfer of funds set aside for the black community from the National Housing Fund to pay for the land because "the purchase of this land is the direct result of urbanisation and it is therefore regarded as justified to use funds allocated for the black community for this transaction".

The land, which was originally valued at R50,3 million and zoned for township development, was rezoned in July last year for agricultural use by the Deputy Minister of Planning only after the TPA said the ground was dolomitic and could not be used for townships.

At the same time, the land was revalued at R26,4 million.

Agricultural debt may soar to R20bn

3/10/92 14/5/92
PRETORIA - Agriculture's total debt could soar to R20bn by the end of the year after the summer harvest, Co-operative Council chairman C G van Veijeren said yesterday.

Speaking at the biennial co-operative congress, he warned the agricultural economic situation was "very dark" and its recovery could only be long and painful.

Despite the efforts of co-operatives and state aid, many farmers had been unable to survive financially. Some co-operatives had even faltered and the current disastrous season would intensify this trend.

Poor economic growth, unbridled inflation and the rigid interest rate policy were placing a tremendous strain on farmers and their co-operatives.

The security situation in rural areas continued to worsen, as these areas became increasingly depopulated.

The inability of agriculture to absorb further production cost increases as well as the inability to recover them in product prices would affect the recovery of co-operatives and the rural areas.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that government's decision to contribute to the preservation of breeding stock by means of interest subsidies was welcomed by the Meat Board yesterday.

The board said in Pretoria the interest rate on section 34 medium-term loans by the Land Bank for the purchase of breeding stock from drought-stricken areas was to be subsidised by 5% for a year, amounting to only 14% effective interest on such loans. The board appealed to all meat pro-

(3) Gen
GERALD REILLY

ducers to refrain from slaughtering valuable breeding stock.

It is reported from Cape Town that Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk told Parliament yesterday more than 1 404-million tons of maize would be channelled through SA ports by June 30 for hunger relief in southern Africa. He said SA would receive 977 000 tons, Zimbabwe 407 683 tons and Zambia 20 000 tons.

Mozambique, in turn, appealed to the world yesterday for massive food aid to save more than 3-million people from starvation, Sapa-Reuter reports from Maputo.

Prime Minister Mario Machungo told foreign diplomats and aid agency representatives recent surveys indicated "an almost total crop loss in the centre and south of the country". It was foreseen that famine would wipe out one fifth of the country's 15-million people unless food aid arrived in time.

"The current drought could be the worst disaster in memory for Mozambique, threatening to reach incalculable dimensions and consequences," Machungo said.

His appeal puts total needs at 1,3-million tons of food for the 12 months beginning May 1 1992. The total value of aid requested, including logistical support, seeds, farm tools and health assistance in addition to food, comes to \$457,46m.

Water restrictions have been imposed throughout the Kruger National Park after the disclosure that most of the water in the reserve is being used for irrigation.

● Comment: Page 16

SABS reports malpractices

6/10/92 14/5/92
MADDEN COLE
 THE SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) has blamed consumer apathy for large-scale malpractices in the bakery and service station sectors, which could result in consumers being cheated out of millions of rands annually.

In his annual review released yesterday, SABS director-general J P du Plessis said a survey last year had discovered that 50% of the bakeries inspected produced under-weight bread, and 12% of all loaves failed to meet minimum weight requirements.

The survey's results disclosed "a frightening lack of business ethics" in some sectors of the industry.

Although the bakeries had been warned and the matter publicised, they had continued these practices.

A random survey of petrol pumps showed that 10% of meters were inaccurate. A survey of weighbridges in the PWV and Transvaal country areas showed "a disconcertingly high number of inaccurate instruments".

The SABS would recommend amendments to legislation to enable courts to impose more appropriate sentences. However, consumer organisations should urge consumers to report cases of short measure.

Anglo A

Results for th

Turnover

Operating profit bef

Policeman held for arms cache

POLICE yesterday seized a large arms cache and arrested a prominent KwaZulu policeman who is alleged to be a "warlord". *Sowetan 15/5/92*

Ten other people were arrested at Umlazi on Wednesday night for operating a protection racket.

The arrests, including three women, followed a report to the Montclair police station by a resident who claimed he was threatened by the gang. He was told he could not operate a business at Umlazi unless he paid.

Police spokesman Captain Bala Naidoo confirmed yesterday that members from the Montclair firearm unit and the reaction unit had made the arrests.

"At this stage the accused are facing charges of extortion. However, we are considering handing over the case to the special investigation unit for them to take over," said Naidoo.

He said among the weapons found were two G3 rifles - mainly used by the KwaZulu police - an R1 rifle, a Mossberg shotgun, an HMC sub-machinegun, four pistols, 211 rounds of ammunition, a teargas grenade, a "thousand foot" flare, five holsters, a car radio, a portable telephone and R1 100 in cash. - *Sapa*.

Matter of fact

IN a report on page 1 in *Sowetan* yesterday a sub-headline read: "Face to face with killer".

This headline got on to this page erroneously and had no relevance to any of the stories or people on the page.

Court asked to decide on land dispute

Sowetan 15/5/92
THE Government has recommended to the Garankuwa Regional Court to do an on-site inspection to determine whether a disputed piece of land is on the South African or Bophuthatswana side of the border.

Forty-seven people are facing charges of illegal squatting in the homeland after being arrested on a piece of land somewhere on the border between the two countries.

Prosecutor Ms IM Moloisane submitted to magistrate Ms ES Monyeki yesterday that the court should visit the location of the squatter camp.

The attorney for the squatters, Mr Jake Maseka, put it to the court that the accused were arrested by the Bophuthatswana police while occupying an informal settlement in Kruisfontein, which borders the homeland's area of Kameelfontein.

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Sowetan Correspondent

The complainant, Chief James Mamogale, leader of the Bakwena-ba-Mogopa tribe of Hebron, west of Pretoria, told the court the squatters were unlawfully and illegally occupying a part of Kameelfontein in Bophuthatswana.

He said the land was owned privately by a section of his tribe.

There was some drama in the packed courtroom when Maseka put it to Mamogale that he also sublet shacks in his own backyard, which by implication was tantamount to encouraging illegal squatting.

Mamogale replied that certain people had approached him looking for "a place to sleep" and that in return these people had thanked him with "something".

FM 15/5/92.

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DROUGHT RELIEF

Not much left for farmers

Most of the State's R3,8bn drought aid package for embattled farmers, announced with much fanfare last week in Cape Town, will go towards paying off government's own R2,8bn commitment to farming co-ops. Farmers will get only R1bn of the money directly.

The morass stems from an old State guarantee scheme gone haywire.

During the 1983 drought, government issued an R800m guarantee to farming co-ops in summer rainfall grain-producing areas. The guarantee extended to credits, for input costs, provided by co-ops to struggling farmers in order to allow the flow of credit to continue.

But, says the Department of Agriculture, "the mistake was made of allowing further carryover debts, caused by weak maize and wheat crops in following years, to be included under the guarantee scheme, which was meant to apply only to 1983 debts."

So, while farmers obviously will also benefit from this year's first R1bn instalment on the four-year, R3,8bn package (to which must be added the R355m in drought relief budgeted earlier this year), the massive bill now being paid by taxpayers would have been avoided if the proper controls had been in place in the mid-Eighties.

Government says its main aim is to close out the State's commitment to the co-ops under the guarantee package, thus allowing market principles to apply to future agricultural financing.

The escalating farm debt — R18bn at the end of last year — has been aggravated by recurring droughts, with this year's the most devastating. But the debt would be much less if the correct policies had been followed in agriculture.

The initial mistake was made in the early Eighties, when government allowed the farming co-ops — which had a total turnover of well over R22bn last year — to act as the Land Bank's production financing input agents. This role, coupled with their roles as wholesalers and retailers for farming requisites and agents for the various control boards, was protected by a statutory lien over farmers' annual crop proceeds in favour of the co-ops.

Because the co-ops were not only protected by this lien but also backed by the State guarantee, as well as the provision of Land Bank funds, the necessity of keeping strict controls over farming credit was reduced.

Government has now finally seen the light — but it has yet to remove the statutory lien, which compelled commercial banks to base their financing decisions on the value of property rather than on cash-flow considerations. This led to a disastrous escalation of short-term debt in agriculture, as banks started financing everything from crops to trucks on overdraft facilities.

Backed by the security of farm property, this seemed a safe bet — especially when lending rates at anything up to 8% above prime became the norm. But with the latest drought disaster and drop in farm values, the house of cards is in danger of collapsing.

While government is now pulling out of its guarantee commitment at great cost to long-suffering taxpayers, it is also putting the squeeze on the banks by placing the onus on them to provide future funding on cash-flow and commercial considerations, rather than on the "security" of a farming sector that is faced with financial disaster.

The whole issue was to be thrashed out at a meeting of affected parties in Pretoria this week. But the pressure will now be squarely on government to consider the invidious financing role of the farming co-ops and the continued existence of the lien on farm crops,

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which has become a major problem for commercial banks.

"In fact," says a spokesman for a major banking group, "we will have to seriously reconsider our future operations in the farming sector unless government seriously faces up to this issue."

Arnold van Huyssteek

Drought pushes up producer price inflation

By Sven Lünsche

3 Ban
ary.

Producer price inflation moved up in March as the drought put pressure on agricultural food prices.

The Central Statistical Service reported yesterday that producer inflation — the year-on-year increase in the Production Price Index — rose to eight percent in March from its record low of 6,7 percent in Febru-

However, economists said yesterday that the underlying trends indicated that producer price rises would be maintained at recent levels in the months to come.

This was confirmed by the mere 0,5 percent rise in the PPI from February to March this year. This low increase was mainly due to the low cost of

imported commodities.

In March the rise in the cost of imported producer goods was 0,1 percent higher than in February and 4,1 percent up on March 1991.

The index for locally-produced commodities, however, increased by 0,8 percent over February and 8,9 percent over March last year.

A breakdown of monthly commodity price rises is led by

STAR 15792
agricultural items (7,3 percent), fishery products (10 percent), textiles (2,1 percent) and clothing (2,9 percent).

As the drought forced farmers to kill more stock and thus raise their supplies to the abattoir the price of fresh meat fell by 1,9 percent during the month. So far this has not been reflected in the meat prices paid by consumers.

Land report

③ CT 2/6/92

3 months late

7

THE first report of the advisory commission investigating claims for the restoration of land removed during the apartheid era was released yesterday — more than three months after it was completed.

The report of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation was tabled in Parliament yesterday but the Conservative Party immediately attacked the government for keeping the report secret for more than three months.

"It is disrespectful of Parliament," the CP said in a statement issued by its black affairs spokesman, Mr Schalk Pienaar.

"It is just another example of the incompetence and clumsiness of the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, unless there are also other sinister reasons, for which the minister owes the public an explanation," he added.

The commission, whose chairman is Mr Justice T H van Reenen, met four times in December and February and its first report was signed in February.

It said that before its establishment, controversy and suspicion arose within certain communities and organisations.

"Discussions with representatives of the communities resulted in the allaying of fears and suspicions and the commission is now being accepted as a forum for addressing land claims."

Most of the claims the commission is investigating concern the restoration of land taken from black people.

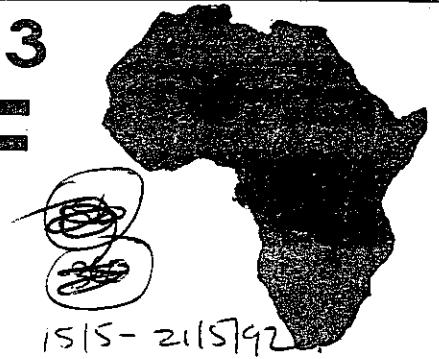
Zevenfontein sites chosen

JOHANNESBURG. — About 1 000 Zevenfontein squatter families are to be resettled on two sites north of Randburg and Sandton, the Transvaal Provincial Administration announced yesterday, finally ending a protracted battle over the community's future.

The two sites — portions of Nietgedacht and Diepsloot West — are to be expropriated and developed at a total cost of about R20 million, Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough said yesterday. — Sapa

The Crisis of Development in Africa: 3 Zambia and the IMF

New Nation [Learning Nation]



A mine worker said: "In our clinic there are no drugs any more. That's what the IMF means to us. But I don't know what the letters stand for."



New Words

IMF: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) acts as a bank which lends money to governments around the world. All the money needs to be paid back with interest to the IMF.

Last week we saw how Zambia, after the crash of copper prices in the mid-1970s, went from a rich developing country to a nation suffering from a serious economic crisis. In this article we will look at how Zambia handled its problems. We will focus especially on debt.

Zambia had several choices in handling debt. They chose mainly to rely on borrowing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Zambian government believed they would be able to pay back loans from the IMF when the price of copper rose again on the world market. However, until today the price of copper has never reached its 1974 level. So Zambia has had to carry on borrowing from the IMF. It's debt has grown, and it owes nearly 20 billion rands at present.

As we saw last week, Zambia's development success was based on using the earnings from government owned copper mines to provide services such as education and health care for the people. The government also used copper earnings to cover subsidies on mealie-meal and keep the price low for consumers in urban areas.

The IMF's Development Path

The IMF opposed this active role by the government in the economy. In order to

The IMF Loans - there are strings attached.

Like most money lenders, the IMF attaches strings to loans. The IMF imposes what it calls "conditionality" on its loans. Conditionality means that in order to be given a loan, a country must follow a set path of economic development. The IMF calls this path an economic Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). Since the IMF is controlled by the major capitalist countries, they believe that economies can grow fastest when they help to maximise the profits of companies. Therefore the IMF's programme is designed to help businesses make high profits. Among the measures commonly recommended by the IMF are:

(1) Removal of subsidies:

Subsidies are government payments to those who produce or sell basic necessities. For instance, if a subsidy is given to mealie-meal sellers, those who sell mealie-meal can charge lower prices, because part of the price of the mealie-meal is covered by the government. The IMF believes subsidies are a waste of taxpayers' money and help support inefficient businesses.

(2) Cutbacks in government spending:

The IMF generally believes African governments are inefficient and overstuffed. They recommend big cutbacks in government staffing and services.

(3) Promotion of traditional exports:

The IMF usually encourages African countries to increase efficiency in the production of their traditional exports such as minerals (copper, for example) and cash crops. Rather than promoting production of manufactured goods in African countries, the IMF believes such manufactured goods should be imported with money made from exports.

(4) Devaluation:

The IMF encourages countries receiving their loans to reduce the value of their money, in other words to "devalue" their currency. This supposedly makes a country's exports cheaper. This is done to promote the sale of exports. The value of a country's currency affects the price of its imports and exports. Zambia has devalued its currency many times. A radio that cost 200 kwacha in 1985 would cost a Zambian 12 600 kwacha today, about a whole year's salary for many workers!

(5) Privatisation:

The IMF believes government owned companies are always inefficient. Therefore, the IMF recommends that nationalised companies be sold back to private owners.

secure the IMF loans, Zambia had to follow the IMF's development path, which was as follows:

Cutbacks and Retrenchments

To comply with the IMF, Zambia retrenched thousands of civil servants. Many services were reduced due to lack of money. Health services were especially hard hit. By 1987 more than half of the vehicles belonging to the Ministry of Health were out of service because the government

had no money for repairs. In addition, most Zambian doctors left the country. The value of the Kwacha had fallen so low that by 1987 the salary for a graduate doctor was less than 100 Rands per month! Medicines were also in great shortage.

Subsidies and Food Riots

The IMF tried on several occasions to force the Zambian government to remove the subsidy on mealie meal. In 1987, there were widespread riots when the subsidy

was removed and price of mealie meal doubled. The government was forced to restore the subsidy. In 1990 there were riots again and an attempted coup when the subsidy was removed. To this day however, the subsidy has not been restored. Today a 25 kg sack of mealie meal costs a teacher half a month's salary.

Further Debt

Because the price of copper has never recovered, Zambia has slipped further into debt. More than 40% of the government's

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annual budget goes toward repaying its debts. To make matters worse, it is estimated that Zambia has only enough copper reserves left to produce for another twenty years. What will they do when the copper is all gone?

What is the Solution?

The IMF would say that Zambia spent too long following a model of "socialism" where government was too active in the economy, and used resources inefficiently. They would particularly blame the current problems on the Zambian government's nationalisation of the copper mines. The IMF would recommend privatisation of the mines and other state-owned companies.

Socialist economists would analyse the situation differently. They would say that Zambia never changed its colonial economic structure. Socialists would argue that by only relying on selling copper, Zambia was digging a hole in the ground for itself. They would say that the only way for Zambia to succeed in the future is to begin to produce a wider variety of goods.

Nearly all would agree that some part of Zambia's problems are due to a lack of democracy. Kaunda and UNIP ruled for 27 years without holding an election. While the masses suffered many UNIP members reaped the benefits of "independence". This year Zambia held elections, and Frederick Chiluba, an ex-trade unionist, was elected President. He received almost 80% of the votes cast in the elections. Chiluba has promised to steer the economy more tightly along the IMF's line. He has promised to privatise all state industries and open the door to foreign investors. He blames the country's economic crisis on the errors of the Kaunda government. He says: "We are like a country awakening from a coma. We are weak and ill but still alive... For too long government was the problem. This crisis needs discipline, hard work, honesty, clean government and a determination to grit our teeth, look our problems in the face, and tackle them head on."

Questions for discussion

- Do you think Frederick Chiluba has the answers for Zambia's problems?
- Is the IMF correct in its demands? Read the points (1) to (5) in the box on the IMF, and think what would happen if the IMF demanded these changes in South Africa.

Books and pamphlets on the IMF and the World Bank are available from the: Institute For African Alternatives
4th floor, Sable Centre, 41 De Korte St, Braamfontein, 2001
Their telephone number is: (011) 339-6752 Fax: (011) 339-1127

Karoo — land of the forgotten people

South 16/5-21/5/92.

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A MAJOR national road runs through the arid Karoo — yet the 50 towns scattered through the area all suffer from a lack of infrastructure, resources and facilities.

In a terrain where most inhabitants are dependent on revenue from farming, unemployment is pegged at 71 percent.

No major development initiatives have reached the Karoo for decades and the two phrases which best describe the situation are “economic stagnation” and “abject poverty”.

Even politically, the Karoo is light years behind the rest of the country. The process of change which has swept through South Africa over the past 18 months has had almost no impact on the region.

Strict divisions between racial groups remain and the notion of “master” and “slave” is still very much in evidence — the legacy of apartheid in its most base form.

Development academics who have researched socio-economic conditions in the area have all reached the same conclusion: the area should have been declared a disaster zone years ago.

The shortcomings of political organisations in the Karoo and the lack of co-ordination of development programmes around education and housing are largely a result of the distances between towns and the repressive climate under which activists are forced to operate.

Take us with you, don't neglect us any longer, is the call from Karoo activists who want an end to urban arrogance.

Ruby Marks, co-ordinator of a resource centre based in Beaufort West, reports:

I had a taste of this last week while visiting Karoo townships. A mysterious male checked my movements all day, telephoning schools to see if I had arrived, sometimes minutes before I reached them.

I was stopped by policemen in a van on a lonely stretch of road between Prieska and Middelburg later that day. They tried to convince me to return to Cape Town and not cause trouble in the Karoo. Most of their tirade is unprintable.

Nowhere in the country are the effects of apartheid as marked as in the Karoo. This is clearly demonstrated by the extreme dependence of the black community on whites and the pervasive white control of economic power.

The poverty has resulted in a mood of apathy. Lacking a strong voice of their own, most residents



have lapsed into fatalism. They seem to accept their lot, adopting the phrase “Die mens wik, maar God — en die wit man — beskik (Man proposes but God — and the white man — disposes)”.

The Karoo Resource Centre (KRC) was established two years ago in Beaufort West as a satellite project of the Careers Research and Information Centre (CRIC).

It faces the difficult task of working without any debate on the milieu in which it operates. Economic stagnation and social problems like teenage pregnancy and alcohol abuse are combined with a lack of organised alternative formations to give direction.

Two conferences scheduled to take place soon are intended to address development issues in the Karoo.

The first is an education conference planned for May 16 by the KRC and local community organisations.

They will discuss the formulation of education policy, priorities for the region, community control of farm schools, illiteracy, pre-school education and the need for educare centres and trained workers.

It is hoped the conference will lead to the establishment of an education co-ordinating structure. The Karoo will have an opportunity to make an input on what the new education system should look like.

A second conference, the Conference on Poverty and Development in the Karoo, will be held from June 26 to 28.

A co-ordinating committee consisting of farmers, social workers, local state departments, agricultural unions, churches and community representatives have been meeting to discuss the poverty and how it can be eradicated.

A meeting is scheduled to take place in the first week of June with Minister Kraai van Niekerk so the issue can be put on the government's agenda.

Activists in the Karoo often complain that the ANC is not interested in the suffering of people in the area. They feel the ANC will only come to the region if there is a constituent assembly and the organisation needs votes.

Urban service organisations sometimes offer projects clearly unsuited to the region. Such pro-

jects cannot be implemented because of a lack of infrastructure to support the schemes.

This creates suspicion in rural areas that service organisations try to “hitch” the Karoo onto their agendas to get funding for their continued existence.

Some complain that urban political activists and trade unions create dust clouds as they pass through the Karoo — only stopping if they have accidents or must fill up with petrol.

Academics are regarded as tourists passing through who do not stop to offer anything meaningful. They do not help residents or local organisations to define how their research could help the community.

Karoo activists complain about a lack of hands-on involvement from progressive trade unions, despite calls for help in organising the poorest of the poor, the farmworkers.

Even progressive newspapers give rural communities scant attention.

This indifference to a region facing severe economic stagnation is astounding.

The impoverishment of the rural areas is a direct result of skewed development which places short-term profit gain ahead of comprehensive planned development.

The solution lies in changing the power relations between urban and rural areas. The present imbalance is neither inevitable nor eternal.

To rectify the problem rural areas must be politically uplifted and integrated into national political initiatives.

Parks Board backs *C/pres 17/5/92* down on Machavies

By DAN DHLAMINI

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THE National Parks Board (NPB), which intends developing Machavies into a game reserve, will not continue with the project before consulting the Barolong ba Modiboa who are reclaiming their ancestral land.

In an interview this week NPB executive director Dr Anthony Hall-Martin said he had arranged a meeting tomorrow with lawyers representing the Barolong to discuss the matter.

The interview follows a court case which revolves around the Machavies-land, about 20 km from Potchefstroom.

This week Barolong Action Committee (BAC) chairman Johannes Ntsimane and 50 members of the tribe appeared in a Potchefstroom Magistrate's Court charged with trespassing on municipal land.

This was the Barolong's second at-

tempt in two years to reclaim their land from where they were forcibly removed in 1971.

Last December, 25 tribesmen were arrested for trying to reoccupy Machavies, which is also known as Matlwang.

Charges against them were subsequently dropped. Potchefstroom town clerk J du Plessis said this was "for humanitarian reasons".

On Good Friday another scuffle broke out when the authorities claimed the tribe had broken a visiting agreement and again allegedly tried to reoccupy the land. The case will be heard on June 16 and the tribesmen are out on bail.

This week Ntsimane said the committee would await the outcome of trial before talking to Hall-Martin.

Hall-Martin said his letters to the BAC had drawn no response.

The State has a fine crop of weeds

STimes 17/5/92

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN and EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

THIRD-GENERATION Transvaal farmer Jannie Smuts, 48, pulls no punches on the subject of the SA Development Trust Corporation.

"They farm in a way that would have bankrupted any private farmer years ago," he said bluntly.

"The corporation took over 34 500ha from 63 farmers and plot owners. It was prime cotton and mealie land.

"Now the weeds stand three metres high. It will take years to get rid of them."

The weed crop is flourishing on land under central pivot irrigation, which the state bought from farmers for about R7 000 a hectare.

Maize yields are down from roughly five tons a hectare to 3,8 tons. The 1 005ha which the corporation claims to have harvested represent a third of the land previously cultivated by the farm owners.

RECORDS

Mr Leon Frost, a former Department of Development Aid official who was based at Rust de Winter for three years, claimed corporation officials inflated the crop yield statistics presented to the Pickard commission by more than 50 percent.

"A single Rust de Winter farmer used to produce more than the entire wheat harvest now produced by the corporation," said Mr Frost this week.

"Equipment worth millions of rand has gone missing. People were stealing stuff from the sheds at night — but the real reason for the losses is that no records were kept.

"When people took equipment or implements to use, they didn't sign release forms as they were supposed to. They just took what they wanted and moved stuff around so much we lost track of everything.

"Most of the thefts were never reported — not to me and not to the police. I would discover things had disappeared when I went looking for them.

"When I reported this to the DDA head office, I was told I should not interfere in corporation affairs," said Mr Frost.

During his three-year period at

Farmers welcome call for corporation probe

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

FARMERS from the once prosperous Rust de Winter area north-east of Pretoria have welcomed calls for an independent investigation into the SA Development Trust Corporation.

In his report on corruption in the now defunct Department of Development Aid, Mr Justice Pickard found that land expropriated in 1985 for incorporation into Kwandebele had shown a considerable decline in productivity under management by the corporation.

The judge also found that stock theft was rife, capital assets had devalued dramatically, fire-breaks were all but non-existent, farming units were too small to be economically viable, trees and bush had been plundered, too many tractors had been bought and payments had been made to the corporation by the DDA for work not yet completed.

This week, corporation chief executive officer Gert Greyling asked Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers to appoint an independent investigation into allegations of irregularities, misuse of public funds and the efficiency of the corporation's management systems.

He rejected claims of neglect and poor farming methods, saying the corporation:

- Demolished homesteads on the farms because it was uneconomical to guard them as they were "not regarded as an important asset";
- Allowed thorn trees to take

Rust de Winter, Mr Frost said, the level of management deteriorated to such a degree that:

- Six cattle were left without water for so long they tried to drink dip, fell into the trough and drowned;
- A central pivot irrigator worth more than R100 000 was smashed into four pieces when officials pulled it across a ditch. The loss was written off as "wear and tear";
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root in previously cultivated lands because a soil study had shown some land was too poor to sustain crops and scientific farming methods dictated it was uneconomical to plant in dry conditions;

- Applied weed control during the crop-growing season, but found it unnecessary to eradicate non-noxious weeds in the off season.

Mr Greyling said claims that less than one third of the land bought by the state was under cultivation by the corporation were "exaggerated".

A report on page 25 of last weekend's Sunday Times stated incorrectly that Mr Justice Pickard had found corruption in the corporation had taken place on such a scale that it was worthy of a separate report by private auditors and subsequent investigation by the police.

The judge did not mention corruption in connection with the corporation. He noted there was reason for concern over the efficiency and effectiveness of its actions and said, in his view, "the sooner the DDA and its satellites (SA Development Trust and SA Development Trust Corporation) were physically dismantled, their staff transferred to all ends of the civil service earth and their functions distributed over as wide a spectrum as possible, to as many other appropriate bodies as possible, with as few of existing personnel moving over with their functions as possible, the better".

across fields;

- Farming implements were left to rust in the veld and sometimes damaged beyond repair by tractors or bakkies crashing into them.

Mr Smuts said farmers whose land was bought by the state had been led to believe the main purpose of the takeover was to divide the land into units for the settlement of Ndebele farmers.

"But there's no sign of development for that purpose and, if they carry on at the present rate, it'll

take 100 years before anything happens," he said.

He scorned the corporation's claim that there was insufficient water for farming.

"In the worst drought years of the 80s, when our dam was down to two percent capacity, most of our land was still under cultivation and we managed to produce substantial crops," he said.

His wife, Hilary, said she refused to return to the farm that had been her home for 18 years because the chronic neglect "broke my heart".

This week, a Sunday Times team visited the area and saw:

- Mealies dwarfed by weeds more than 3m high;
- A R180 000 central pivot irrigation system broken into pieces lying in the veld;
- Derelict sheds and houses, some demolished.

HEARTSORE

The labour force in the area has declined from 2 500 to 700. The local school has closed down and the only remaining shop owner in the area, Mrs Helen Francis, says her business is down 60 percent and she doubts she will survive the year.

Farm labourer Jackson Mbungu, 60, who has lived in Rust de Winter for 45 years, said he had never seen such neglect.

"I am heartsore about my future. Most of my friends and co-workers, even the old people, have been forced to leave the farms they had lived on for years in search of food and work."

Retired University of South Africa theologian Professor Braam Viljoen, twin brother of former SADF chief General Constand Viljoen and the PFP candidate in Waterkloof in the 1987 election, farms 1 057ha of land at Rust de Winter.

He described the corporation's management of the farms as "socialist" and said the once-productive land became "an absolute disaster" under its control.

"Rust de Winter farmers supported a community of more than 3 000 people before the DDA, the SA Development Trust and the corporation become involved.

"Now only a few hundred people live here, and they are all struggling to make ends meet. It's not only a disaster, it's a disgrace."



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Farmer Jannie Smuts, in a field of weeds, says the state should probe the corporation's management. Photo by HADLEY

The State has a fine crop of weeds

STimes 17/5/92

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and EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

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"But there's no sign of development for that purpose and, if they carry on at the present rate, it'll

take 100 years before anything happens," he said.

He scorned the corporation's claim that there was insufficient water for farming.

"In the worst drought years of the 80s, when our dam was down to two percent capacity, most of our land was still under cultivation and we managed to produce substantial crops," he said.

His wife, Hilary, said she refused to return to the farm that had been her home for 18 years because the chronic neglect "broke my heart".

This week, a Sunday Times team visited the area and saw:

- Mealies dwarfed by weeds more than 3m high;

- A R180 000 central pivot irrigation system broken into pieces lying in the veld;

- Derelict sheds and houses, some demolished.

HEARTSORE

The labour force in the area has declined from 2 500 to 700. The local school has closed down and the only remaining shop owner in the area, Mrs Helen Francis, says her business is down 60 percent and she doubts she will survive the year.

Farm labourer Jackson Mbungu, 60, who has lived in Rust de Winter for 45 years, said he had never seen such neglect.

"I am heartsore about my future. Most of my friends and co-workers, even the old people, have been forced to leave the farms they had lived on for years in search of food and work."

Retired University of South Africa theologian Professor Braam Viljoen, twin brother of former SADF chief General Constand Viljoen and the PFP candidate in Waterkloof in the 1987 election, farms 1 057ha of land at Rust de Winter.

He described the corporation's management of the farms as "socialist" and said the once-productive land became "an absolute disaster" under its control.

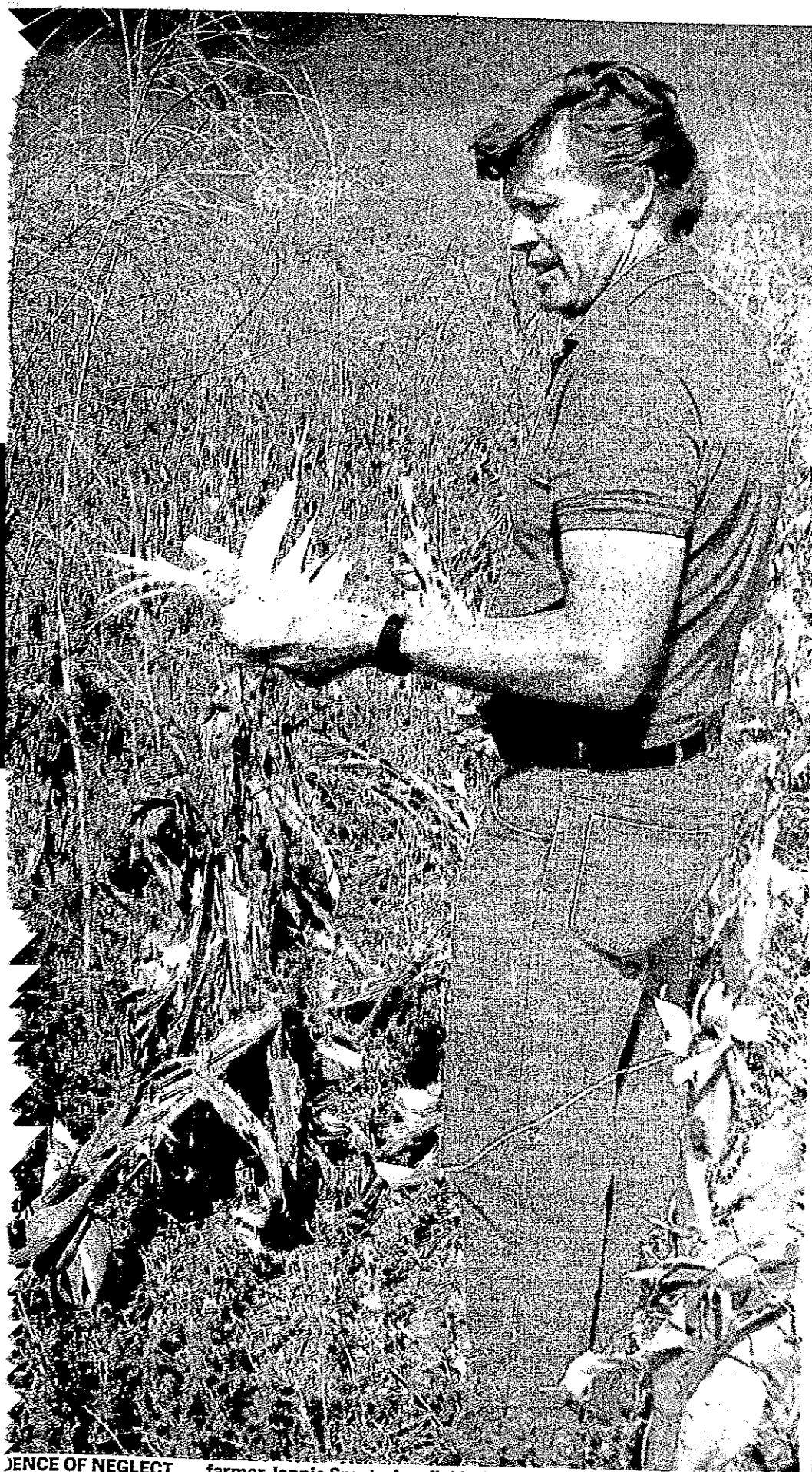
"Rust de Winter farmers supported a community of more than 3 000 people before the DDA, the SA Development Trust and the corporation become involved.

"Now only a few hundred people live here, and they are all struggling to make ends meet. It's not only a disaster, it's a disgrace."

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STimes 17/5/92



ANCE OF NEGLECT . . . farmer Jannie Smuts, in a field of weeds considerably taller than him, believes it will take years to get rid of this 'crop'
Picture: ROB HADLEY

burg editor of *New Age*, Margaret Smith of the *Sunday Times*, Paul Trehwela of the *Rand Daily Mail* (since imprisoned as a member of the illegal Communist Party), Hugh Lewin and Raymond Eisenstein (also sentenced to jail terms for 'sabotage'). In the case of the first two at least, the main purpose in holding them was to obtain information, and to intimidate other journalists who might be tempted to report anti-government activities with some degree of sympathy.

There is no doubt in the minds of most journalists that further restrictions on the Press are being planned. One Bill already passed extends the provisions of the Official Secrets Act to cover "police activities in the preservation of internal

vicissitudes both of ownership and policy, first supported the project for Federation, then questioned Federation and was severely rebuked, then settled for a modest role as sympathetic critic. It is now (1965) edited by the liberal Mrs. Eileen Haddon, who has earned Government disapproval for the interest she has taken in political prisoners, and her attempts to obtain them legal defence and assistance for their families. She has been restricted to the Salisbury area under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act.

Thomson's *Daily News*, started as the first daily newspaper directed to an African readership, in 1962, had a short life, since it was banned in August 1964 under the Law and Order



RIVER RUNS DRY . . . And it's a long trek for water. A woman collects a bucketful in front of a dam wall.

Picture: DESENI MOODLIAR

Drought grips green land

By FRED KHUMALO 17/15/92

THE DROUGHT at present gripping many parts of the country could well be non-existent in the Natal south coast judging by the Umgababa River which gracefully snakes its way into the sea, showing a healthy level of water and riverbanks which wear a blanket of greenery.

But behind the soothing facade, the sad reality which thousands of local people are faced with is that there is not a drop of water to drink. The "Green Drought" is severe.

The clear water which makes a three-kilometre foray from the estuary of Umgababa river is all undrinkable sea water.

Further upstream, the river peters out and the riverbed is as dry as bone. There are occasional stagnant puddles covered with green algae, ideal breeding places for mosquitoes. However, all the way through the river banks are deceptively

green - hence the term "Green Drought".

Explaining how the green drought came about, John Allwood of World Vision said the occasional drizzle in the province during what was supposed to be the rainy season kept the water table just within reach of plants.

But, Allwood warned, the approaching dry winter season would deplete the soothing greenery as the water table is likely to fall and underground sources will dry up and the vegetation will disappear.

The water crisis has already started manifesting itself in more than one way.

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of babies with gastro-enteritis and dehydration and other water-related illnesses, said Dr Les Haines of DG Crookes Hospital in Scottburgh.

"This increase is because people obtain water from rivers with low levels of water and

high concentration of germs," Haines said.

A local woman who had walked for six kilometres in search of water was run over by a car when returning home with her water container carefully balanced on her head. The N2 southern freeway slices through Umgababa and it is always busy.

With this bad news in mind, villagers from Mahlongwa area, a reserve adjacent to Umgababa, have collected R40 000, while those of Mandawe have gathered R9 000 towards a scheme to get a water supply from the Umzinto Joint Services Board.

Mnandi Gumede, chairman of an ad hoc committee entrusted with the task of raising funds for the water project, says the money raised thus far is a small fraction of "the millions of rands" needed to see the project to fruition.

In Umgababa though, many villagers have to travel kilo-

metres to get water from the local holiday resort.

From as early as 4 am people queue up at the resort where the water is rationed out for each household. The rationing stops at 8 am.

The process starts all over again at 3 pm when schoolchildren line up to collect bucketfuls of water for their families.

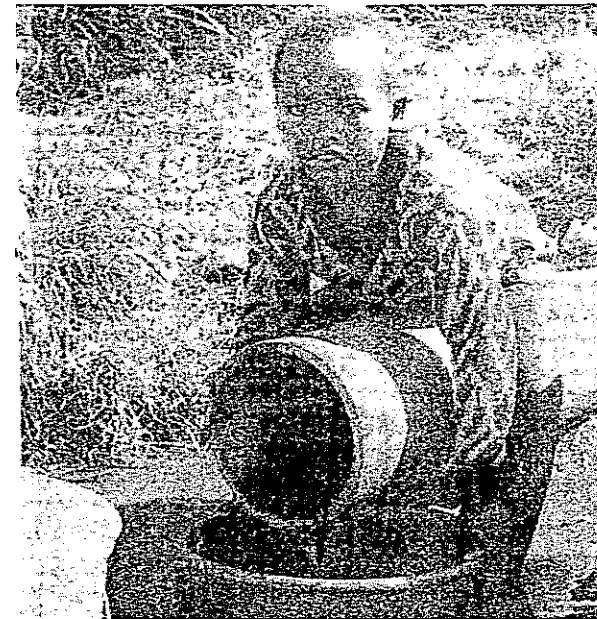
Desperation has taught the local people some lessons in ingenuity.

While some dig the dry riverbed and wait patiently for the water level to rise, others can be seen along the highway drawing water from pipes affixed on the side of the road to control the flow of water oozing from natural fountains. They scoop the water from the murky puddle and carefully fill their containers.

While human beings scramble for the water, cattle can be seen sniffing the dry river bed in desperation, continuing their long vigil for drinking water.



GREEN DROUGHT . . . It doesn't look parched, but there's not a drop you could drink. A young girl is sent to the river to fill her container.



PRECIOUS DROPS . . . A little boy fills his dish at a water pipe as water becomes more and more scarce.

By George Nicholas
Agricultural Correspondent

The Land Bank is making it easier for part-time farmers, such as smallholders who work in towns, to obtain loans.

It is prepared to apply its loan policy as flexibly as possible in order to accommodate certain part-time farmers.

The bank says in its annual

Land Bank eases part-time farmers' lot

STAR 18/5/92.

report that its object in doing so is to enable these part-time farmers to establish themselves as full-time farmers.

In the past year the bank offered loans amounting to nearly R19 million to 72 part-time farmers who were in the pro-

cess of establishing themselves as full-time farmers.

Farmers who owe money to the bank but have been forced by abnormal weather conditions to accept temporary employment are also free to approach the bank for further loans.

These farmers now number more than 300 and jointly owe about R56 million to the bank.

The financing of part-time farmers already amounts to 12 percent of the bank's total loans to individual farmers.

Short-term and medium-term

finance by the bank is already fully available to part-time farmers, such as professional men, who are members of agricultural co-operatives.

The bank says it is also sympathetically disposed towards young and beginner farmers in need of financial aid and is doing everything in its power to assist them to buy land.

Cloud seeding costs R5m a year

③ *Gen* ADRIAN HADLAND *AD*

THE Water Research Commission says in its annual report that it spends R5m a year on plans to beat the drought by stimulating rainfall artificially. *8 Day*

Commission scientist George Green said research into artificially stimulating, or seeding, clouds for rainfall had been going on worldwide for many years but that SA led the field in the technology.

Seeding means adding chemicals such as potassium chloride (normally used as a fertiliser) or dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide) to clouds to encourage rainfall. *18/5/92*

Green said the commission received requests from all over southern Africa for access to rainfall stimulation technology.

Research had been conducted in a corridor from Nelspruit in the eastern Transvaal to Bethlehem in the northeastern Free State, the report said.

Further research into possible environmental or climatic impacts was still necessary before the techniques could be used on a large scale, Brown said.

But the concept of rain stimulation has drawn criticism from farmers and environmentalists.

Save Our Rain Action Committee (Sorac) secretary Eve Henkel, who lives on a plot in Nelspruit, said rather than encouraging rain, seeding actually prevented it.

She said the drought in the area had been caused by experimenting with rainfall over the past 20 years.

"There is drought wherever they operate. It is the crime of the century. All we have for water now is the swimming pool."

Henkel said petitions had been forwarded to the Water Affairs Department demanding a halt to the research.

Brown said there were misconceptions about seeding which the commission hoped to counter with an information campaign.

Enterprising prison farm angers lowveld business

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

Barberton hoteliers, restaurateurs and businessmen are at loggerheads with the local prison farm.

They allege the farm, part of a maximum security prison, is providing cheap holiday accommodation and meals and undercutting liquor prices.

Mother's Day lunches two weeks ago were allegedly being offered at prices that businesses could never match and a "sakkie dance", where alcohol was allegedly served, was advertised.

At the prison, correctional services include

18/5/92
farming, a piggery and farming-related activities.

It also has six self-contained guest cottages. The rate is R27,50 a night for a six-bed chalet for members and R52 a night for the public.

Margaret Holmes, who runs five self-catering bungalows, says this is unfair competition.

"The prison authorities have no labour costs, pay no rates and taxes, and get subsidised liquor. No wonder they can offer such cheap accommodation," she said.

Other allegations levelled at the prison farm are that it caters for events at prices nobody

else can afford.

It is also said to be running a farm butchery, thus depriving local butchers of business.

Responding, Brigadier Andre Terblanche, head of Barberton's correctional services farm, said: "Like all private-sector clubs, ours, too, is strictly for members only."

Regarding the Mother's Day luncheon, he said it was strictly for members. He denied that the event had been advertised for the public.

He agreed that the chalets were open to the public but added it was only during the off-season.

Massive drive to distribute food

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SPOORNET said yesterday the massive drive to distribute food relief to drought-stricken areas on the sub-continent was well under way, with nearly 500 000 tons of maize already discharged, Sapa reports.

"It is the first time in the history of the UN Food Help Scheme and the World Food Programme that such an operation has been conducted as a preventative measure," Spoornet spokesman Jacques Pienaar said.

Since the first maize shipment arrived in April, Portnet had unloaded 265 334 tons of maize for

local consumption and 179 101 tons for re-export to neighbouring countries. Spoornet had distributed 73% of all cargo discharged at the harbours, Pienaar said.

Meanwhile, our Durban correspondent reports that Natal Agricultural Union director Steve Shone said government's R3,8bn agricultural aid package was a highly complex exercise to preserve jobs and get the industry back on its feet.

The package was intended primarily to relieve the state of a commitment incurred in 1983 and 1984 to

help co-operatives keep credit lines to farmers open during those years' of drought.

In the end, farmers would have to operate like any other sector open to market forces.

Sapa reports that Free State Agricultural Union GM Lullu de Jager said yesterday that interest rates were one of the main obstacles in farmers' battle to survive.

The price of primary agricultural products would have to be adapted so that the farmer was able to continue production.

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

- (1) No. Section 21A of the Boxing and Wrestling Control Act, 1954 (Act No 39 of 1954) prohibits the participation of females in this activity.

The above-mentioned section reads as follows:

"Prohibition in respect of females—

- (1) No female shall take part in any tournament as a boxer or a wrestler.
- (2) No person shall—
- (a) hold or assist in holding any tournament in which any female takes part as a boxer or wrestler;
- (b) negotiate with any female with a view to procuring her services as a boxer or wrestler at any tournament."

- (2) No. Section 21A of the Act defines the matter clearly.

Professional boxers: maximum age to qualify

*5. Mr K PANDAY asked the Minister of National Education:

Whether the maximum age for a boxer to qualify as a professional in the Republic differs from the maximum age or ages applicable in the rest of the world; if so, (a) why and (b) to what extent?

D173E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

Yes. Licences for applicants are considered in terms of regulations 2(3), 2(4) and 2(5) enacted in terms of the Boxing and Wrestling Control Act, 1954 (Act No 39 of 1954). These regulations do not only determine the allowable age limit, but also prescribe other requirements regarding the general state of health of the applicant as well as his proven boxing ability in the boxing ring. The authority that licences professional boxers in South Africa is the South African National Boxing Control Board.

- (a) There are differences regarding the maximum age limit of boxers in the various countries. Therefore there is a difference between the age limit in South Africa and

that of some foreign countries. The medical safety codes of the different international boxing control bodies prescribe the maximum age limit for professional boxers. This is done to protect the boxers.

- (b) The differences which occur are slight. The maximum age for a boxer to register varies world-wide mostly from 35 to 36 years. In South Africa the maximum age is younger than 35 years which reflects the general tendency in the world.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Natal North Coast area: Sandela

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture: (3) *Jan*

- (1) Whether, prior to the acquisition of the farm known as Sandela in the Natal North Coast area, his Department requested and/or received any reports from extension officers and consulted any organizations on the advisability of proceeding with this transaction; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the transaction was handled through an agency; if not, why not; if so, what is the name of this agency?

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The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, the answer to the first question is yes. Three reports were received from the Department's extension technicians, the first during 1988, the second during 1990 and the last in 1991.

The Department's extension technicians consulted with a senior economist of the SA Sugar Association and with the Department of Agricultural Development in the House of Assembly about this particular transaction. Both the 1988 and 1990 reports of the Department reflect that principal agricultural extension technicians have regard to the fact that the farm in question is located in an area prone to drought conditions.

The lack of an assured water supply largely contributed to the finding that it would be imprudent to recommend the purchase of the farm in question by this Administration. (3) *GEM*

Other factors which supported this finding were the following. Production is poor during droughts and excellent during good rainfall seasons. The soil is not suitable for intensive vegetable production. The farm is subdivided into smaller farming units and developed for the purpose of cane farming only. The units will not be feasible for farm purposes.

However, in 1991, following upon a further investigation for suitable land which could be purchased at a reasonable price, the farmers again examined this proposition, during which it was established that a new dam had been constructed across the river, which incorporated a spillway, in addition to the older dam, which was then in the process of being cleared of silt. It was found that the supply of water for irrigation was now secure.

The person appointed to value the farm valued it as a single production unit on the basis of which it was concluded that the farm as such was good value for money. Discussions followed with the Department of Agricultural Development where various alternative usage concepts were canvassed. It was finally decided and approved by the former hon Minister of Local Government and Agriculture that the farm should be purchased and farmed as one unit under the co-operative system, which basically entails the following: Firstly, the Administration acquires a farm with the object of the interested farmers forming a co-operative to retain the sucrose quota. Secondly, undivided shares are allocated to identified farmers, say 20 or 30 of them. Thirdly, the Department of Agricultural Development will finance each individual to acquire his share in the co-operative. The maximum number of farmers permitted in such a co-operative will be cleared with the Registrar of Co-operatives. Fourthly, each farmer will have an undivided share in the co-operative with its own board of directors. The equipment, irrigation system, sucrose quota, manager and labourers will be shared by all the farmers in the co-operative.

With regard to the second part of the question, as indicated in the statement I made on the matter in the debate on Question 3 on 13 May 1992, I

very clearly stated that the Department of Agricultural Development of the Administration: House of Assembly had acted as our agent, since we do not have the legal power to acquire agricultural land. As far as I am aware, the services of a private-sector agency were not engaged.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, the facts divulged by the hon the Minister of Housing and Agriculture are startling. There is no doubt about the fact that somebody, either in the Ministerial section or in the administrative section, was determined to purchase this land, in spite of the fact that two investigations—one in 1988 and the other in 1990—revealed that this particular farm was not suitable. Our Administration was looking for farmland at the time when the Group Areas Act was applicable. When the group areas legislation was repealed, a lot of farmland became available.

When the hon the Minister referred to drought conditions and to people who had been consulted, he indicated that the farmers were consulted again. Reference has not been made to institutions that were consulted. One such institution is the SA Cane Growers' Association, which is the voice of Indian farmers in Natal. The other is Cedara. I believe that Cedara Agricultural College was also consulted. Our own technical officers twice turned down this farm. What need was there for somebody to go and ask for an additional report? I believe the SA Cane Growers' Association was consulted. The reply given verbally by the SA Cane Growers' Association was that this farm was unsuitable and that they did not want it. This is a scandal.

I want to suggest that the hon the Minister confirm that in that agreement that was entered into between the Administration and this particular owner, somebody wrote "No agents involved".

Mr K MOODLEY: Who was the owner?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It was a White person.

What was the need to write that into this agreement? I understand somebody also wrote: "Well done" after two institutions had indicated twice that this land was unsuitable. The only argument is that the dam has been revamped. I believe that farmers in the area are still of the

cont -->

view that this dam is very silty. It is not in the rain-shadow area, but in a drought zone. This is the biggest scandal!

I want to ask the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council a question. Why did the hon the Minister of Local Government and Agriculture hide these facts when he had negative reports, and was advised that this was not suitable? Why was this farm acquired in a hush-hush arrangement? Was it brought to the Ministers' Council? This matter requires investigation. I want to say to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council that merely informing us that we will have an investigation will not check this. This is going to be a very big scandal. I want to say that this is the tip of the iceberg as far as certain Ministries are concerned. I believe that a certain agency was handling the sale of the farm about five years ago, and that was why special mention was made in the agreement of the fact that no agents were involved. How would we know if commissions were given under the counter? [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I must agree entirely with the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition that the facts that have been presented to us this afternoon are indeed startling and that they constitute a scandal.

This obviously took place long before the hon the Minister took office, but I would like to give him a piece of advice. I would expect him not to carry the can for a colleague. I would expect him, particularly in view of the statements made by the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition, to investigate this matter fully. Just as we expect White hon Ministers to be accountable, we expect Indian hon Ministers in this House to be accountable too. [Interjections.]

It seems highly suspicious and highly irregular to me that the advice of technical officers was disregarded and that this matter had to be reviewed twice. To me it seems highly scandalous that we did not take the representations made by organised commerce and industry in this regard into account, although they are people of very high reputation.

A question that also needs to be asked is whether this purchase was sanctioned or approved of by the Ministers' Council. If the matter was not approved by them, is that not also highly irregular? I heard the hon the Minister say that a

certain corporation was going to farm this particular piece of land.

Mr K MOODLEY: It was a suggestion.

Mr M RAJAB: It was a suggestion, the hon member for Southern Natal says. I would like to ask the hon the Minister who is farming this particular piece of land. There is a suspicion, and statements have been made in this House to this effect that the original owner is still occupying that land. If this is so, it is scandalous. It is absolutely scandalous for the Administration to pay something like R4,5 million for a piece of property and then to be paid a rental of R1 per ton. [Interjections.]

Mr M NARANJEE: [Inaudible.]

Mr M RAJAB: That hon member is absolutely right. If we are pointing fingers at the Department of Development Aid, we also need to point fingers at hon Ministers in this House. [Interjections.] I would appeal to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council to institute a full and thorough investigation into this debacle immediately before the stink comes to his particular door. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I heard the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition and the hon member for Springtown.

HON MEMBERS: Springfield!

The MINISTER: I am sorry. I mean Springfield. It was once called Springtown, so the hon member must forgive me. I would like to answer the last question first. The last owner in this case happens to be the first tenant. The facts regarding the tenancy did not satisfy me and I have not approved the tenancy as yet.

As a preliminary or reasonable step, I have asked the study group to meet urgently in order to look into this matter and possibly carry out an inspection *in loco*. Hon members who want to go out there and see for themselves, form their own perceptions and revise their impressions either this way or that way, will have the opportunity to do so. Depending on their observations and those of everybody else, if need be, I can take this matter to the Ministers' Council for its decision.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, about two weeks ago, when I heard that rumours were flying

around about concern about the purchase, I went to Durban with the hon the Deputy Minister, visited the officers of the Department, including the two Indian officers, and reminded them that they had not recommended the purchase of this farm on two occasions. I told them that I had now heard that the deal had been concluded via the House of Assembly, and that the farm had been purchased. I asked them what prompted this development.

Their response was that at the time when the first two investigations were done, they could not report favourably on the availability of water on a continual basis to irrigate this farm in the event of drought conditions. They had done a lot of investigations into possible land purchases, and found that if the land was good it was expensive, so they looked at this again, because a weir or a dam had been built on the river with a slipway to prevent silting. The farmer was also clearing out the silt from an older dam. Their calculations were that when this process was completed there would be an adequate supply of water to more than meet the needs of the cane farming which was to be done on that land. It was on that basis that they reversed their original opposition.

I am merely conveying to hon members what I was told by these gentlemen. Apparently the Department of Agricultural Development in the House of Assembly also investigated this and felt that this was a proposition. The land was bought on that basis. I want to say to hon members a query has been raised and I believe this House has the right to investigate it. After the investigation we will know the correctness of the position. I would recommend that the hon the Minister go ahead, take note of what has been said and let it be looked into.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, the SA Cane Growers' Association is an important body. This dam silts, and the hon the Minister concerned has a record in our Administration that unless his instructions are carried out, the staff suffers. We know how the staff is treated at the Marks Building and at Truro House as far as this particular hon Minister is concerned.

A very senior official of the SA Cane Growers' Association telephoned me and told me that that dam silts very badly, and that the most they would pay for that particular farm was R1,5 million. The fact that the present hon Minister

had to stop re-letting, and I understand it was supposed to be given back at R1 per ton, is a scandal. The study group is for another purpose. I want to suggest to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council that we should have a house committee so that the actions of the hon the Minister can be investigated. We must have nothing short of a house committee.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, with your permission I would just like to say one thing which will complete this. I told that extension officer that there was no question of leasing at R1. I told him to get these people who are waiting for that land and let them take ownership right now, because in a few months one could cut the cake and they could have the benefit of the sale.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, in the first place I am pleased this afternoon that the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council has lent his support to the holding of an investigation. One can call it a house committee or whatever one likes. I think that will satisfy all parties concerned, clear the air and remove the disquiet which is not only present in this House. The disquiet is also present outside this House with regard to the people who are directly involved in farming.

I think this is adequate evidence to hon members that we on this side do not want to hide anything that is causing them to feel concern or distrust, and to that end we will work together.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Chairman:

Attacks by Minister of Education and Culture on MPs

*1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Chairman of the Ministers' Council:

Whether he has appointed a committee to investigate the reasons for the allegedly unfounded attacks made by the Minister of

included reporting back at set times. This system was implemented prior to the investigation of the Pickard Commission.

The Government accepted the report of Judge Pickard and I deemed it necessary to send a letter to the functionaries of every authority receiving part of the estate of the now defunct Department, drawing attention to the findings, proposals and recommendations of the report so that they could take effective steps to rectify the deficiencies.

Turning to the hon member for Springfield, I agree that it is a shame that some officials abused their powers. The culprits will be brought to justice and will be punished properly, either in the courts or in terms of the Public Service Act.

Secondly, it is indeed tragic that this mismanagement took place at the expense of the development of the clients themselves. It is very tragic, because we cannot afford to further marginalise the people in the rural areas.

Regarding whether all those involved will be tracked down, I think this whole process was set in motion by Judge Pickard's report. He said that he would show us the trends, and we could follow matters up and bring all the culprits to book, as the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition suggested.

However, we will have to prove their guilt and this will have to be done in an ordinary court of law. I do not want to deal with the question of whether Mr Justice Pickard should be appointed, but we have the Ombudsman in the person of Mr Justice P J van der Walt who deals with these matters. He is there and he was put there especially for this purpose.

Mr M F CASSIM: Mr Chairman, it is always a great pity when people in high office abuse their posts and their positions. We feel terrible about that situation.

Inasmuch as we want to go after the people who have committed these misdemeanours, we must also look at the other important aspects, namely procurement, the State Tender Board and the purchases made today, tomorrow and next week. It is important that we do not allow these things to happen, but it is also important that we pronounce to the world and the country at large that this will not be tolerated. Perceptions are so important!

What is happening is that we are trying to close the stable door after the horse has bolted. However, that is only part of the solution. The more important, credible solution is the steps being taken now to ensure that these things do not happen and are not happening even as we speak.

We agree that it is good that the Government appointed Mr Justice Pickard and we compliment the Government on that. It is good that the Government intends to prosecute these people and that procedural steps are being taken to ensure that such things do not happen. It is also good that structural adjustments are taking place and that bilateral talks are taking place between the TBVC states and our country. We applaud that and we endorse that.

We wish to encourage the Government in the steps it has taken, but we say they should go beyond that and speak to the people out there in our country who do not believe that it is possible to have good, orderly and credible government. The Government should tell them that action is being taken and that active steps are being taken to put these things right. The most important thing at this stage in our country is that which was part of an ideological system—the rot that set in was part of that ideological system—is being swept away. That is the most important thing that has happened. We now accept that the principles of apartheid and all that it spawned were rotten and that those things are being swept away. The present Government is taking the lead in doing so. [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I appreciate the hon the Minister's commitment to tracking down those who were responsible, but I must point out that they have obviously covered their tracks and that in a court of law it might be difficult to get a conviction.

I spoke about the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd. As all hon members know the commission reported adversely on the workings of this particular corporation. We therefore also call upon the hon the State President to institute a further independent investigation into allegations of irregularities, misuse of public funds and inefficiency in the corporation's management system which were ventilated in weekend media reports.

Finally, what also needs to be investigated is how the Department of Development Aid, a State department with a budget of nearly R6 billion, managed to become such a mess and to find out who was responsible in terms of ministerial accountability, which is an accepted convention of the political system from which ours is derived. The Government's silence in this regard has been deafening.

The chairman of the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd, Mr Van de Walles, is a former Director-General of the Department of Development Aid and has thus far escaped a full public scrutiny of his affairs. It is time that this took place.

In the final analysis, public money must be protected by the vigilant and thieves must be punished. Those who fail to prevent the theft must be called to account.

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I wish to go on with the point raised by the hon member for Springfield relating to the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd. May I say at this point that, in response to the recommendations made in the Pickard Report, the auditing firm of Strydom and Company was appointed to do such a study and go into the utilisation of national assets from that angle.

With regard to the second point, I agreed with the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd in October last year that they would transfer their functions and operations, which take place on a regional level, to regional corporations, and that is now in the process of implementation. By the end of August, 70% of this devolution should be complete.

To respond to the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition, I really believe that I would never be able to do justice to the exemplary role played by the hon the Minister for State Affairs in South Africa, specifically in respect of the policy of normalisation and that of the abolition of discrimination on the basis of race or colour. His experience was brought to fruition in the ambit of his responsibility in the Department of Development Aid.

I might say that in my office I have had the opportunity to experience first-hand the meticulousness with which he completed his work, the responsibility with which he executed his job, the

depth of his knowledge and the incisiveness of his questions in comments and queries. I really do not think the ineffectiveness of the various investigations he instituted can be laid at his door.

I will have the point the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition raised about the public servants investigated in order to have this matter exposed properly.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I regret that the hon the Minister has exposed himself to the situation that his time has run out.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Advisory Commission on Land Allocation

*1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation appointed by the State President has received any applications for compensation; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) No applications for compensation have been received. However the Advisory Commission have received numerous requests and representations falling within the ambit of its objectives. In a nutshell this entail advice to the State President regarding the identification of—

* land belonging to the State or any State institution and acquired for the purpose of promoting the objects of a law repealed by the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, 108 of 1991;

- rural land with a view to the acquisition thereof for purposes of agricultural settlement;
- the planning and development of such land; and
- the allocation of such land.

Within this context and these parameters the Advisory Commission have received applications from a broad spectrum of individuals and communities across the country. Various enquiries and discussions have already taken place. No advice on how to deal with the applications has as yet been submitted to the State President. Some requests and representations could not be considered due to the fact that the relevant applications fell outside the ambit of the Advisory Commission's statutory powers.

- (2) No. The Advisory Commission is an independent creation of statute which must advise the State President. It would not be proper for me to make any statements prior to or in anticipation of reports still to be forwarded to the State President.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, could he tell this House whether any applications were made for the return of vacant property held by State departments to former owners of those properties?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I think the answer to that question is yes. However, I am not able to supply full details in that regard, because, as I have indicated, the advisory commission is an independent body, and does not function within the ambit of my Ministry. I do not receive information directly from that commission, and therefore I shall have to make enquiries.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, could he let us know what the policy of the State is concerning restitution and retribution, on matters relating to the return of land that was expropriated?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I refer to the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition to the White Paper we published last year on the whole process that we utilized in Parliament during the course of 1991. This led, *inter alia*, to the

establishment of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation. Within the ambit of this commission and of discussions, we reached consensus in Parliament on how to deal with this. The other matters should be debated elsewhere.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, is he aware of the fact that undertakings were given by former Ministers of Community Development that resettlement premises would be supplied and restoration of land, wherever applicable, would be done on the basis of the cost price at the date of construction or acquisition? If such undertakings are confirmed, is the State prepared to honour them?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I have made a note of the points the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition has raised. I am not aware of these undertakings given by other Ministers, because I do not deal with that portfolio. However, I will have the matter investigated and then supply the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition with an answer.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, will he concede that, primarily because we are in a reconciliation mode, the activities of this particular advisory commission should be completed as soon as possible?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do think it is important that the activities of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation should be completed as soon as possible. However, I also believe those investigations should be done properly. One cannot hasten a body which has to investigate fully all the circumstances, and then has to come up with definite advice for the hon the State President.

Death of certain person of Phoenix

*2. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether the South African Police have investigated the circumstances relating to the death of a certain person of Phoenix who died of brain injuries allegedly sustained as a result of police action on or about 22 March 1992, and whose name has been furnished to the Police for the

purpose of the Minister's reply: if not, why not; if so, what are the findings:

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D154E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes, a case of murder has been investigated by the South African Police. Except for an identification parade, to be held in the coming week, and the post mortem report, which is still being awaited, investigations have already been completed. The case docket will be handed to the Attorney-General for his decision as soon as these aspects have been dealt with.
- (2) No.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Rezoning of sites: Lenasia/Lenasia South

*3. Mrs R EBRAHIM asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

- (1) Whether any residential, crèche or religious sites in the Lenasia and Lenasia South area have been rezoned by his Department for business purposes since January 1989; if so, what sites:
- (2) whether any betterment fees were paid; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the comments of the respective management committees were obtained in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what were their comments;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D160E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) Yes, the following sites have been rezoned from residential, crèche, or religious sites for business purposes since January 1989:
- (a) Erf 1879, Lenasia South
- (b) Erf 136, Lenasia
- (c) Erf 4423, Lenasia
- (d) Erf 2612, Lenasia

- (e) Erf 4859, Lenasia Extension 4
- (f) Erven 2434 and 2437, Lenasia Extension 1.

- (2) Yes. Particulars with regard to betterment fees are as follows:

- (a) Erf 1879, Lenasia South: No betterment fees were necessary because no services had to be improved.
- (b) Erf 136, Lenasia: Dispute with the calculation of the betterment fees. Contribution is being recalculated.
- (c) Erf 4423, Lenasia: No betterment fees were necessary because no services had to be improved.
- (d) Erf 2612, Lenasia: No betterment fees were necessary because no services had to be improved.

- (e) Erf 4859, Lenasia Extension 4: Contribution R506.00.

- (f) Erven 2434 and 2437, Lenasia Extension 1: Contribution R236.00.

- (3) Yes. Comments are as follows:

- (a) Erf 1879, Lenasia South: Committee supported the application.
- (b) Erf 136, Lenasia: Committee objected.
- (c) Erf 4423, Lenasia: Committee had no objection.
- (d) Erf 2612, Lenasia: Committee was consulted. (Comments not available.)
- (e) Erf 4859, Lenasia Extension 4: Committee objected.
- (f) Erven 2434 and 2437, Lenasia Extension 1: Committee objected.

- (4) No.

Overseas women wrestlers

*4. Mr K PANDAY asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether he intends allowing overseas women wrestlers to take part in wrestling contests in South Africa; if not, why not; if so, when:
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D171E

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Aid crisis for victims of drought

STAR 22/1/78

By Helen Grange (3) Gen
Pretoria Bureau

Thousands of drought-ravaged farmers and their labourers are fast running out of money for food and other essentials — and public donations to the SA Agricultural Union's Special Emergency Aid Fund can last only for another three months.

SAAU president Boet Fourie warned yesterday that the R1 716 million in the fund would not be sufficient to aid 1 363 families and 10 000 workers and their dependants in the Free State, northern Cape, eastern Cape, western Cape and Natal for much longer.

Deserving cases have yet to be identified in the Transvaal, but it is expected that the fund will require at least R12 million in order to provide aid for Transvaal farmers over a year.

The Government recently earmarked R3,8 billion to assist farmers.

However, these funds are aimed at keeping farmers productive on the land and not for their immediate domestic needs. The money has yet to be channelled to farmers.

The SAAU has meanwhile made the first payment of R531 000 from its Special Emergency Aid Fund to relevant provincial unions. This money will be distributed to needy families and farmworkers.

The aid will have to continue for at least 12 months, according to the board of trustees administering the fund.

The largest donor to the SAAU fund were members of the SA Police, who raised nearly R84 000 for farmers.

Mr Fourie said in Pretoria yesterday that organised agriculture was deeply touched by the concern and sympathy shown to afflicted farmers and their workers by the community. He expressed special gratitude to police members for an "exceptional contribution".

Farmers can expect their first income only next year, when crops are harvested.

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'Farmers could go hungry'

GERALD REILLY

3 Gen

PRETORIA — Hundreds of farmers, their families and workers will go hungry unless donations to the SA Agricultural Union's emergency aid fund are speeded up.

Union president Boet Fourie said yesterday contributions so far amounted to R1,7m and the target to supply desperately needed aid for the next 12 months was R12m.

The amount donated so far would last three months to aid 1 363 farmers' families and 10 000 workers and their families. By the time more distressed farmers were identified the need would have grown. He said the first payment of R551 000 had been made to provincial unions.

Fourie said the union was "deeply touched" by the donation of R83 915 from the SAP. 8/10/92 2245792

Put rural areas on the map, says Gerwel

South 23/5 - 27/5/92

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THOSE WITH high expectations that a democratic government would deliver immediate equality in education had to realise this was not going to happen, said UWC rector Professor Jakes Gerwel.

He was delivering the keynote address at the Education Conference for the Karoo.

Gerwel said the rural areas had to be put on the national education agenda. The freedom of the rural areas was indivisible from the freedom of other areas.

Gerwel said South Africans needed to start thinking about reconstruction, particularly the development of skills and human resources.

"How are we going to use education to inculcate and develop democracy in South Africa?"

"How are we going to construct an education system that serves development and addresses the historic inequalities of race, gen-

der, class and the divide between the urban and rural?"

Gerwel said the negotiation process had raised an urgent need to expand and improve black education.

"It will be the greatest betrayal if we get a political settlement in South Africa but the management of society remains in the same hands," Gerwel said.

"Thus, there is an urgent need to provide skills to black people so they can become part of the management.

"The government will try to stall or predetermine change during the transitional process. In education, they are trying to change things so that the new state will not inherit too much."

Gerwel said a demand which had to be placed at the forefront of educational negotiations was that education should be a basic right for all South Africans.

People tended to speak in broad



Jakes Gerwel

terms when negotiating educational issues. These needed to be replaced with specific demands for teachers, desks and textbooks so the state found it difficult to escape its responsibility, Gerwel said.

A national summit in Broederstroom this year mooted the idea

of an education negotiating forum — "one with bite and which is representative of all".

"But this does not mean mass action loses its place — our demands will not be heard, felt and understood unless communities organise themselves around these demands."

He said it was easy to get caught up in "technicalities" when discussing a future education system. But it needed to be non-racial, non-sexist and relevant, and also teach people to read and write.

Communities needed to control the financing and resources of education. Access needed to be expanded as there were more children outside school than in the classroom.

"There is a tension between the quality of education and the quantity — people are already criticising UWC for broadening access.

"There is also a tension between

democracy and efficiency. The most democratic way of dealing with things is not necessarily going to be efficient," Gerwel said.

Echoing these views, the dean of the education faculty at UCT, Professor Michael Ashley, said people should not rely too much on the state to improve education.

"It has an important role to play but must do this in partnership with others," Ashley said.

"A government is limited in terms of what it can achieve because it is bureaucratic, inefficient and easily corruptible.

"There is also a tendency for a government not to be accountable to the people who support it through taxes and reliance on the government tends to produce passivity."

Ashley said the demand for a single education department was an important one, but was not a solution to the education problems in the country.

Farm schools: Driving the tractors of education

Rural towns in the Karoo were afforded an opportunity to voice their demands concerning education in a new South Africa at a ground-breaking conference in Beaufort West last weekend.

REHANA ROSSOUW reports:

LITERACY training in rural areas could teach adults how to drive a tractor, service it when repairs are needed and eventually take control of the tractors from white hands.

This ideal emerged from the Education Conference for the Karoo where delegates decided that tackling illiteracy and taking control of farm schools were the key areas around which education policy for rural areas should be formulated.

People from rural areas often complain they are neglected by urban organisations and are out of touch with national political debates and changes.

The conference, organised by the Karoo Resource Centre, was held to overcome this problem by giving people from the region an opportunity to discuss formulating education policy.

Beaufort West principal Mr Richard Hanabe said the conference was aimed at assisting in bringing about an education system in South Africa which would empower rural areas.

"We want an education that will enable both the parent and the child to deal with the social environment around them," Hanabe said.

"We want an education system that will give the rural population knowledge to adapt their environment to suit them and their needs.

"Education will be an instrument of power over the rural environ-



RURAL EDUCATION: Starting out for success, only to end up with despair and hopelessness?

ment." Principals, teachers, parents and students from 25 Karoo towns attended the conference. White schools in the region, although invited, did not attend.

The 250 delegates elected six people to serve on a rural education forum which will serve as a conduit through which the education concerns of the Karoo will be sent to national forums.

The conference was sponsored by oil company Engen. Organisers will be receiving more funding to publish the outcome of the discussions and distribute it throughout the Karoo.

Delegates stressed the need to ensure that debate on rural illiteracy and farm schools be placed on national agenda.

Karoo farm schools are administered by the Department of Education and Culture, as opposed to those in other rural areas, which are administered by the Department of Education and Training.

The farm schools are dependent on the largesse of farmers, who donate land for the buildings. Most are managed by churches and the equipment is provided by the government.

Most Karoo farm schools are in need of upgrading and repair and many require hostel accommodation for their students as the distances covered daily to reach school are so great that they lead to a high drop-out rate and demotivation.

The illiteracy rate in the Karoo is alarmingly high. Murraysburg has

an illiteracy rate of 60 percent and Frasersburg 45 percent.

A major cause of child illiteracy is the migration of parents from town to town due to a shortage of employment in the region. Children are thus forced to drop out of school at an early age and seek employment. Young girls, especially, are sent to work as domestics at an early age.

Most principals at DEC schools in the region, particularly at schools in outlying areas, expressed strong reservations about the opening of white schools to all.

The high school fees students have to pay at formerly whites-only schools result in only a small percentage of black pupils gaining access to these schools, mostly ben-

efiting only children of teachers in the region.

These principals also feel threatened by the partial opening of white schools as it affects their diminishing enrolment, which could result in their schools being closed.

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HISTORY

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AUTHOR: John

TITLE: Podu Town

Rural voices learning to turn up the volume

South 23/5-27/5/92

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The political climate is changing from resistance to reconstruction. Now community service organisations are realising that co-operation with the state may be necessary. **Justin Pearce** speaks to people running community services in rural areas:



MNCEDISI SKEPU: Alexandria resource co-ordinator

SOUTH AFRICANS are entering an era where all can enjoy full political rights — in theory that is. But for those who have been excluded from political processes, it will take more than a new constitution to secure them a place in a democratic system.

Rural people — geographically removed from the centres of government and often poorly educated — are particularly ill-equipped to make themselves heard.

The people of Alexandria, a small Eastern Cape town, are one such example.

There is no industry to provide jobs and about three out of every four people are illiterate. This

means education and career guidance programmes are an indispensable means to self-empowerment.

Such programmes are offered by the Alexandria Career Centre (ACC).

Co-ordinator Mr Mncedisi Skepu believes leadership, negotiations and learning to look at issues critically must be the focus of development.

“We are empowering people to negotiate on the basis of strength.”

Workshops aimed at local organisations hope to impart skills in local government and negotiation — activities which are new for the people of Alexandria.

“We might hear calls for ‘one city, one tax base’, but what do people mean when they say this?”

asks Skepu.

The ACC was founded at a time when foreign agencies were cutting back on South African funding. But, given the conservative outlook of the local white community, the centre’s founders had no choice but to look overseas.

Funding constraints mean Skepu is the only staff member.

With the state taking the initiative in providing community resources, Skepu believes centres need to think about redefining their roles.

A delicate question is whether centres should begin to co-operate with new initiatives by the state.

Another question concerns the relationships between centres and civic associations. This in turn depends on the future direction taken by the civics themselves.

“We need to interact with the civics. Our services are something that should be provided by the civics.”

Skepu believes that to achieve a democratic society, civic associations need to reflect the aspirations of ordinary people rather than being politically aligned.

“The resource centres, unlike the civics, are non-aligned. In Eastern Europe, socialism failed because it was divorced from the human element, from sectors of civil society such as academics and churches.”

Famine: Mrs Quayle vows to tell world

JOHANNESBURG. — Jobless and hungry residents in a Witwatersrand squatter camp yesterday heard Mrs Marilyn Quayle, wife of US vice-president Mr Dan Quayle, say she would make the world aware of their suffering.

Mrs Quayle was in Vlaktefontein, south of Johannesburg, on her whistle-stop visit to this country to focus world attention on famine in the Southern Africa.

About 30 million people are affected by the severe drought, which has hit Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi and South Africa.

Mrs Quayle spoke to the dozens of Vlaktefontein children who were being fed by Operation Hunger, to whom the American government contributed \$500 000 (about R1,4 million) in 1991.

"Thank you for letting me see your children," she said. "I bring you greetings from the President of the United States."

Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before her departure, Mrs Quayle said she thought she had accomplished the aim of highlighting the need for food aid to Southern Africa, and praised South Africa's part in the programme.

The US has committed \$280m (about R784m) worth of food aid to Southern Africa.

Mrs Quayle earlier visited South Africa's railway grain operations centre here, where the cereals shipped in from the US and Argentina are routed to affected neighbouring countries.

Of 8,5m tons of grain due to arrive



ON TOUR... Mrs Marilyn Quayle greets Zimbabwean schoolchildren before she left for South Africa. ③ ~~3/2~~ CT 23/5/92 Picture: AP

over a 12-month period, well over half has already been discharged, according to Spoornet.

Some 450 000 tons destined for Malawi arrived yesterday and 144 goods trains have already been dispatched on the grain run.

The South African government has not asked for food aid from the US, and sold 100 000 tons of its own grain to Zimbabwe and Zambia before the drought set in.

Mrs Quayle flew to Rome yesterday afternoon to attend a meeting on Southern African drought relief. — Sapa

The 'better-off' back changes in land distribution

Political Staff

③ ARG-25/5/92

SUPPORT FOR redistribution of land and wealth is strongest among the more highly educated sections of the black community, Market Research Africa says.

"As many as 59 percent of blacks in professional and managerial positions and 56 percent of those with matric or higher levels of education are in favour of a redistribution of land," according to an MRA press release summarising the findings of a survey.

Among unskilled and blue-collar workers 34 percent favour reallocating land, as did 29 percent of those without formal schooling. The average for the entire sample indicated that four out every 10 black urban residents would support a policy of land redistribution.

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2 BUSINESS DAY, Monday, May 25 1992

Farmers in the dark over govt aid for summer crops

THOUSANDS of financially stressed farmers still do not know what slice of government's R3,8bn emergency aid will be allocated to them, or when.

Nampo sources warned at the weekend that time was running out for farmers to order inputs for maize, groundnut, sunflower and other summer crops.

However, a member of the aid implementation committee said finality had almost been reached on procedures for allocating the funds and Agriculture Minister Kraai van Nierkerk might make an announcement before the weekend.

Farmers fear there could be bureaucratic delays in allocating the aid. They will have to submit written justification for the amounts they

Bl/day 25/5/92
GERALD REILLY

claim and these will be evaluated before allocations are made.

The SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) office in Pretoria and Nampo's office in Bothaville have been inundated with calls from anxious farmers wanting to know how and when they will receive aid.

Among the organisations represented on the committee are commercial banks, the Land Bank, the SAAU and government.

According to Nampo, thousands of farmers are waiting anxiously to see whether their share of the aid will be sufficient to set them up for the planting of new summer crops.

Planting and developing last season's drought-reduced maize crop

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cost about R2,3bn.

About a third of that was production credit granted to farmers by commercial banks, co-operatives and other financial institutions.

Nampo warned that thousands of hectares would lie fallow unless farmers were given access to adequate production credit.

The area planted to maize in the coming season could be a lot less than 3-million hectares, which even in favourable growing conditions, might not yield a crop large enough to satisfy domestic need.

If drought conditions persisted deep into next summer, the crop could be even smaller than this year's 2,3-million tons. The shortfall has necessitated the import of 4,5-million tons at a cost of more than R2bn.



Drought-hit farmers face another blow

ARG
27/5/92

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The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — South Africa's drought-ravaged farming community is bracing itself for yet another blow this year with the expected failure of the winter wheat crop — which will plunge thousands of farmers even further into debt.

The continued drought has left soil in the Free State and Transvaal too dry for wheat planting and the government expects it will have to import about a million tons of wheat at a cost of more than R430 million at the end of the year, says deputy general manager of the Wheat Board Andries Liebenberg.

This is in addition to about 4,627 million tons of yellow maize about to be imported by the government at a cost of R1 851 million until the end of April, 1993, in the wake of the failure of the summer maize crop.

This double blow to farmers, who are struggling to feed their families and labourers while awaiting emergency aid from the cash-strapped South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) public donation fund, will drive South Africa's ailing rural economy into deeper crisis.

(The SAAU fund is aimed at attending to farmers' and farm workers' immediate food requirements, as opposed to the government's R3,8 million relief programme aimed at rescuing the agricultural sector for future production. The SAAU says it has funds to support the farming community for only another three months.)

Already 7 700 farmers are in serious financial straits, and many of them will be sequestered in spite of the government's relief programme, says Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk.

Wheat farmers have until the end of June to wait for rain before planting, but farming authorities doubt that unseasonal rain will fall.

Dr Van Niekerk said imports might

have to take place more often in future, especially to keep up with the approximately one million extra children who had to be fed every year.

Worst afflicted by the drought are homeland subsistence farmers, who are joining Operation Hunger's food queues in their hundreds every day.

Dr Van Niekerk said the government would accept emergency food from the United States.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa says about 100 000 farm labourers stand to lose their jobs because of the drought. Dr Van Niekerk said R20 million of the government emergency aid fund had been allocated to keep full-time farm labourers employed.

The government had also earmarked R30 million of the fund to stock farmers to keep their animals alive and subsidise transport rebates for feed.

The white maize crop estimate for 1991/92 of 985 000 tons compares dismally with last year's crop of 3 810 000 tons.

The national crop estimate committee of the SAAU expects a yellow maize crop in 1991/92 to be a mere 1 448 000 tons, which is not quite as bad as the white maize crop estimate. Last season 4 016 000 tons of yellow maize was produced in South Africa.

The grain sorghum crop will reach an estimated 95 000 tons compared with last season's crop of 240 000 tons. There is expected to be a sunflower seed crop of 173 000, which is only a fraction of last season's 589 000-ton crop.

Soya bean production is also down, with a total crop of 68 000 tons expected, as against last year's 126 000 tons. Dry beans will also be in short supply, with only 27 000 tons expected compared with last season's crop of 100 000 tons.

Only ground nut farmers seem to have evaded the rigours of the drought. A crop of 81 000 tons is expected, which is 3 000 tons more than last season.

in the front bench here said we must change the Act. If this will help I am prepared to look at the matter, because I am concerned about the aged who are being chased out of their flats. [Interjections.] I am concerned about this. If it will help, the hon members are welcome to give me information and evidence which will enable us to review the Act.

*I am not prepared to allow people to be thrown out and left on the streets while we try to build houses and some people become rich.

That is why it is not correct to say that we are giving in to pressure from the large concerns. It is not true. We want to look after the interests of the ordinary people and the poor people. If hon members can help me . . . [Interjections.] The hon member for Carletonville must keep quiet. What nonsense is he talking again now? [Interjections.] Excuse me, Sir, but that hon member is interrupting me again. He does not know what it is about. [Interjections.] I want to invite hon members to give me information. I undertake to investigate the matter if necessary, and if any amendment must be made, I shall submit it to the Cabinet. We shall then look into what we can do in relation to this matter.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Voluntary retirement by teachers: offer

*1. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) Whether his Department indicated earlier this year that some teachers could retire voluntarily on accelerated, adjusted pension; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) for how long does this offer apply;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

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The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) In a joint media statement by the Minister of National Education and myself on 17 February 1992 it was announced that where it was up to now on grounds of personal circumstances not possible for teachers to retire prior to reaching the stipulated retirement age, measures are being taken to make it possible for teachers to retire earlier with adjusted pension benefits. The new benefit will be available to teaching personnel who have already reached the age of fifty years and who have completed at least ten years pensionable service.

This matter is currently being handled by the Department of National Education. Further information will be made available at a later stage.

(b) Falls away.

(2) No.

†Mr A GERBER: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask whether he can give an indication to us as to when more particulars will be available in this regard.

†The MINISTER: I suggest that the hon member puts a question to the hon the Minister of National Education next week.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Protection against poisonous chemicals and metals

264. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

What steps is his Department taking to protect the population against the undue, accumulative intake of (a) pesticides, (b) fungicides, (c) iodine, (d) steroids, (e) antibiotics, (f) vermicides, (g) growth hormones and (h) other poisonous and dangerous chemicals and metals found in agricultural, meat and horticultural products for human consumption?

B629E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

The Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) contains various provisions aimed at the efficient protection of the population against hazardous substances.

The Act requires that any person who applies to register a remedy must submit the following information:

- The results of sufficient trials to substantiate claims made for the product. Specialist scientists are called upon to evaluate such data, pass comments, and to make recommendations.
- In the case of crop protection agents designed to control insect and diseases on crops, trial data must be submitted to prove that such agents have no phytotoxic effects on the crop it is intended to protect.
- Results must be submitted to illustrate a breakdown curve of the active ingredient following its last application in order to ensure a safety period.
- The results of research and development trials that were undertaken to establish the likely ultimate fate of a compound after it had been introduced into the environment and the effects it may have on non-target organisms.
- A toxicological report on the active ingredient's likely effect on mammals and other vertebrates and invertebrates, especially regarding carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and possible side-effects on the offspring. It is expected that data shall also be submitted to illustrate the compound's likely impact on the environment, plant and animal life.
- A proposed user label that will inform the user regarding warnings, precautions, storage and disposal of the product and its original container.

The afore-mentioned information is carefully evaluated with a view to registration and before an application is granted the following steps are also taken:

- Liaison with other Government departments, where applicable, as regards appli-

cations for registrations and collating the opinions of relevant specialists.

— All applications for registration are discussed at INDAC—the Standing Inter-Departmental Committee for Safeguarding Man against Poisons—which consists of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, National Health and Population Development, Environmental Affairs, Water Affairs and Forestry, the Agricultural Research Council and the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Pretoria.

- This committee advises the Registrar: Act 36 of 1947 on the desirability of the registration of all compounds. In this way the committee serves as a barrier to prevent toxic compounds from ending up in the people's food basket.

The following control measures, in terms of the Act, are further taken:

- Remedies shall not be contrary to the public interest. Continued use can be reviewed, or restricted, or even be withdrawn. For instance it can be mentioned that the use of synthetic growth hormones in livestock has been forbidden since 23 September 1983.
- Regulations were published in 1991 which prohibit the acquisition, disposal, sale or use of an agricultural or a stock remedy for a purpose or in a manner other than that specified on the label of a container or on such container.
- As part of its function to regulate Act 36 of 1947 the Directorate: Livestock Improvement and Agricultural Production Resources maintains an inspectorate. Members of this inspectorate regularly draw samples of all registered products which are then analysed to verify that they conform to declared standards. Any complaints lodged by producers are also investigated as to the abusive or indiscriminate use of remedies.
- Training to make persons aware of the responsible use of remedies is also receiving attention. For the past year the Department has been involved in the training of more than 800 staff members of co-operative societies and representatives

of agricultural and stock remedy marketing companies. At present training courses are being designed for the correct application of such remedies by end-users, especially for the application of hormone weedkillers and Group Ia agricultural remedies. The electronic media is also employed in this regard. A series of relevant programmes have already been televised in the programme. Agriforum.

The overall involvement of other bodies must be acknowledged. For instance, the Department of National Health and Population Development is responsible for monitoring residues in foodstuffs consumed locally by man. The Directorate: Plant and Quality Control monitor all export commodities. Likewise the Directorate: Meat Hygiene maintains a watch on the residues of agricultural and stock remedies found in meat.

Number of persons attacked/robbed/murdered on farms

271. Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

How many persons (a) were (i) attacked, (ii) robbed and (iii) murdered on farms in South Africa in 1991 and (b) have been so (i) attacked, (ii) robbed and (iii) murdered from 1 January 1992 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

B664E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (a) (i) 327
(ii) 239
(iii) 66
(b) (i) 148
(ii) 112
(iii) 26

21 May 1992.

NOTE:

The figures in (a)(i) and (b)(i) also include cases of assault and rape and only apply to persons and workers in and around own houses.

Bombing of Cosatu House: alleged announcements

272. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 210 on 5 May 1992 in regard to the bombings of certain premises, any further investigations have been carried out in this matter following the announcements allegedly made by a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, to the effect that he had been involved in the bombing of Cosatu House; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the relevant details and (b) is the name of the person concerned?

B673E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) The person was arrested on 29 April 1992. He also appeared in court on a charge of sabotage on the same day. The case was remanded until 3 June 1992.

(b) Jacobus Johannes Christoffel Botha.

Department of Development Aid: staff

273. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

How many members of staff (a) were employed by the Department of Development Aid at the time of its dissolution on 31 March 1992, (b) to which Government Departments were they transferred and (c) how many of them were transferred to each such Department?

B674E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(a) 4 057 as well as 4 703 workers from the South African Development Trust.

(b) Department of Trade and Industry
Department of Justice
Cape Provincial Administration
Office of the Commission for Administration
Department of Agriculture
Department of Manpower
Department of National Education
Natal Provincial Administration
Department of Environment Affairs

Department of Education and Training		Department of Public Works	10
Department of Public Works		Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State	1 149
Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State		Department of Local Government and National Housing	5
Department of Local Government and National Housing		Department of State Expenditure	40
Department of State Expenditure		Department of Regional and Land Affairs	706
Department of Regional and Land Affairs		Transvaal Provincial Administration	871
Transvaal Provincial Administration		Department of Transport	2
Department of Transport		Department of Water Affairs	38
Department of Water Affairs		TOTAL	4 057
(c) Department of Trade and Industry	2	Workers from the South African Development Trust transferred to—	
Department of Justice	17	Cape Provincial Administration	90
Cape Provincial Administration	90	Department of Agriculture	1 226
Office of the Commission for Administration	37	Natal Provincial Administration	1 414
Department of Agriculture	335	Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State	797
Department of Manpower	37	Transvaal Provincial Administration	1 176
Department of National Education	1	TOTAL	4 703
Natal Provincial Administration	703		
Department of Environment Affairs	10		
Department of Education and Training	4		

^{Blo am}
Dutch turn
pastures over
^{27.9.92}
to ostriches

AMSTERDAM — Dutch farmers, keen to diversify as the EC slashes their subsidies, have hit on a new venture — ostrich farming.

SA farmers have bred ostriches for more than 100 years and Texan breeders prize the birds' leathery skin for making cowboy boots. (3) Gen

But the idea has only recently taken root in Europe as farmers seek an alternative for their pastures in the face of EC curbs on milk production.

Dutch farmers have already started breeding the birds. And entrepreneurs Jan Arends and Fred van der Horst, who plan a course for aspiring Ostrich farmers, say they have had about 150 inquiries.

Reporting the scheme, the Boerderij farming newspaper said ostrich chicks cost about 1,100 guilders (\$610) each. But a 14-month-old bird can be worth 2,300 guilder (\$1 270).
— Sapa-Reuter.

Drought a windfall for Transnet

THE transport of maize from SA ports to relieve the famine threat in other southern African countries has come as a multimillion-rand windfall for Transnet.

Spoornet's programme provides for the movement of about 8,5-million tons before April next year, with a current balance of 7,7-million tons still to be off-loaded at SA ports.

A breakdown of the total shows Zimbabwe will get 2-million tons, Zambia 900 000 tons and Malawi 800 000 tons. The overall total includes the 4,4-million tons to supplement SA's failed crop, which includes consignments for the Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho countries.

A Spoornet spokesman said normal tariffs were being charged, but at this stage a reliable estimate of total revenue from the

operation was not possible. He stressed that normal import and export traffic was "totally" unaffected by the operation, which involved 30 trains hauling 1 200 trucks a day, seven days a week. (3)ben

Zimbabwe was paying in rands directly into Spoornet's account, and Zambia's and Malawi's accounts were being paid by agents.

The spokesman said, to put the operation into perspective, Spoornet transported about 70-million tons of coal a year.

This was about eight times the amount of the maize being imported.

The total of 8,5-million tons to be transported by April next year amounted to only about 4% of the total annual tonnage moved by Spoornet.

The spokesman said so far 630 000 tons had been discharged at SA ports.

Sapa reports a University of Pretoria civil engineering department report said the drought in the Transvaal and the northern parts of the Free State was the worst since 1921.

It said university researchers had been aware since September last year that the atmosphere and ocean circulation systems could once more experience an El Nino similar to that of 1982/3 and 1986/7. These fears had been confirmed.

The drought was at its worst between January and March this year.

At that time the entire Transvaal and Free State received between 34% and 40% of their normal rainfall.

Namaqualand and the eastern Karoo received only between 24% and 46% of normal rainfall, and even the usually rainy Natal coastal area received 58% of its normal rainfall.

By day 27/5/77

FM 29/5/92

~~Gen~~ (3) Gen.
under the set-aside scheme — will replace price subsidies and the budget could rise to \$48bn in five years.

But consumers who pay an estimated \$100bn annually above free market prices for their food, to fund production which is 24% over their needs, will benefit. Bread should be 3% cheaper while, for example, beef falls 15% and butter 8%. Running down the EC's stockpiles (25 Mt of grains, 800 000 t of beef and 700 000 t of dairy products) should help other producers locked out of the European market.

It, however, is only a crack, not total demolition. Europe's 10m farmers still command too much political clout. Analysts were quick to point out that, while the cereal subsidy move will bring Europe into line with free market prices, the latter are high because of shortages in the former USSR. The new lower EC price will still be 50% above world averages for the past four years.

The Irish European commissioner responsible, Ray MacSharry, was in no doubt that the Gatt deadlock should now be broken even if EC Ministers could not summon up the will to support his call for a 35% cut in support prices.

The prize for getting agreement on the tariff reductions envisaged in the Uruguay Round is nearly a 30% increase in world trade to \$4 500bn and everyone wants it.

Yet the press conference was barely over before sceptics were out in force. European farm productivity is increasing by 2% a year and this will blunt the efficacy of the set-aside plan. Policing it will be difficult and there is the question over the principle of income support for farmers which still constitutes a taxpayers' subsidy for a specific industry.

It was welcomed in Washington as "a step in the right direction" but there are other trade areas of disagreement, such as services and intellectual property rights. As French farmers reacted with customary vigour to the CAP deal, President Francois Mitterrand sounded a sour note about the lack of US concessions. Despite the top-level meetings, he said, "one cannot say discussion has advanced." British Agriculture Minister John Gummer was equally cautious: "The link between Gatt and CAP reform should not be exaggerated."

But the fact that the EC has been able even to say boo to its most sacred cow can only bode well for the fate of the Uruguay Round next month and the Group of Seven summit in Munich in July. ■

GATT FM 29/5/92

Breakthrough

~~Gen~~ (3) Gen.
The crack in one of the world's biggest protectionist walls, the EC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), clearly has implications for the stalled Uruguay Round of Gatt. For 30 years this hangover from two great wars has been an anachronistic blot on the records of economies which in most other respects were models of the free market.

In the historical context last week's political breakthrough in Brussels on the CAP is as symbolically significant as the demolition of the Berlin Wall. The core of the agreement by EC Agriculture Ministers is a 29% cut, over three years, in the support price of cereals. This will mean cheaper feeds which will be echoed in a 15% reduction in beef prices and 5% for butter.

It will not reduce the CAP's US\$42bn budget. Direct income support to farmers — who take 15% of their land out of production

cont - - D

Land tops ANC agenda

THE ANC has recommended the redistribution of agricultural land, and the programme must be accompanied by measures which will ensure that the land is productively used.

This recommendation is one of several in a comprehensive document on land reform. Land reform is among the burning topics to be determined at the ANC policy conference which started yesterday.

In its land reform document, the organisation stresses that all South Africans must have access to land and ownership.

"In order to achieve the realisation of this entitlement, an equitable balance shall be established between the legitimate interests of the present holders of rights to land, and the legitimate needs of those without land and shelter."

Other major policy issues to be discussed are:

- A new constitution;
- Economic policy;
- A new system for local government;
- Housing, health and social welfare;
- Education and human resources' development;
- Science and technology;
- Environment;
- Arts and culture;
- Sports;
- Media;
- Peace and security;

By IKE MOTSAPI

- Youth; and
- International relations.

According to a draft document which is under discussion, the basic objectives of the ANC policy are four-fold.

They are:

- To strive for the achievement of the right of all South Africans, as a whole, to political and economic self-determination in a united South Africa.

- To overcome the legacy of inequality and injustice created by colonialism and apartheid, in a swift, progressive and principled way.

- To develop an economy and state infrastructure that will progressively improve the quality of life of all South Africans, and

- To encourage the feeling that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, to promote a common loyalty to and pride in the country and to create a universal sense of freedom and security within its borders.

"The central goal of the ANC economic policy is to create a strong, dynamic and balanced economy that will be directed towards growth.

"We want a mixed economy that will foster a new and constructive relationship between the people, the State, trade union movement, the private sector and the market.

Fm 29/5/92

AGRICULTURE

(3) Gen 

Sasol and the salt

Sasol's giant Secunda synfuel plant last year released damaging quantities of saline water into the Waterval River in the eastern Transvaal, with serious consequences for irrigation farmers, says a former irrigation farmer on the river, Paul Reynolds.

He claims that he abandoned plans last winter to plant wheat and potato crops under irrigation because the salinity in the river at a critical time (the beginning of last May) would have destroyed the crops and inflicted long-term damage to his soil. He says his loss was some R220 000, for which Sasol denies any liability.

The water required for wheat and potato planting must not exceed a sodium content of 100 parts per million (ppm) or a chloride content of 100 ppm. The electrical conductivity (a measure of total dissolved mineral content) must not exceed 80 millisiemens per metre (ms/m). The sodium adsorption ratio (sar), which measures the extent to which the sodium present is available to plants, should not exceed 4.

Water passed a quality test on March 22 1991, so Reynolds decided to plant his wheat and potatoes. But on April 30 he found that the water quality had deteriorated so much that it was hazardous to plant either crop.

The sodium level at Reynolds's first irrigation pump, early in May, was 140 ppm and the chloride level 106 ppm. The sar was 4,8, while the conductivity was 98 ms/m. But the conductivity increased to 155 ms/m at the Sasol boundary on the Trichardspruit. At the Roodebank measuring point, above which the Trichardspruit enters the Waterval, the readings were sodium 145 ppm, chloride 142 ppm, sar 6 and conductivity 124 ms/m.

On May 6, Reynolds's consultants — Piet Hammes, professor in the department of plant production at Pretoria University, and John Harrison of Agri-Africa of Maritzburg — both advised him not to use Waterval River water for irrigation.

A late planting — which might have been theoretically possible when Sasol belatedly took steps to improve the water quality — would have interfered with Reynolds's plans to harvest teff from the same land as high-quality racehorse feed. There would have been further problems associated with a late planting — missing the best moment in the climatic cycle and labour problems at harvest time.

The outflow of pollutants during last May resulted from heavy rains that leached out the mineral content from an ash dump at Secunda — which Sasol does not dispute. Reynolds estimates

that the discharge must have persisted for at least six weeks to produce the volume of contaminated water detected.

Reynolds says he had suffered a previous loss of net income from irrigation farming in 1986-87. On that occasion he compromised, accepting about R46 000 on a loss he had estimated at some R120 000 when Sasol accepted its liability in principle.

Reynolds emphasises that saline water contaminates agricultural land: the water flowing from Secunda a year ago will take several years to leach out before the soil can be used again.

Worse still, says Reynolds, is the passive attitude of the Department of Water Affairs, which has not taken steps to control pollution in the Waterval River, even though it conducted an inquiry into water quality and commissioned detailed reports by consulting engineers Stewart Sviridov and Olivier (SSO).

Reynolds says he informed the department of the latest pollution episode, but claims it is reluctant to act. Sakkie van der Westerhuizen, director of water quality management at the department, says the department has given high priority to promoting good water quality in the Waterval River. He says SSO's reports indicate a dramatic improvement in water quality since 1989 in the Trichardspruit because of remedial measures taken by Sasol.

Nevertheless, the sodium and chloride contents remain a cause for concern from time to time. This is not acceptable to the department and will be addressed as part of the water-quality control plan for the area. Van der Westhuizen rejects summarily Reynolds's allegations of passivity, saying water-quality control has to be developed systematically over time — which the department is doing.

Sasol strenuously disputes most of Reynolds's version. Jan Krynauw, a Sasol spokesman, says that upon discovering the seepage,

it took steps to prevent further spillage and — with co-operation from the department — flushed the river with fresh water purchased from the Rand Water Board. This exercise was completed by the middle of June at a cost of about R300 000.

Sasol alleges that Reynolds — when informed of Sasol's intention to flush the Waterval River with fresh water — suggested it would be cheaper for it to pay his claim. Sasol pointed out to Reynolds that this would be prejudicial to other farmers down the river and to the environment generally.

Sasol further says the water was not poisonous but merely contained increased salt levels. Even when the salt level was at its highest, it could still be used for most irrigation purposes for a short period. Sasol says that, when its representative overflowed Reynolds's farm by helicopter, together with Reynolds, he saw that Reynolds was irrigating his farm with the very water at issue.

Sasol points out that one of SSO's reports states that wheat can tolerate salinity of up to 400 ms/m, while the maximum conductivity levels complained of ranged between 112 and 118 ms/m.

According to Sasol, the flushing process was complete by the middle of June, well in time for Reynolds's planting schedule. Indeed, the water quality by that stage was better than it had been for many years at that point in the season.

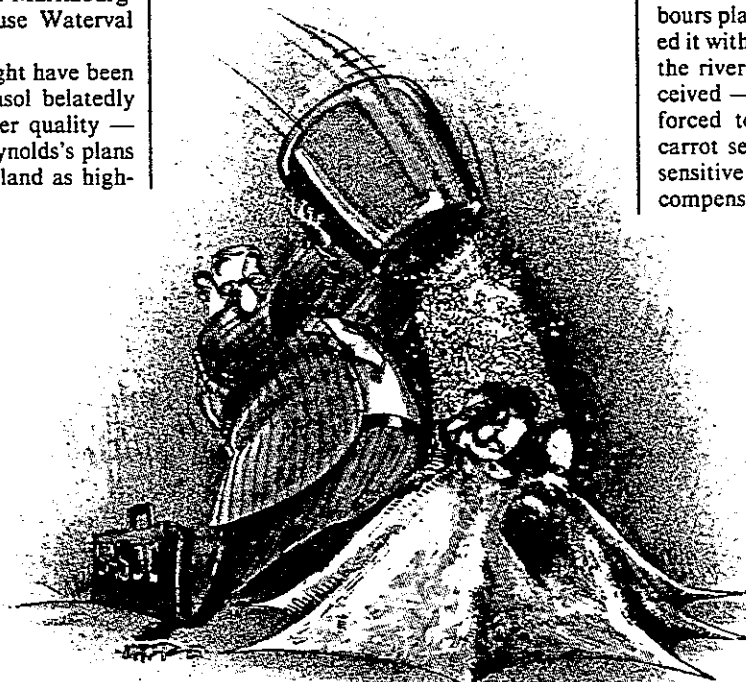
Sasol believes that Reynolds never had any intention of planting either wheat or potatoes. Sasol says Hammes considered that Reynolds could have planted wheat until the end of July and that the best time for planting potatoes was only in August. In any event, Sasol proposed to Reynolds that he should plant and that Sasol would reimburse him for any losses in yield caused by poor water quality.

It also claims that Reynolds threatened to dump a load of salt outside its Rosebank headquarters and to stage a demonstration there with his labourers.

Sasol claims that one of Reynolds's neighbours planted wheat and successfully irrigated it with the allegedly polluted water. Along the river, only one other complaint was received — from a farmer who found himself forced to use the saline water to irrigate carrot seedlings. As carrots are notoriously sensitive to salt, Sasol unhesitatingly paid compensation in this case.

Sasol says it consulted several agricultural experts, including Robin Barnard, a professor of soil science at Pretoria University, consulting engineers Watermeyer Legge Piesold & Uhlmann and various officials at the Potato Research Station of the Department of Agricultural Development.

There the matter is likely to rest, as Reynolds now says he has quit farming and will not continue to press his claim against Sasol. ■



stranglehold, described by a conference observer as "obscene and inappropriate to the needs of the country." ■

THE DROUGHT ³ *van*

Fuelling the price spiral

Fm 29/5/92
Government says food prices have soared by nearly 30% over the past year, while Pick 'n Pay's Raymond Ackerman and the Premier Group's Peter Wrighton put the figure at around 15%. But, whatever the increase, food prices are sure to rise faster in the months ahead as the effects of the drought kick in.

With much of the maize crop wiped out, downstream users of imported yellow maize will be hit hard, sending a ripple effect of higher prices through the food chain. In

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

other sectors, such as potatoes, a speculative frenzy unrelated to real market factors, is pushing prices through the roof.

Animal feed manufacturers will have to transport imported yellow maize to inland markets — and the maize component of animal feed prices will accordingly rocket by between 35% and 44%.

But why the huge maize-price increases, when imported maize can be landed here at only R445/t? For a start, government's R30/t profit — which will go towards subsidising grain co-operatives — will help to push this year's R475/t maize consumer price to 24% above last year's contract price of only R383/t. High transport costs from the coast can be added to this.

"Animal feed end-costs could rise by up to 30% this year, once all these factors are added in," says the Animal Feed Manufacturers' Association's Hansie Bekker. "With railage of R83/t-R113/t to inland markets, imported yellow maize would cost R588/t at some inland destinations or 44% above last year's contract price level of R383/t."

Bekker says the huge maize price rise will cascade through the food chain. "Eggs, milk and other dairy products, pork and poultry will be hit hard. In the case of broilers, where maize makes up 65% of the feed component, the maize price hike will add R94/t to feed costs.

In the case of egg-layers, the 55% maize component will lead to a price increase of R80/t. Dairy feed products, with a 50% maize content, will have to absorb a R73/t feed price increase this year."

Adding insult to injury, the Maize Board will still export 150 000 t of defatted maize germ to European customers this year.

The SA Feedlot Association's executive director, Piet de Wet, says: "While the red-meat industry will have to pay for costly imported grain, precious sources of energy are still exported. The association objects strongly to this step and requests that the board cease these exports immediately."

Meanwhile, animal feed manufacturers are negotiating an agreement with the oil expressers over the vexing R200/t tariff imposed a few years ago on imported soya oil cake.

The manufacturers have proposed that oil cake imports be avoided by letting local expressers — who manufacture vegetable oils from sunflower, soya and cotton seeds and sell the oil cake to the local animal feed

industry — import soya seeds tariff-free this year. This means they will be able to continue production after local sunflower and soya stocks run out by October, says the manufacturers' association chairman, Munro Griessel, who is also CE of Epol.

"We expect the drought to slash local oil cake production to about 150 000 t, against market needs of about 550 000 t. Imports of about 400 000 t could be landed here at about R700/t, but the R200/t import levy would push this to about R900/t, to which must be added transport costs from the coast of about R85/t."

If tariff-free seed imports are allowed, feed manufacturers would pay a total of about R900/t for their oil cake this year — a saving of about R80/t on imported oil cake. The saving could be lower, Griessel says, because the Chicago market is already reacting nervously to weather forecasts in the northern hemisphere, with the El Nino phenomenon sparking fears of a drought.

"We would prefer increased local soya production, as soon as good rains return to SA, because the higher fibre content of sunflower oil cake is unacceptable and soya also has a superior protein composition," he says. "The oil expressers, again, prefer sunflower because its oil content is about 42%, against soya's 16%-18%. The whole issue is complicated by the fact that overseas producers are heavily subsidised — which led to the original impost of the R200/t levy."

As these debates over costly feed inputs continue, questions are also being asked about huge 400% increases in potato prices — even while most major markets are over-supplied and there is no real prospect of shortages due to the drought.

Potato Board commodity manager Gerrie de Jager says: "Prices have increased from R5 a bag to more than R20 a bag over the

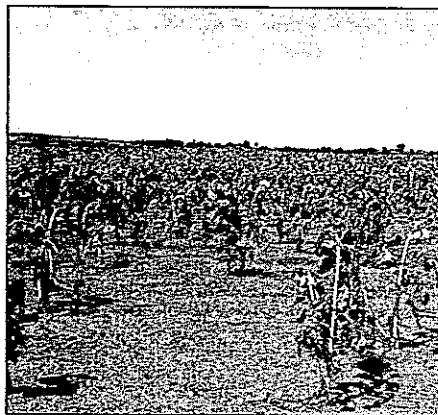
Potato Board GM Gerry van Vuuren says producers are unhappy about the huge differences between producer and consumer prices. "For example, the R20-a-bag price was only for very limited volumes of potatoes sold — average prices are still about

15/92

R17 a bag. But supermarkets are selling the potatoes at about R2,89/kg or about R28,90 a bag."

Van Vuuren adds: "As virtually no value is added to the fresh product, one must ask whether excessive profits are being made at retail level. With daily sales of about 250 000 bags of 10 kg each, nationally, retailers, therefore, add substantially to the inflationary spiral."

Meanwhile, the Board of Trade & Industry's report on food-price increases should be completed shortly. "The report will then be handed to Trade & Industry Minister Derek Keys," says board chairman Nic Swart. "While I will push for publication, the final decision will not be mine." ■



Wilting away ... too much sun for the sunflowers

past few weeks, driven by a psychosis that the drought will cause shortages. But this fear is not based on fact. More than enough stocks are available to meet demand."

He says that though the Cape Town and Johannesburg markets are over-supplied by up to 100%, prices are surging relentlessly. Fresh produce agents — the only people allowed to sell at markets on farmers' behalf — are thought to be speculatively driving up prices.

"There may be slight scarcities in specific classes, for example quality potatoes used to make chips, but by and large there is an ample supply of potatoes. This situation should also apply during the coming winter."

Rietpoort community battle for land, ③ben

heritage — again

South 30/5 - 3/6/92

FARMERS and residents of the Rietpoort settlement on the West Coast are determined to hold onto their land and heritage despite a court battle with the local management board which administers the settlement.

The community, has been protesting against poor services and an erosion of their rights since 1987.

Last week, four community members were served with subpoenas for not paying tax to the board since 1990. "We stopped paying in 1987 after we decided the board was not doing enough to solve our problems," said community leader Mr Johan Oewies.

Residents are expected to pay R45 a year in "house tax" to the board, but claim they do not receive the corresponding services. Their main grievance is a shortage of water, which has to be bought.

"Our herds have decreased because of a shortage of water, grazing land and feed," he said.

A spokesperson for the management board, Mr Adriaan Dirkse, said the taxes were used to provide facilities for the community.

MY VIEW

Professor Kader Asmal's inaugural lecture at UWC this week

Soull 30/5 - 3/6/92.

(3) Gen

WE HAVE to understand how race and sex have consciously and deliberately been used to hinder the participation of the mass of our people in employment, education, land and property. And then we have to use that understanding in positive, concrete ways.

To suggest that "market forces" and free competition are able on their own to deal with the distortions of the past is pure obscurantism.

Our playing field is not just uneven; it was fragmented into unequal pieces in which the majority of players was not allowed on the field and was prevented from learning the rules.

No market forces will give access to employment, land, housing and education to those who have been so absolutely deprived.

The introverted provincialism of many of the so-called experts (which in fact obscures huge vested interests) continues to deny the validity of the equality principle.

Yet there are major international conventions dealing with race and gender discrimination (adopted in 1965 and 1979 respectively) which permit, if not encourage, states to take special measures for the sole purpose of enabling deprived groups to advance and to enjoy the equal exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Such measures must not be considered discriminatory against others. There is no reverse discrimination, as is alleged.

Careful and orderly programmes are necessary through an over-riding clause in the Bill of Rights to permit remedial measures as part of the reconstruction of our society.

This is equally true in relation to property and land rights. How can anyone guarantee respect for personal property rights, such as a home, unless the victims of forced removals and group areas, and those whom the Land Acts reduced to penury are able to obtain compensation or the return of that which was stolen from them?

Even the Urban Foundation — not notorious for its radical positions — calls for a "recognition that South Africa cannot move forward unless it deals with the injustices of the past".

The government's response, in its White

*Neither
revenge nor
victimisation
should be on
the agenda.*

*Wrongs that
can be compensated for —
like land restoration —
must be on the agenda'*



Paper on Land Reform of 1991, was very clear: "The interests of peace and progress (demand) that the present position should be accepted. Any attempt to return to the previous order will only disrupt the country's pace of development to the detriment of all."

It was only in the face of overwhelming opposition from the churches, organs of civil society and foreign governments that the government relented to a limited extent, setting up an advisory commission on land allocation.

But in case this raised any hopes, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hertzog Kriel, made it clear that "a programme of restitution is not practical or financially viable".

Land restoration, especially of those large portions still owned by government departments, would be the first step, as the Association of Rural Advancement puts it, in healing apartheid's scars.

Neither revenge nor victimisation should be on the agenda, as we see them occurring in certain European countries.

Wrongs that can be compensated for must be on the agenda.

Slowly, there is a debate beginning on the topic of restitution for injustice. Even Business Day acknowledged: "It is widely accepted that part of the solution (to apartheid)

includes reparations for past wrongs."

We must address the issue now if we expect constitutional rights and human rights to be observed in the future.

The injuries caused by apartheid cannot all be undone immediately, but the fruits of apartheid must not be left permanently in the hands of those who profited from it.

The battle lines for the debate on the content of our future constitution are now being drawn.

One major issue of contention is clearly the relevance of economic and social rights and their place in the constitution. Some claim these are not real rights but are either "directive principles of state policy", as the Namibian Constitution, or simply "ideals", as the South African Law Commission calls them.

To deny the existence of any rights except the ones associated with political freedoms, to marginalise rights which some lawyers may consider as non-justiciable, is to accept the bias in favour of the powerful. It is to accept a truncated view of humanity. It is like throwing a rope of sand to the poor and the dispossessed.

In accordance with the international standards of human rights, we must assert the indivisibility of human rights.

To promote civil and political rights alone is to create the appearance of equality and justice, while leaving socio-economic inequality untouched and even entrenched.

Put in another way, as the Indian Supreme Court described it, we must view the two generations of rights as two wheels of a chariot, each indispensable from the other.

The National Party's constitutional proposals of September 1991 will maintain the status quo.

There will be no reparations, no affirmative action, and change will be impossible because the presidency and the government will only be able to decide by consensus.

In other words, small parties will be able to veto any change.

These proposals must be rejected because they will block all progress towards reconstruction. They will discredit democracy and undermine constitutionalism. Reconciliation cannot be initiated on such a political and constitutional quicksand.

'Self-help needed with drought aid'

GARNER THOMSON ③
Weekend Argus Bureau

ARG 30/5/92

LONDON. — The Times has warned Western donors anxious to help relieve the worsening southern African drought to look further than merely offering economic aid.

It said in a leading article yesterday: "They must ensure rural communities survive and maintain their food-producing viability. They must ensure political stability and the continuation of economic reform.

"They must encourage African governments toward economic prudence."

Otherwise, it said, southern Africa's immediate survival might be at the expense of its eventual recovery.

The paper suggested "throwing money and food" at the victims of drought might be a temporary salve that in the longer term could exacerbate their distress.

"The principle that, where possible, Africa should buy food rather than get it free and buy it locally must be applied

to governments as much as to individuals.

"Relief agencies have argued that forcing African governments to buy in food stocks with their hard currency reserves will slow down and possibly reverse economic reform and the process of structural adjustment.

"If, on the other hand, governments are simply bailed out, the principle of economic responsibility is replaced by aid-dependency."

Meanwhile, as many as 18 million people could starve, and another 180 million see their lives devastated, in the southern African drought, according to a report to be published by the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) next week.

They are appealing to the international community for nearly \$700-million (R1,99 billion) to buy emergency rations for Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Seized land: ANC pledge a 'just' fee

CT 1/6/92 ③

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC intends protecting property rights, and says that if any land is appropriated by the state, "just" compensation will have to be paid.

This was one of the key stances adopted at the ANC's policy conference which ended here yesterday.

The ANC also rejected special treatment for foreign investors. Such investors might also be blocked from investing in strategic areas and have limits placed on their local borrowing facilities.

On property rights, the adopted policy document states that "just" compensation will consist of establishing an equitable balance between the public interest and the interest of those affected.

This will not be based solely on the market value of the property, but there will be recourse to a special independent tribunal with an appeal to the courts.

ANC representatives accepted that nationalised companies would be compensated at a just rate.

Also endorsed was the concept of "mixed economy" which would foster a new relationship between the state, the trade union movement, the private sector and the market.

The ANC has pledged to introduce anti-monopoly and anti-trust policies.

A progressive tax system was endorsed, pledged to end indirect taxation on basic foodstuffs, health care and basic household services.

The ANC pledged to ensure that financial institutions channelled resources into productive investment and ended discrimination in lending against blacks, women and the informal sector or small-scale producers.

● Yesterday, economists attacked the proposed conditions for foreign investment.

Nedcor chief economist Mr Edward Osborne said the ANC was saying that the whole investment should be overseen by an investment committee such as had been seen in Zimbabwe, "which resulted in bureaucratic stalling and all sorts of problems".

Sacob chief economist Mr Ben van Rensburg said the policy showed unawareness of the forces "which today drive decisions to invest offshore".

Important factors were: Potential returns on investment, certainty in the political and economic environment, a proven history of macro-economic policies aimed at preserving the value of the currency and the ability of government to follow economic policies which foster sustained economic growth.

IDT earmarks R100m for poverty, drought aid

PRETORIA — The Independent Development Trust has earmarked R100m for short- and medium-term projects to relieve distress and poverty in drought-affected areas.

A spokesman said at the weekend the trust aimed to establish a national drought relief and development programme incorporating all agencies and networks already involved in relief.

It was vital that all efforts be co-ordinated to make the best use of funds, the spokesman said.

The short-term aim of the programme was to contribute to bringing about immediate relief to fight off the threat of starvation.

The trust's main focus, the spokesman said, would be to try to bring about a lasting solution to the causes of poverty.

Meanwhile, a US Embassy spokesman said the US would give southern African countries 1 050-million tons of emergency food at a total cost of \$280m and would consider further donations. *Blom 1/6/92*

He was unable to say what percentage of the food and aid would go to which southern African countries, saying that this would be determined by the US Agency for International Development Aid.

EC representative in Pretoria Tim Sheehy said the community had allocated 800 000 tons towards drought aid for the whole of Africa.

This was in addition to the normal food aid programmes supported by the EC.

2 Ben 200 210
GERALD REILLY

R130m for SA drought aid ^③ ET 2/6/92

Political Staff

THE government yesterday announced a drought-relief package of R130 million for the six non-independent homelands and for farmers on state land.

This follows an earlier announcement of R1 billion in drought relief for agriculture in South Africa.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, also said the report of the implementing committee on drought

relief was received last Wednesday, a day before the May 28 deadline.

The report and recommendations were being evaluated and it was expected that an announcement would be made next Monday.

Dr Van Niekerk said the R130m would be for the sole purpose of drought relief and necessary control mechanisms would ensure the proper use of the funds.

Job creation programmes are included in the package.

main problem in regard to these portable and transportable toilets is not that the hole unfortunately constitutes a permanent fixture? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the reply to that is yes, as far as the toilet is concerned, and no, not as far as the placing is concerned.

Hwibi community: use of farm Tweespalk

*8. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has received a request on behalf of the Hwibi community for that community to make use of the farm Tweespalk, No 733LDR6, which was held in trust by the former South African Development Trust; if so,
- (2) whether he intends allowing the Hwibi community to make use of the farm; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

B692E

†The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2) The farm Tweespalk is the property of the State which is, together with a number of other farms, being leased in terms of a written lease agreement to Gillemberg Farms. It is therefore under the present circumstances not possible to make the property available to the Hwibi community.

Cost of newspaper advertisements: Zevenfontein issue

*9. Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:†

- (1) (a) Which Department bears the cost of the newspaper advertisements by the Transvaal Provincial Administration on the Zevenfontein question, which appeared *inter alia* on 12 May 1992 in a certain newspaper, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, (b) what has the total cost of these advertisements been to date and (c) what is the purport of the advertisement in the above-mentioned newspaper;

- (2) whether there are any private business undertakings or bodies that contribute to the defrayal of these costs; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any more similar advertisements are envisaged; if so, what subjects will they deal with?

B696E

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- (1) (a) The Transvaal Provincial Administration.
- (b) The total cost of placing the advertisement in five daily newspapers on 12 and 13 May 1992 and in six regional papers during the week which ended on 15 May 1992, amounted to R130 801,93. The daily newspapers are The Citizen, The Star, Sowetan, Business Day and Beeld. The regional papers are Randburg Sun, Midrand Reporter, Verwoerdburg Nuus, Sandton Chronicle, Krugersdorp Nuus and Roodepoort Record.
- (c) The intention of the advertisement was to emphasize, in the national interest, the realities of urbanization in the PWV area, and to defuse the emotional actions and the misconceptions regarding the presence of the Zevenfontein community north-west of Randburg and Sandton.

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- (3) At this stage no further advertisements of this nature are envisaged. Further advertisements in this regard may, however, be published should it be deemed necessary and in the interest of the public.

Compensation to injured national servicemen

*10. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether national servicemen who sustain injuries during their national service training that are caused by the negligence of other members of the South African Defence Force and that lead to permanent disablement, receive compensation therefore; if not, why not; if so,

- (2) whether the procedure followed in calculating such compensation is the same as that followed in corresponding cases outside the Defence Force structure; if not, (a) why not and (b) what procedure is followed in this regard?

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- (1) Yes, provided the claim is accepted by the responsible Government Department.
- (2) In so far as financial assistance is concerned two separate dispensations are applicable to National Servicemen depending on the circumstances:

— National Servicemen who are already either in the employ of the Public Service or another employer who is registered in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act 30 of 1941) fall under the jurisdiction of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

— Other National Servicemen are covered by the Military Pensions Act (Act 84 of 1976).

- (a) The basis of compensation in the categories differ in that the Workmen's Compensation Act was enacted to compensate persons who are already employed in the open labour market for disabilities sustained during their military service. Calculation of the benefits payable is based on earnings, degree of disability and the type of work performed. In contrast the Military Pensions Act provides for persons who have not as yet entered the open labour market or whose employers have not been registered in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act and who sustained injuries whilst rendering military service. In such cases compensation is based on educational qualifications and the degree of disability.

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public servant who is rendering his national service the incident is reported to the member's department who will in turn submit the case to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner for further processing.

— With regard to the completion of the claim documentation of members who fall under the Military Pensions Act, the onus rests with the individual member but he is assisted by the SA Defence Force to submit his claim on the prescribed form to the Department of Finance.

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- (1) Whether his Department takes any measures to ensure that cargo ships sailing in South African territorial waters are not structurally so deteriorated that they may start leaking or even sink; if not, why not; if so, what measures;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

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NEWS IN BRIEF

8/0am 3/6/92 (3) Gen
SAAU pleads for delay

THE SA Agricultural Union has made a last minute plea to Manpower Minister Leon Wessels to delay tabling amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, due to take place on Friday. It said yesterday the amendments could have serious consequences for the industry.

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Whether there are any South African embassies which in any way, after receiving the

not debate this now, but it is a subject which one could discuss at great length. However, I want to assure hon members that we are by no means overlooking the historical aspects of the shop.

The hon member for Springfield raised a very interesting and important point pertaining to the Group Areas Act.

Mr P NAIDOO: Mr Speaker, is the hon the Minister prepared to take a question?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The hon the Minister's time is very limited, but it is up to him to decide.

The MINISTER: I am prepared to take a question.

Mr P NAIDOO: Would the hon the Minister afford a similar opportunity to the thousands of householders who are much more deserving of such special treatment?

The MINISTER: I would like to, but I cannot. I had hoped to, but I could not. I might as well stipulate some of the conditions or factors that are taken into account before finally arriving at the price at which we are offering these shops. The situation of the shop is taken into account, as are the present condition of the premises and the type of business. If there are too many barber shops, for instance . . . [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Transfer of land to Minister of Public Works

291. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether, in terms of paragraph 1(c) of Proclamation R28 of 31 March 1992, certain land under the control of his Department is to be transferred to the Minister of Public Works; if so, (a) what land is to be transferred and (b) what is the purpose in doing so;
- (2) whether the Government intends selling the land in question; if not, why not; if so, to whom?

B737E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) The properties mentioned in Schedule 3 of Proclamation No R28/1992 have already been transferred to the Department of Public Works with effect from 1 April 1992.
 - (b) To further dispose of the properties.
- (2) The Department of Public Works will dispose of the properties taking into consideration in this regard the advice of the

Advisory Commission on Land Allocation and the practical utilization of non-economic units. Further particulars in this respect should be obtained from the Department of Public Works.

Own Affairs:

Model C schools: subsidized posts to be lost

66. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

Whether his Department has already determined how many teachers in (a) ordinary public and (b) state-aided schools will lose their subsidized posts after the conversion from ordinary public schools to Model C schools has been completed; if not, why not; if so, (i) how many teachers in each case and (ii) how many of them (aa) with and (bb) without a pension?

B608E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (a) (i) 155
- (ii) (aa)* 155
- (bb) 0
- (b) (i) 3 661
- (ii) (aa)* 3 658
- (bb)** 3

* Depending on whether a person occupies a temporary or a permanent position and on his/her years of service an annuity or a gratuity or an annuity and a gratuity are paid out.

** Part time posts.

original, unaltered draft letter to which he referred in his reply to Question No 1 on 13 May 1992, approached foreign heads of state with the request that the South African Government be supported in the referendum of 17 March 1992; if so, (a) in what way were these heads of state approached and (b) what heads of state were so approached?

B704E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

No. The letter, as I explained previously, was sent to missions for their information only. Furthermore I have sent a subsequent instruction informing missions that the final text, as amended by the State President, was on its way. All missions have confirmed that no Head of State was approached on the basis of the initial text.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

Trust Feed case: call by General Bar Council

*13. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether he will accede to the call by the General Bar Council of South Africa for a full, public investigation, presided over by a Supreme Court judge, into the allegations of a police cover-up in the Trust Feed case; if not, why not;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B710E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) The possibility exists. Former Regional Court president, Mr Willem Krugel, has already been appointed to co-ordinate and analyse the evidence and to advise me in this matter. As soon as I receive the advice a decision will be made.
- (2) No.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Directorate: Financial Assistance/Land Bank

*1. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

- (1) Whether he envisages combining the functions of the Land Bank and the Directorate: Financial Assistance of his Department; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B726E.INT

*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, the question is whether it is being envisaged to combine the functions of the Land Bank and the Directorate: Financial Assistance. The reply to both questions, on which I will issue a statement, is no. In my opinion it is not possible or desirable to combine all the functions of the Directorate: Financial Assistance and the Agricultural Credit Board on the one hand and those of the Land Bank on the other. The reason for this is that the primary mandates and tasks of the two bodies differ fundamentally from each other.

Where certain functions such as the consolidation of debts and the financing of beginner farmers and the advancing of production credit overlap, the rationalisation thereof in order to vest it in the Land Bank is indeed being considered and promoted. In a nutshell this means that the Land Bank provides the capital for these financing functions in these cases, and the Agricultural Credit Board subsidizes the interest on these amounts based on merit and the appropriation by Parliament of funds.

These functions form a relatively small component of the activities of the Agricultural Credit Board and the Directorate: Financial Assistance, whereas it is a main function of the Land Bank, besides the financing of co-operatives and marketing boards. The other functions of the Directorate: Financial Assistance and the Agricultural Credit Board comprise areas that are not dealt with by the Land Bank at all, for example the

approval and control of soil conservation works and the payment of subsidies, the evaluation and allocation to farmers of state-owned agricultural land, the administration of various drought aid schemes for stock farmers and ostrich farmers, water and drilling projects, and the administration of aid schemes for flood damage. (3) Gen

Then there is also the approval and assistance with the erection and upgrading of housing for labourers, the administration of the land conversion scheme, as well as the facilitating of settlement agreements.

The Government needs an instrument in order to have particular functions, that cannot be performed by the private sector, available for the evaluation of emergency aid in particular.

The above-mentioned functions cannot be dealt with by the Land Bank, which is an independent body, on behalf of the Government. The Agricultural Credit Board and its functional arm, the Directorate of Financial Assistance, is therefore an instrument in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture to carry out specific instructions of the Government in respect of dealing with disasters, emergency aid and financial assistance in specific cases and circumstances. The funds for this come out of the State budget and are allocated annually according to the circumstances in prevailing agriculture at the time.

On the other hand the Land Bank operates under the provisions of a specific Act. In terms of this Act the Land Bank is empowered to raise funds on the open capital market at market-related interest rates in order to supplement its own limited funds and then to lend it to farmers and agricultural concerns at market-related interest rates.

The Land Bank also reports to the Minister of Finance on its activities. Various investigations have already been launched by the Commission for Administration, Dr Japie Jacobs and Mr van Zyl, in order to determine the viability of combining these functions of the two bodies. [Time expired.]

*Mr C E HERTZOG: Mr Chairman, in the first place I should like to apologise for the hon member for Lydenburg who cannot be here today owing to other important business.

If certain functions of the Agricultural Credit Board and the Land Bank can be combined it is

absolutely essential that the new body should be subject to the Agricultural Credit Act, Act 28 of 1966.

The position is that if a farmer's financial situation has deteriorated to such an extent that a settlement has to be considered, the Land Bank can go ahead and take the farmer's land and sell it, because the Land Bank is not bound by section 21(1), regarding the protection that the board may extend in order to give the farmer a chance to carry out the settlement.

Apart from the disadvantage for the farmer, it is also disadvantageous to the other creditors, because they are prevented from taking any action if protection has been extended in terms of section 21.

With the present position, it has happened that the Land Bank comes in when the negotiations with other creditors is at an advanced stage, and takes the farmer's land and sells it, with the result that all negotiations collapse. As the Land Bank is not subject to the Agricultural Credit Act, it is also excluded when the creditors meet in order to settle. If the creditors should agree to a settlement, the Land Bank can come in at any stage and wreck the whole settlement and days of work.

At present the position is that the farmer no longer has a choice of going out in terms of section 28 if the settlement proposals are accepted at a meeting, but the Land Bank later acts against the farmer and wrecks the settlement. He is then simply sequestrated if enough assets have remained in the estate—once again to the detriment of the farmer and other creditors.

If such a step is taken it will cut out much unnecessary red tape for the farmer, especially when a farmer envisages buying land. At present the position is that the farmer must first apply to the Land Bank for assistance and only if he is refused assistance there, can he apply to the board for consideration there, while months are wasted. Such a combined body would also have better security. At present the board in many cases has lower bonds than first bonds at its disposal, whilst the bank has first bonds at its disposal. Farmers should under no circumstances be forced to pay higher interest rates, as are being paid at present. [Time expired.]

Mr M A TARR: Mr Chairman, the Department administers four types of schemes, all of which

represent some form of subsidy to agriculture. These are loans, consolidation of debt, purchase of land and subsidised interest rates, the subsidies on interest, conversion of land to farming patterns and we also have emergency assistance.

There are two points that the DP would like to make here, and the first is that we believe that over the longer term subsidies to agriculture should be phased out altogether. They have not achieved the objectives they were installed for, namely to help farmers in trouble and to make access to agriculture easier for aspiring farmers. Instead, subsidies have often been capitalised into land values, and they have helped to give distorted price signals resulting in wrong patterns of production. High land values have, in fact, made entrance into farming more difficult, and the wrong production patterns have made farming more risky. To the extent that the Department is responsible for the administration of subsidies, we believe these should fall away.

Secondly, with regard to the purchase of land and loans for the purchase of land, we believe the Land Bank as a specialist institution should handle this and should have overall responsibility. Subsidised loans for land should also be phased out and hence another function of this Department.

We therefore do not foresee the functions of the Land Bank and the directorate being combined, because we would hope that over time most of the functions of the directorate would fall away. They should continue to perform those which they do keep, like drought relief and assistance in situations like that.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, with regard to what the hon member for Pietermaritzburg North said about the question of subsidies, we are in the process of phasing out subsidies. On the other hand, with the difficult farming conditions we have and the erratic climate in which farmers operate there are times when one has to ensure food security by means of subsidies keeping farmers in production, or else we will end up without a sufficient supply of locally produced food. We would then have to rely on imported food, which is usually expensive. In that regard we cannot totally disregard the role that subsidies can play in facilitating this action.

With regard to the purchase of land, the department no longer funds the purchasing of land and

we do not intend doing so in the future, because that is the function of the Land Bank. I agree with what the hon member has just said.

*With all due respect, I do not think the hon member for Ladybrand listened carefully to my explanation. We have not created a new body but have just brought about a rationalisation between the two activities so that certain functions that are the responsibility of the Land Bank do go to the Land Bank, as I mentioned in respect of various transactions where money for production loans is involved and in respect of the consolidation of debt, and that on the part of Agricultural credit, relief is only granted in respect of the interest. However, I have already explained this.

I do not think the hon member need worry about the fact that the Land Bank has been so unapproachable, as he says. Indeed, the experience that we have is that the Land Bank acts in an extremely responsible way and in fact only in cases where it cannot do otherwise, does it proceed to take action in terms of the provisions of its Act.

In this regard the Agricultural Credit Board plays a important role. That is why it should also keep functioning separately, as he says. [Time expired.]

*Mr J M BEYERS: Mr Chairman, we on this side of the House are in favour of the Agricultural Credit Board being incorporated into the Land Bank and that the Land Bank takes over all the functions of the ACB. We have been appealing for a long time, together with the formal agricultural sector, for a one-stop financial assistance service for farmers where the farmer's total financial package can be addressed and meaningful and streamlined decisions taken on it. For the farmer the important advantage is in this sense that his total financial planning can then be finalized at one place. A further advantage, especially in view of the future constitutional dispensation that the Government is planning, is that the farmer's financial service will not then be so closely associated with the Government than is the case at present with the ACB.

However, from this side of the House we impose two important conditions for the incorporation of the ACB—which in any case is apparently not going to take place, in view of the hon the Minister's reply. In the first place we state that all category 3 farmers that receive assistance from

the ACB at present should still be assisted by the new body or combined body, with the same advantages and the same conditions as they enjoyed at the ACB.

In the second place we feel—and we feel strongly about it—that the Directorate: Financial Assistance should not disappear, but should be available to render State assistance to farmers through particular channels, during emergency- and disaster-related conditions.

In a country such as South Africa, with our particular climatology and fluctuating natural conditions, the State will always have to play an important role to keep agriculture healthy.

A further aspect that I believe has now become urgently necessary and on which we should like to ascertain the Minister's opinion, is whether it will be possible in such a possible new dispensation, for commercial banks to be responsible for agricultural debt, which as a result of excessive interest rates, at present constitutes about 39% of the total debt burden of farmers . . . [Time expired.]

*Mr C E HERTZOG: Mr Chairman, it is of the utmost importance that certain functions of these bodies be combined. We have great understanding for the idea that the Directorate: Financial Assistance should remain in existence to be of assistance to farmers in cases of disaster, but just as a train driver cannot accept financial responsibility for a train disaster, so the farmers cannot accept financial responsibility in the present conditions for a disaster in agriculture. That is why we on this side of the House would really like to see certain functions combined, but that the Directorate: Financial Assistance remains in existence in order to be of assistance in emergencies.

*The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I can give the hon member for Ladybrand the assurance that that is exactly what we envisage in respect of certain functions that must be combined and that should logically fall under a financing institution and not the State. But in respect of the functional arm that should deal with disasters, and remain the responsibility of the State, we must keep the Agricultural Credit Board and the directorate in place in order to be able to evaluate it at grassroots level. We cannot do without it, and that is exactly one of the reasons why we cannot combine the two. It therefore remains as is.

The hon member for Virginia asks for one-stop service in respect of financing. It is going to be transferred to the Land Bank, or we are going to try to do it. The other functions then remain with the Agricultural Credit Board.

The existing conditions in respect of category 3 farmers will be maintained. Under the auspices of the Agricultural Credit Board they can move in and out, not only at the Land Bank, but also at commercial banks in order to subsidise agricultural debt on a sliding scale for one year with low interest rates, and can then phase it out slowly.

The directorate will not disappear. Commercial banks that deal with agricultural debt are therefore also being incorporated here. As far as the Agricultural Credit Board is concerned and farmers that serve on agricultural credit committees . . .

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must resume his seat. The hon the Minister may proceed.

*The MINISTER: They perform an important function and provide an unselfish service to farmers. I should like to express my gratitude on this occasion for the functions that they perform. It is one of the important things at grassroots level that should remain intact for the sake of agriculture. In order to do this we need to have the financial assistance arm and also the Agricultural Credit Board.

We are not planning to change radically, but we should like to make the whole process more streamlined with a view to a healthy financing policy.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Feeding scheme: amount distributed/available
270. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) (a) (i) What total amount (aa) has been distributed in terms of the Government's cent →

ANC workshop on drought relief

Staff Reporter (3) Gen (9)

The ANC is to hold a workshop tomorrow to discuss the effects of the drought on farmworkers, "who, it seems, are going to get the least from proposed government funded relief assistance," an ANC statement said.

The workshop will be attended by affected regions of the ANC, Cosatu, the SA Communist Party and regional development forums.

Of the R1 billion allocated towards relief, only two percent is earmarked for food relief. Such a situation will have a catastrophic effect on the rural population. *SM 4/6/92*

This is exacerbated by the fact that farmworkers and other rural workers do not have protection from the country's labour laws," the ANC said.

'Use secret state funds for food relief'

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ARCS/6/92

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The Co-ordinating Committee on VAT (VCC), has called on the Government to use "the billions of rands in state secret funds" to stabilise the price of basic foods, amid warnings from the ANC that 18 million South Africans could starve because of the drought.

The ANC also said reports that the Government stood to make R400 million profit from

the import and sale of wheat reflected a callous disregard for the plight of millions.

The VCC call came in response to predictions this week that the prices of some basic foods might rise by 45 percent because of the drought.

Meanwhile two of South Africa's largest trade union bodies, Cosatu and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), have called on members to "mobilise" against the

predicted increases.

VCC coordinator Dr Bernie Fanaroff yesterday said a sharp rise in the price of basic foods would "push millions of South Africans into starvation".

He said the VCC wanted the Government to use the R110 million profit it made on wheat imports last year, and the R80 million saved on subsidies, to stabilise food prices.

ANC economics department head Mr Trevor Manuel

warned that South Africa was heading for a potential disaster on an enormous scale if the Government insisted on dealing with the crisis caused by the drought single handed.

Mr Manuel said more than R100 million of the R220 million budgeted for drought relief in the past financial year had been carried over to this year because Pretoria did not have the required infrastructure to organise relief effectively.

FARM DEBT Fm 5/6/92

Controlling the credit tap

At first glance, the R3,8bn drought-relief package announced last month looked like just another budget-breaking handout to farmers and farm co-operatives that should go out of business if they can't cope with the occupational hazard of droughts. But, on closer inspection, the relief package is part of an attempt to wean agriculture away from easy credit and establish more market-orientated principles in the socialist-style sector.

As part of the package, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk told the co-ops to let any farmer who exceeds a 50% debt:asset ratio to fall by the wayside. Farmers whose debts exceed 50% of total assets, even after

their share of the drought relief is incorporated, will receive no more credit from co-ops (though they might be able to borrow elsewhere) and could be forced out of the sector.

"In the future, we will not be able to defend to taxpayers the use of their money for such (drought-relief) programmes unless financial discipline becomes part of the package," Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer told the recent co-operative congress in Pretoria. "The first step is to bring agriculture back to a market-related keel. And farmers will have to make a contribution, for a start, by keeping proper financial records and having an acceptable farming plan as the basis for their operations."

Meyer said that, in one farming district, 41% of the participants in the relief scheme had no financial records of any value. Van Niekerk emphasised that this same message of financial discipline also applies to the R22bn-a-year co-ops, which will have to give credit purely on merit.

Next week the Minister will announce details of how the drought aid will be distributed, but the broad outline of where the money will go is known (*Business & Technology* May 15). Under the three-year programme, R1bn will go directly to farmers, mostly in the summer-grain production and

grazing areas of the Transvaal and Free State. The other R2,8bn will go to the 35 co-ops in the region to pay off part of the farmers' debt.

The total debt of the farmers served by the co-ops — who till 6,4m ha and produce 90% of the grain — will escalate to R766/ha by the end of this season, or R4,9bn, according to the Department of Agricultural Development. It says that, of 10 220 farmers — members of seven of the co-ops — who produce 80% of the grain, 45% will have a debt:asset ratio of more than 50% after this year's crop disaster. A total of 70% were in a "disastrous financial position" due to cash-flow problems.

So without help, farms would fall in mass sequestrations, leading to the collapse of many co-ops. The damage would extend to the Land Bank, which guarantees the creditworthiness of the co-ops, and the State, which stands behind the bank.

The farm-debt crisis was caused by two major factors — recurring droughts in the Eighties, and, more important, the poor credit decisions by the co-ops. They had little to lose because, since the 1983 drought, they have been backed by State guarantees that started at R800m, rose to R1,4bn and will total R2,8bn by the end of 1995.

While Van Niekerk's rescue package is primarily aimed at preventing the co-ops from collapsing, farmers will benefit indirectly — even ones not hurt by the drought — because their debt with co-ops will be reduced by an average of R375/ha.

"With this step, the State again puts farm financing back within free-market principles," Van Niekerk says. "By removing accumulated debt from farmers' balance sheets, it will enable financing institutions to grant production credit to farmers, based on normal financial principles. In this way, many farmers who this year had a total crop disaster will be assisted."

Volkskas Bank agricultural economist Chris Mostert says the result of the R3,8bn aid package and government's decision to buy itself out of the guarantee scheme will be to level the playing field between the co-ops and the commercial banks. "This will inevitably lead to more responsible financing of farmers by all institutions."

But, despite this effort to put farming on a firmer market footing, government has a long way to go to reform the co-ops and the whole area of agricultural finance. Unless it wants to see another debt crisis in a few years, government must change the Co-operative Act to limit the co-ops' lending and financing powers on behalf of the Land Bank. It must also do away with the co-ops' statutory lien over the farmers' crop proceeds and allow co-ops to become companies operating in a truly competitive climate.

Pretoria University farm economist Jan Groenewald says: "The farming co-ops handle massive amounts each year. But they became financial institutions without the financial expertise one would expect from banking and credit institutions." ■

It's lethal living down on the farm

LIQUID DANGER

Chemicals are used extensively in agriculture in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious but preventable health hazards. MARIKA SBOROS reports.



VISIT a farm regularly and the sight of labourers slopping hazardous chemicals around as if they were cool drinks will probably be familiar.

Many of these farm labourers unwittingly poison themselves with these substances, and expose themselves and their families to possible later illness through carcinogenic or teratogenic (foetal abnormalities) effects, says Dr

farms, through environmental contamination and pesticide residues on foodstuffs, says Dr Lee in an editorial in the SAMJ.

Agrichemicals are used extensively in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious health hazards, says Dr Lesley London of the University of Cape Town's community health department in an article in the SAMJ.

STAR 5/6/92
agricultural use is vast; more than 700 agents are registered with the Department of Agriculture as pesticides and fungicides, says Dr London.

Legislation controlling registration of agrichemicals in South Africa is based on a toxicity classification by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation. However, this assessment of toxicity does not take into account many cru-

worker has left the land.

Estimates of death or illness internationally from agrichemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agrichemical poisoning in South Africa are equally sketchy.

However, a western Cape study has shown gross undernotification of between 50 and 500 percent, says Dr London.

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VISIT a farm regularly and the sight of labourers slopping hazardous chemicals around as if they were cool drinks will probably be familiar.

Many of these farm labourers unwittingly poison themselves with these substances, and expose themselves and their families to possible later illness through carcinogenic or teratogenic (foetal abnormalities) effects, says Dr Nic Lee, editor of the South African Medical Journal (SAMJ).

Dr Lee has devoted the journal's latest edition to environmental health in the 1990s.

And before saying "Ag, shame" about the plight of farm workers, reflect for a moment that the use of agrichemicals can have much wider effects on populations far removed from

farms, through environmental contamination and pesticide residues on foodstuffs, says Dr Lee in an editorial in the SAMJ.

Agrichemicals are used extensively in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious health hazards, says Dr Lesley London of the University of Cape Town's community health department in an article in the SAMJ.

The agricultural sector is one of the largest employers in South Africa, employing 1,18 million people on 62 050 farms in 1990 — 15 percent of the economically active workforce. As well, a large informal sector exists in agriculture and is likely to grow as the economy enters a transitional phase in the future.

The range of chemicals available for

agricultural use is vast; more than 700 agents are registered with the Department of Agriculture as pesticides and fungicides, says Dr London.

Legislation controlling registration of agrichemicals in South Africa is based on a toxicity classification by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation. However, this assessment of toxicity does not take into account many crucial factors such as the presence of impurities from the production process and frequent or repeated exposure, says Dr London.

The assessment takes no account of chronic health effects from long-term low-grade exposure, and it does not reflect acute (non-fatal) morbidity.

Many health effects of agrichemicals may manifest long after the farm-

worker has left the land.

Estimates of death or illness internationally from agrichemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agrichemical poisoning in South Africa are equally sketchy.

However, a western Cape study has shown gross undernotification of between 50 and 500 percent, says Dr London.

Other than notifications, it is clear that pesticide poisoning remains an important cause of admission to intensive care units at the major referral hospitals, and constitutes a large proportion of poisonings dealt with by poison centres at university teaching hospitals.

Safety measures in agriculture in South Africa have been poorly ad-

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18/6/92

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dressed to date, he says. A western Cape study found that low levels of safety training were practised and the re-use and improper disposal of empty containers were preventable hazards.

Problems of agrichemical hazard in the farming sector must be seen in the context of the wider health needs of farmworkers, both occupational and non-occupational, says Dr London.

As important discussions over future health services are unfolding in South Africa, farmworkers' health must not remain the neglected stepchild of a future primary health care service.

"Agrichemical safety should be integrated in a comprehensive health service aimed at health promotion and disease prevention for all South Africans," he says.

Rural folk desperate for water

Sowetan 5/6/92

3 Gen

THE water shortage in some areas of southern Natal is so severe that people are digging for water in dry river beds and drinking polluted water treated with bleach

Says Southern Natal Joint Services Board chairman Prof Khabi Mngoma, "There's an urgent need for the co-ordination of the supply of water to these needy communities.

Mngoma explained that most of the main supply rivers for rural areas in southern Natal had dried up. Many springs in this region had also run dry while boreholes were delivering mostly sandy water.

Acute water shortages were being experienced about 10km from the coast to the interior in many areas of southern Natal.

Mngoma said it had been decided on Tuesday at an emergency meeting to discuss the drought in the region that Joint Services Boards would take over the problem of the water shortage there.

This would involve urgent measures to transport water to critical areas.

A statement after the meeting said it had been accepted that although dams in the area were on

average about 70 percent full, rural areas were totally parched and a concerted effort was needed to obtain funds and resources to firstly get water to the needy areas.

Mngoma explained he was trying to arrange water tankers to transport water to the most critical areas.

In some areas people had to dig in dry river beds for their water, while in the Vulamehlo district near Scottburgh women stood for hours at night waiting to draw water from a spring.

Many of the springs and rivers that still held water were, however, heavily polluted and people were either drinking from these or - just as dangerously - applying a household bleach to the water with the mistaken idea that this would purify it.

Ninety out of 95 boreholes in the region were unusable because of the sand content in the water.

Mngoma said Murchison Hospital on the South Coast had informed him that 750 children from birth to five years old died there yearly from water-related diseases while another 16 000 people of all ages were treated every year for similar illnesses.

"The current shortage of water in the interior is a result of bad planning from the old apartheid structures," the professor said.

He explained that com-

mmercial farmers in the area had planned for drought situations and were not facing the crisis that rural communities were. This was because these communities had never been involved in the development of their domestic water supplies but had been made to accept Government "handouts".

"The JSB needs to establish development committees among these communities and through them establish a culture of accountability and community involvement because they all come from a culture of handouts."

Critical

The present problem, however, was that these committees were not in place and there was no structure in the communities to receive water that would be delivered there.

There was such a critical shortage of water that without proper co-ordination, the delivery of water to communities of desperate people could lead to chaos, said Mngoma.

There was also the fear of the drought leading to more disease, he added.

"If the problem of the shortage of domestic water is not addressed soon, these communities can become a health hazard to the region - wit perhaps an outbreak of cholera. - Sapa.

Land report

③ CT 2/6/92

3 months late

7

THE first report of the advisory commission investigating claims for the restoration of land removed during the apartheid era was released yesterday — more than three months after it was completed.

The report of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation was tabled in Parliament yesterday but the Conservative Party immediately attacked the government for keeping the report secret for more than three months.

"It is disrespectful of Parliament," the CP said in a statement issued by its black affairs spokesman, Mr Schalk Pienaar.

"It is just another example of the incompetence and clumsiness of the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, unless there are also other sinister reasons, for which the minister owes the public an explanation," he added.

The commission, whose chairman is Mr Justice T H van Reenen, met four times in December and February and its first report was signed in February.

It said that before its establishment, controversy and suspicion arose within certain communities and organisations.

"Discussions with representatives of the communities resulted in the allaying of fears and suspicions and the commission is now being accepted as a forum for addressing land claims."

Most of the claims the commission is investigating concern the restoration of land taken from black people.

Zevenfontein sites chosen

JOHANNESBURG. — About 1 000 Zevenfontein squatter families are to be resettled on two sites north of Randburg and Sandton, the Transvaal Provincial Administration announced yesterday, finally ending a protracted battle over the community's future.

The two sites — portions of Nietgedacht and Diepsloot West — are to be expropriated and developed at a total cost of about R20 million, Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough said yesterday. — Sapa

Low

Bonny Bird fights for single-sex farm hostel

VUSI KAMA
Weekend Argus Reporter

BONNY Bird Farms in the Strand has denied it is a breach of contract to ask workers to move into single-sex hostels where they would not be allowed to stay with their families.

Lawyers for Human Rights, who represent the workers, maintained that the employees' contract included fully subsidised accommodation at Lwandle Hostel near the Strand, where they could live with their families.

The company had stated that the workers would not be allowed to move with their families into Temperance Farm near Gordon's Bay, where they had been supposed to live since Monday.

The company said the women and children would be arrested for trespassing if they joined their husbands at the farm.

Lawyers for Human Rights claimed that the company management said the workers' wives and children would introduce diseases to the farm.

Bonny Bird Farms decided to halt the move, pending negotiations between the company and LHR, held throughout the past week.

More meetings will be held next week.

Mr John Maldune of Bonny Bird said yesterday the matter had been "resolved". He refused to comment on the LHR statement.

The lawyers, acting on behalf of the Farmworkers' Support Committee, who represent the workers, had threatened legal action if the company went ahead with the removal of workers to Temperance Farm against their will.

"The provision of family unit accommodation at the Lwandle Hostel is a benefit of the employment contract," a spokesman for the LHR said.

The employees' contract included "fully subsidised accommodation at Lwandle Hostel, together with paid transport to and from (Temperance Farm) on daily basis".

Two guilty of widow's murder

DURBAN. — A couple who broke into the home of a widowed Pinetown woman and stabbed her 39 times before ransacking her home, have been found guilty in the Durban Supreme Court of murder.

Mrs Violet West was found murdered in her Padfield Park home on March 28.

The court yesterday found Nokuthula Gumede and Madoda Mchunu planned the robbery and went to Mrs West's home with the intention of "eliminating" her.

Mr Justice Broome will pass sentence on Monday. — Sapa.

PARLIAMENT

Dalling opposes anti-demo bill

ARG 6/6/92
THE Democratic Party and the ANC-aligned independents rejected the Gatherings and Demonstrations in or near the Union Buildings Bill yesterday, saying it was an infringement of the right to protest peacefully.

In the second reading debate on the Bill, Mr Dave Dalling (Ind, Sandton) said the Union Buildings were a perfect place for people to bring their problems to the attention of the government.

Freedom of association was a right as long as the gathering was a peaceful one and the Bill infringed on this right.

The legislation gave the state blanket control at the Union Buildings.

Legislation on protests was piecemeal and confusing and it should be encompassed in one act.

Mr Douglas Gibson (DP, Yeoville) said no previous demonstrations at the Union Buildings had posed a threat to a head of state.

Deputy Minister of Justice Mr Danie Schutte said the Bill was not an imposition on freedom of speech or assembly. He said the area around the Union Buildings affected by the Bill was small.

"The Union Buildings is the office of the State President, the highest authority of the country. The same considerations that apply to the legislators of the land (parliament) should apply to him."

Public protest was not affected by the Bill. — Sapa

Body reports on land use

ARG 6/6/92
THE Advisory Commission on Land Allocation has identified undeveloped state-owned land for agriculture and residential use on which it will soon make recommendations, according to its report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The seven-member commission, chaired by Mr Justice T H van Reenen, was appointed in terms of the Abolition of Racially-Based Land Measures Act last year.

Seven applications for restitution of land were received by the commission. All are under investigation.

These include a request for restoration by a Ladysmith community in respect of Roosboom farm and an application from the Doornkop, Botshabelo and Malapong Committee for restitution of the farm Doornkop 246 JS in Middelburg, Transvaal.

Farm labour debated

ARG 6/6/92
LABOUR relations pioneered the breakthrough to negotiations in South Africa, Minister of Manpower Mr Leon Wessels said yesterday.

Replying to debate on the second reading of the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill, he said the government would not allow a wedge to be driven between itself and the farming community.

In the debate on the Bill, Mr Willem Botha (CP, Uitenhage) said labour relations between employee and employer in agriculture were healthy. The farmer had always taken good care of his workers without being obliged to do so by law.

Mr Robin Carlisle (DP, Wynberg) said: "The Bill is largely fair to farming employers. They have little cause for complaint." — Sapa.

New measure for A-Gs

ARG 6/6/92
MINISTER of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee said yesterday, introducing the second reading debate on the Attorney-General Bill, that at present attorneys-general did not function completely outside the executive authority.

It had, however, been the convention that the Minister of Justice did not interfere with their decisions.

The Bill provided for the appointment by the State President of people with at least 10 years' legal experience from outside the civil service as attorneys-general. And, it provided that AGs could be discharged only by a decision of Parliament. — Sapa.

TOILET TERROR... These kiddies must take to the gale-lashed Cape flats' bush to do their thing.

■ Pic: FANIE JASON

Cruel life of Cape babes

CP News 7/6/92

~~CP News~~ 3 Gen.

CP Correspondent

FOR most the call of nature brings pleasant relief, but for two hundred little people on the Cape Flats the act is brutal and terrifying.

Come wind or hail - the Cape is currently being lashed by vicious polar storms - the toddlers must venture outside into the thick, desolate bush to do their thing.

The Albertina Sisulu "creche" - two cold and cavernous metal containers at Brown's Farm in Philippi, Cape Town - has no toilet facilities.

Five childminders and two cooks - all volunteers - must look after 200 kiddies.

So how do they do it? They

rely on the amazing generosity of hundreds of surrounding shack dwellers, mostly poor and struggling themselves, who are not prepared to shrug off the fate of others worse off than themselves.

The creche that the community funds in an effort to provide a measure of pre-school education, has been going for a year.

And, despite its desperate circumstances, numbers are growing.

Monica Papiyana is the driving force behind the project. She is fiercely determined that the children should have that little extra in their start to life.

"Of course things are tough, especially when you do not know whether you will have a

meal for the children the next day or how to keep 200 children warm with six blankets during the Cape's winter months.

"But with a wonderful band of workers and amazing help from families - who themselves are battling to feed their own, we have managed to provide these children with two meals a day," said Papiyana.

The children also get music lessons, Bible studies, medical inspection by qualified nurses three times a month and tuition in basic reading, writing and picture-cutting.

"The wonderful response we get from the children - their appreciation for what we are doing for them - is there to see on their little faces.

"So, irrespective of our financial shortcomings, nothing is going to stop us from giving these little innocents some kind of start in life."

Fighting talk yes, but Monica went on to describe the bad days when there's not enough food, when the kiddies must learn to share when it really hurts - even if it means one precious spoonful each...

Yet, she claims no one tells them to share.

"They are totally unselfish in their habits which I believe is a wonderful start in life."

Although Monica and her team are faced with many problems, the most disturbing is having to send a child to the bush toilet.

labourer
day.
Du Toit was also convicted of assaulting a labourer, and the youth was convicted of pointing a firearm.

Evidence in mitigation of sentence will be led on August 7. — Sapa

'Poor hit by drought'

Political Staff

THE people worst affected by the drought were poor people in the rural areas whose position was already precarious, the ANC MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momberg, said yesterday.

"They now face destitution and starvation," he said during the second reading debate on the budget.

"Meanwhile food is sitting in warehouses or being distributed by feeding schemes without any attempt to ensure that supplies reach those in most need."

Mr Momberg said the ANC would participate in the drought conference to be convened by the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust on June 13 and 14.

One taxi rank for

③ CT 9/6/92

Milkmen sour at huge waste

ARG 10/6/92
The Argus Correspondent

(3)

PRETORIA. — The dumping of millions of litres of surplus milk in the past five years has been blamed on the Dairy Board by milk distributors.

This followed a Supreme Court judgment that found the Dairy Board had been imposing prohibitive levies.

Distributors said surplus milk had been dumped because they could not afford to send it to dairy by-product factories.

The Dairy Board has been considering changing the system in view of the refusal by dairies to pay the levies.

But while the board is seeking other sources for its stabilisation fund, milk distributors, encouraged by the court judgment, are calling for the board to be abolished and the industry thrown open to the free market.

They have accused the board of undermining the milk industry in order to subsidise favoured dairy by-product monopolies.

The Dairy Board has not yet defended last week's Cape Supreme Court judgment, which might mean the board will have to repay hundreds of millions of rands to milk distributors, as well as the legal costs of the action brought by Homestead Independent Dairies.

Said Homestead Independent Dairies managing director Mr Johan Jacobs: "The whole purpose of levies was so the dairy board could deal with milk surpluses. But it had no facilities to transport milk to the factories, and at times the factories would not extend their facilities to us."

One distributor alone told the Supreme Court he had dumped 80 000 litres of milk, enough to fill a large domestic swimming pool.

Mr Jacobs said that while distributors were paying levies, four huge dairy processing factories "with representation on the Dairy Board" were being heavily subsidised.

Sow the seed of co-operation

WHEN THE current process of privatising the marketing of agricultural products has been fully implemented, consumers may have to dig deeper into their pockets than before. The end of statutory price control will simply give the private sector permission to raise food prices to unrestricted levels.

There has been a great deal of talk lately, by Government, farming and consumer leaders, about the benefits of a free-market system, and some State-controlled functions have already been privatised.

But as this process of change gathers momentum, and State intervention in producer and consumer prices is systematically phased out, growing doubts are being expressed about its effect on consumer

prices.

Many economists now agree that for consumers it has become a no-win situation which they cannot escape, the blow of which can be cushioned to some extent only by direct intervention on the part of farmers.

The purpose of deregulation and privatisation is to eliminate or at least drastically reduce the existing powers of the State to interfere at will in the marketing of agricultural products. The Government strongly favours a market-oriented system giving supply and demand free play to determine food prices.

Up to now, State intervention has been made possible by the Marketing Act, in terms of which a score of agricultural control boards were established. This Act also empowered the Minister of Agri-

culture to veto producer prices agreed upon by the control boards.

Initially, the boards controlled producer prices as well as some consumer prices, but a serious imbalance between these prices began to take place in the early 1950s when control over the prices charged for farm input items was scrapped and control over consumer prices was relaxed.

This opened the way for private enterprise to charge any prices it liked for essential agricultural requisites, a development that, combined with droughts, helped to bring the farming industry to its knees. At the other end, consumer prices did not come down, but escalated sharply.

Privatisation does not mean the Marketing Act will be abo-

STAR 10/6/92

(3) Gen

While the drought and the resultant high cost of imported foodstuffs are causing increased hardships for consumers, there are clear indications that more blows await them in the aftermath of agricultural privatisation — unless farmers come to their aid, writes Agricultural Correspondent GEORGE NICHOLAS.

lished, but the concept drastically trims the powers and functions of the control boards, most of which are to be taken over by private enterprise.

In recent years the agitation against control boards has come mainly from the large private manufacturing and marketing companies and from consumer organisations.

They argued that the boards were bad for consumers, producers and the economy; that

they had pushed up food prices in the past decade by as much as 263 percent on eggs, 298 percent on milk and 354 percent on meat; that consumers were now paying far more for far less; that the boards passed on their alleged massive operating costs to consumers; and that there was no watchdog over them to ensure effective and efficient service to the public.

These contentions and the claim that commerce, exposed to competition, could market

agricultural products much better and cheaper than control boards finally won the day, and the privatisation process began.

Free-market conditions suggest keen competition among food distributors, but in South Africa such rivalry seldom works, largely because marketing is in the hands of a relatively small number of giant companies or conglomerates.

Under privatisation, there appears to be only one way of slowing down the pace of escalating food prices. The time is overdue for farmers themselves to come to the aid of their friends, the consumers, by accepting fuller responsible control over the marketing of agricultural products.

They can do so by forming central marketing co-operatives to act as wholesale dis-

tributors of their livestock, grain and horticultural products. Each of these co-ops could then decide, on its own, the prices at which to sell to wholesalers and retailers.

These prices must be published for the information of consumers, so that true free-market competition at retail level can come into play, as consumers compare prices charged by different outlets.

In such a system it would pay neither the producer nor the trade to charge excessive prices, as supply and demand would determine levels for both.

Without such central marketing co-ops, neither the struggling farmers nor the embattled consumers are likely to reap any benefit from privatisation. Its dominant objective of mak-

ing the marketing of agricultural products more free and flexible would be totally defeated, and the much-maligned picnic enjoyed by the so-called middleman would become a veritable feast.

A few such co-operatives were established in the past and they have proved immensely successful. Among them is the Citrus Exchange which, for many years, has marketed fruit at highly satisfactory prices both to its members and to consumers.

The Dried Fruit Co-op and the KWV are further examples.

Without such co-operatives one can only foresee a continued lack of competition that, under privatisation, could lead to chaos in food marketing and distribution, all at the inevitable expense of the consumers. □

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

‡Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

- *1. Mr P J BERGMAN—Education and Culture. ‡ [Question standing over.]
 *2. Mr P J BERGMAN—Education and Culture. ‡ [Question standing over.]

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign ‡, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs:

Development of Tugela Basin

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department has given consideration to the development of the Tugela Basin with a view to stimulating the economy and creating jobs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D202E.INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, I want to say right at the outset that I honestly welcome this interpellation, because it relates to the very important principle of regional development for every single region in South Africa.

The hon member for Springfield selected probably one of the most important and interesting regions in Natal, namely the Tugela Basin. If one had to define the Tugela Basin geographically, one could say that it is the total catchment area of the Tugela River, South Africa's second largest river. The basin extends over 29 000 square kilometres, of which 21 000 square kilometres fall within Natal and the other 8 000 square kilometres in KwaZulu. It covers approximately 31% of the total Natal-KwaZulu region, which is known as Region E.

I can refer to a number of past and present actions undertaken with a view to stimulating the economy and with the object of creating jobs, specifically with regard to regional industrial development. The identification of so-called industrial development points in terms of the old 1982 regional industrial programme included, *inter alia*, towns such as Newcastle, Madadeni, Osizweni, Ladysmith and Ezakheni. Other so-called development points included towns like

Dundee, Colenso and Estcourt. Over the years concessions have also been granted on an ad hoc basis to towns such as Dannhauser, Glencoe, Bergville and Mooi River.

In terms of the previous scheme, known as "Schedule 3", a total of no fewer than 664 projects in the Tugela Basin were granted financial assistance, resulting in the creation of 52 703 job opportunities and a capital investment of R1 154 million. If time permits I shall relate further details.

As hon members are probably aware, we revised the entire regional industrial development programme and this revised programme is obviously one of the most important mechanisms applied by this Government to stimulate development and to enhance job creation, also in this particular area. Since the implementation of the new scheme, which is now called "Schedule 4", in August 1991 the area in which the Tugela Basin lies as a whole qualifies for 100% of the formula of incentives provided by the new scheme.

I am happy to announce that a total of 31 projects have so far been approved for assistance in this subregion since August 1991, resulting in the potential creation of 3 655 job opportunities and an envisaged capital investment of R194 million. If one applies the multiplier effect of the jobs created previously, which I have mentioned, and the last lot, this affects quite a number of people in the Tugela Basin.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I thank the hon the Deputy Minister for his very positive reception of this interpellation. I am grateful to him for giving us those statistics during the limited time at his disposal.

As all hon members know, since the early 1950s various people have mooted the idea that the Government should develop this particular region into a region comparable to the Ruhr industrial area in Germany. The reason for this is that this region—as has been indicated by the hon the Deputy Minister—has both natural and human resources in such abundance that it constitutes a natural industrial growth point in South Africa.

At present this region houses one of South Africa's densest rural populations. It has been calculated that with suitable dam storage the Tugela Basin could provide enough water to support six cities the size of Johannesburg, six

cities the size of Cape Town and still have enough water left to supply a city the size of greater London.

Previously, schemes to develop this region have been discarded because of the non-availability of money. However, given the fact that billions have been invested in projects such as Mossgas, priorities ought to have been made. Clearly the Government has been incorrect thus far in giving priority to Mossgas, for example. I appreciate very much the statistics given by the hon the Deputy Minister which show the Government is doing something in this regard.

However, the recent plea for a re-examination of the scheme by the chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett Group rests on the motivation that job opportunities could be provided for at least 300 000 people living in this area. To us this makes eminent sense, because we believe the creation of employment opportunities must surely be South Africa's biggest priority. If we consider the ominous spectre of rising unemployment, homelessness, poverty and general despair which are at the root of the current violence and crime, this priority assumes an urgency which we cannot ignore. If we do so, it will be at our long-term peril.

We are of the view that, faced with the National Manpower Commission's estimate that there are some 5.4 million unemployed people at present, there really are only two alternatives available to us. One is to do nothing—and we all know where that will lead us—and the other is to grasp every opportunity to roll up our sleeves and get involved in projects such as the development of the Tugela Basin in order to curb rising unemployment and poverty. Every day we delay, the number of unemployed people grows. The Government would do well to study the work done on this scheme thus far by the chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett Group.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, we appreciate the fact that the hon the Deputy Minister has given us interesting statistics in respect of this particular area. However, as the hon member for Springfield has indicated, we require greater and better involvement on the part of the Government as far as the upliftment of this particular region is concerned.

The hon the Deputy Minister, of course, is dealing with the effects of urbanisation. The ring of unemployment around the Durban metropolitan region and the other coastal towns of Natal is a result of the Government's failure to honour its undertaking to develop the Tugela Basin as requested by the KwaZulu Government, as well as the Natal/KwaZulu Joint Executive Council.

I recall that, as a result of a meeting between the former State President and the late Bishop Alpheus Zulu, chairman of the KwaZulu Development Corporation, the former State President personally took charge and gave an undertaking that there would be better Government involvement where the Tugela Basin was concerned. In addition, if one takes the seaboard of the eastern coast of South Africa into consideration—in other words, the coastal area stretching from Richard's Bay to Cape Town—one will find that it contains 60% of the voter population of the new South Africa. The people around this particular region make up 29% of the voter population of South Africa.

Of course, the statistics as far as the water availability is concerned indicate that there was a feeling at one stage that most of the water from this particular basin was used to aid the survival of the Transvaal. There is a belief that the Transvaal-controlled Government deliberately neglected this area so as to ensure that there was an even flow of water. In the light of all that has been said, one is inclined to say, as one hon member did in an interjection, that this is water under the bridge.

We need to look at unemployment, and we have to ensure that we stop urban migration by people from the rural areas. [Time expired.]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I sincerely welcome the input from both the hon member for Springfield and the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition. Obviously they know the area. They referred to the water resources, the natural resources and also the population of that particular area.

We must make use of the local area as far as we possibly can. If it is necessary to use that water basin which the hon member for Springfield described as being capable of providing water for an area six times the size of any of the big cities of South Africa, I really think one must also consider what one does with that water. That is

why, in the past, the Government has decided to pump the water over the Drakensberg mountains as the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council said.

I would sincerely welcome pressure on the Government as well as on our department from hon members from that particular area. However, I think one thing we must say to each other is that the Government is responsible primarily for creating a climate conducive to development, and for setting the stage for all role-players within the development fraternity to play their part in the development process. In addition we must say to each other that the identification of local opportunities and the optimal development of those opportunities remains with that particular community. Of course this must be multidisciplinary and multisectoral as hon members suggested. All Government departments with an interest in development should get involved in regard to human, economic and physical development.

Since it is the objective of the Government to address the real needs and aspirations of all the communities, and not to compete with the private sector when it comes to development, communities in particular, but also the private sector, should be involved in the process of policy formulation through the various channels of regional development associations and the Regional Development Advisory Committees.

I would like to propose honestly, and make a request in this regard, that not only the hon member for Springfield and the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition, but all hon members of this House, to play a more active role in the interests of these development advisory committees. In other words, we would like to urge them to get involved and to make sure that their communities are represented on these advisory bodies so that the communities can advise the Government as to what they think should happen.

MR M F CASSIM: Mr Chairman, the call for development in this area was made by Chris Saunders who started off with sugar-cane farming on a small family basis. However, as a result of his enterprising efforts, this family business has now become a conglomerate in Natal. He recognises that the Tugela Basin is an area suited to optimal growth. When one considers that the annual flow from our rivers in South Africa is

53.5 billion cubic metres of which 10% comes from the Tugela River, one realises that this area holds enormous potential.

The Tugela River has the potential for enormous growth and development, but regrettably only 7% of the water from the Tugela is used economically. Even if one looks at the irrigation projects, one recognises that only 8 600 hectares of land are irrigated with water from the Tugela River. There have been innumerable studies—one by Thorinton Smith—showing the potential for growth in this area.

It is the common belief in Natal—this has come about in many forums over many years—that as a result of KwaZulu's not taking independence, the NP Government acted punitively towards this area, so that an area that could have become the Ruhr of South Africa has remained undeveloped. The common explanation for this is that it has been dealt with punitively.

With an area that has so much water and so much manpower—the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition spoke about 25% of South Africa's population living in Natal—25% of the surface area of the Tugela Basin is in what is called the native reserves, an area that can actually grow.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I regret that the hon member's time cannot grow. His time has expired.

MR M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I should like to remind the hon member Mr M F Cassim that it was not the chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett Group who made the call to develop this area. This, in fact, started long before he came onto the scene. He was the most recent proponent of this situation.

He made a very valid point, however, when he said that a very large percentage of this area was occupied by what we call the Bantustans. This is where we really need all the development we can get. That is a very valuable point. That, taken with the point made by the hon the Deputy Minister earlier on, that there should be a co-ordinated approach to the development of this entire region, is something which I believe would really satisfy all of the people who live in that region.

I am very pleased that the hon the Deputy Minister has also made the appeal that all interested parties from this part of the world

should play a responsible role in the Development Advisory Committee. That is the forum where everything in this regard needs to be articulated, and the forum from which a co-ordinated approach could develop. [Time expired.] (3) van

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I am sorry that we are limited to such a short debate on this. I want to stress that I think this is one of the most important debates one can possibly have about developing that particular area.

I think the hon member Mr M F Cassim proved my point. Mr Saunders of Tongaat-Hulett has millions of rand of capital that could be invested in order to create jobs. We in the Government can only create a climate conducive to development. The private sector, of which the Tongaat-Hulett Group forms part, should put their money where their mouth is, by putting money into South Africa to create the necessary jobs. I want to commend the hon member on making that point.

As far as the water resource is concerned, I do not want to instigate anything here, but I think some hon member should submit an interpellation to the hon the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry in regard to the amount of water running to the sea. If one talks to anybody in Natal, one is asked why a dam has not been built in the Tugela Basin. As far as the Department of Regional Development is concerned, I will act as a facilitator if it is possible for us to assist in doing something in this regard.

I cannot pass up the opportunity to make one last remark. I think the hon member Mr M F Cassim was a bit naughty to say that we were penalising KwaZulu. My job is to do regional development on the one hand, and urbanisation on the other. If we do not do regional development, as in KwaZulu, we pick up the tab when people urbanise. There is no reason, therefore, for us to penalise anybody. In fact, the figures I have given—these are available; I shall send hon members each a copy—are evidence of what has been achieved in that particular area.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Emergency food supplies: Lebowa

*1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether any emergency food supplies have been distributed in Lebowa in terms of the Government's food relief programme; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

D181E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes, an amount of R5.3 million, in terms of the Government's Nutrition Development Programme was made available to the Department of Health and Welfare of Lebowa in the first quarter of 1992 for the 1991/1992 financial year. This amount was allocated with the proviso that the Lebowa Government assumes full financial accountability for the allocation and judicious spending of funds, as well as full responsibility for implementing, co-ordinating and monitoring programmes. Quarterly reports of how the programmes are progressing, as well as financial statements must be submitted to the Head Office of the Department of National Health and Population Development (NHPD), furnishing information on the progress of programmes and how funds have been spent. As a result of certain allegations made in the media, the matter was discussed on departmental level. The situation is now being monitored continuously;

- (2) no.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, given the fact that Lebowa at the present time is experiencing its worst drought in seven years, would she like to comment on the news report that tons of food relief have been lying unattended in four storerooms at that hospital in Lebowa and the fact

that something needs to be done about that urgently?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I cannot attest to the truth of that story, because the Lebowa Government is fully responsible for the allocation and distribution of funds and food. As I have said, the programme is continuously being monitored by the Department of National Health and Population Development. We find that unacceptable and we do not approve of food being left in a storeroom.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I thank her for that answer, but I would like to ask her whether in fact the correctness of those reports was investigated?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as I said the Department has had discussions with the relevant departments. I have not received a report on those discussions as yet, but the situation is being monitored. We will not allow food to be stored in a storeroom.

Report on food prices

*2. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

- (1) Whether the Board of Trade and Industry initiated a report on food prices in or about July 1991; is so.
- (2) whether this report has been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that the report will be completed; if so, what are its main findings;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D182E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

- (1) The former Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism, Dr G Marais and Dr A I van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture requested the Board of Trade and Industry (now the Board on Tariffs and Trade) to investigate food prices. A press release in this regard was issued on 5 July 1991.
- (2) The Board has decided to issue a preliminary report in order to stimulate further discussion on the subject. This report should be available before 17 June 1992. I

have given permission to the Board for the establishment of a committee, in terms of the Board on Tariffs and Trade Act (Act 60 of 1992), on which representatives of the Co-ordinating Committee on VAT and other consumer bodies will serve. This committee will take the matter further.

- (3) I will await a final report from the Board and do not intend issuing a statement at this stage.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I thank him for his reply, but I would like to ask him whether that report will in fact be made public and made available to hon members of this House?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the report will be made public.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Shallcross link road: repayment

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

- (1) Whether, subsequent to the reply by the Minister of Housing on 4 February 1992 to an interpellation on the Shallcross link road, he or his Department has made any arrangements for the Development and Services Board and the Durban Municipality to repay the total amount that is being spent on this link road; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D203E.INT

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, ongoing negotiations are taking place between the Administration: House of Delegates and the local authorities involved. Officials of the Durban City Council are currently preparing a submission on this issue for consideration by the city

brought to the notice of the Government of KwaZulu.

Cultivation of cannabis: Okhahlamba magisterial district

*6. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether it has been reported to the South African Police that cannabis is being cultivated in the Amangwane Tribal Ward area in the Okhahlamba magisterial district of the Upper Tugela Location; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether any action has been taken against those responsible; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) by whom?

B717E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) No. The South African Police is aware of the situation.
- (2) Yes.
 - (a) Mopping up operations and the investigation of cannabis offences gave rise to 65 arrests and 46 cases registered pertaining to the possession of cannabis between 15 November 1991 and 15 June 1992. During the above period a total of 25 867 kg of cannabis was confiscated.
 - (b) Members attached to SANAB assisted by other units of the South African Police took part in these operations.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, can he tell us whether there is any possibility of stopping the growing of dagga there through police action, in view of the fact that such enormous environmental degradation is taking place which is damaging an area which supplies something like 10 % of the Witwatersrand's water and 30 % of that of Natal?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I think we would like to stop the growing of dagga wherever we can. To take out or stop the growing of dagga by hand is a very costly exercise, as the hon member will understand. At the moment we are looking into the use of, and we are already using, chemicals to kill young dagga plants. [Interjec-

tions.] We are doing this according to the strict rules prescribed by the United Nations about which chemicals can be used.

In answer to the hon member's question I say yes, we will try to stop this to the best of our ability. We are doing so, but it is a costly operation, and where smaller patches are being grown, it is extremely difficult to use chemicals against such plants. [Interjections.]

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him whether he would not take a trip up there to see for himself that these are not small areas. It is evident that there are huge fields of dagga which are planted up and down the mountains, so that tremendous erosion is taking place. These are not just little areas, but enormous areas.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I bow to the hon member's superior knowledge about dagga and will see to this when I can. [Interjections.]

†Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him whether the use of "Folidol" has been considered. [Interjections.]

Ladybrand post office: post office boxes

*7. Mr C E HERTZOG asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:†

- (1) Whether he or his Department recently received representations in connection with post office boxes that had not been installed at the Ladybrand post office; if so, (a) when were the representations received, (b) by whom were they made and (c) how long has installation been awaited;
- (2) whether any steps are envisaged in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B722E

†The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING AND OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications):

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) 17 June 1991.

(b) Mr C E Hertzog, MP. Installation of additional private boxes could, as yet, not be undertaken for the reason I shall furnish against item 2.

(2) Yes. The provision of additional private boxes is to be undertaken simultaneously with other additions and internal alterations to the post office building. The architectural working drawings in this regard have been completed. If nothing unforeseen occurs tenders for the execution of the work should be invited during August/September 1992.

(3) Yes. As the existing post office building no longer meets the requirements of a functional post office it is regarded essential not only to provide additional private boxes, but to also effect certain alterations to the building with a view to improving the working conditions of the staff as well as the level of service to the public. In this regard several options had to be considered in terms of practicability as well as economy. Although a decision as to the best way of reaching the objective was reached some time ago the planning of the project had to be fitted in with that of numerous other projects countrywide.

SARCC: loss of revenue owing to boycott

*8. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Transport:†

- (1) What was the total loss of revenue for the South African Rail Commuter Corporation as a result of the boycotting of the said corporation's services during April/May 1992 because violence is allegedly not being combated;
- (2) (a) what is the additional cost per year of security in respect of rail commuting services planned by *inter alia* the South African Police and announced after 19 February 1992 and (b) what is the nature of the above-mentioned planned security;
- (3) whether it is envisaged to make provision for part of or for the total cost of security in the said corporation's budget; if so, (a) what is envisaged in this regard and (b) for what reasons?

B729E

†The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING AND OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Transport):

Mr Chairman, the reply to this question is approximately one page long and with the leave of the House I would like to table it on behalf of the hon the Minister of Transport, otherwise I shall read it.

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Chairman, I think it is important that cognizance is taken of that. I therefore request that the answer be read.

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I read it as follows:

- (1) The estimated loss in income for the SA Rail Commuter Corporation due to the boycott action is R2.0 million. For the sake of completion it has to be pointed out that the boycott action was started on 2 May 1992, but that it really gained momentum from 4 to 8 May 1992. The boycott was terminated on Sunday, 10 May 1992.
- (2) The SA Police indicated that—
 - (a) an amount of R44 800 800 has been budgeted for the securing of commuter services for the 1992-93 financial year. No cost additional to the budgeted amount is envisaged as all services in this regard will be rendered by means of existing manpower, logistics and funds; and
 - (b) the planned security action comprises of two components, namely:
 - (i) 1 234 members of the SA Police in the Vaal Triangle area are being incorporated in a special unit for securing commuter services, under control of a senior officer of the SA Police; and
 - (ii) the SA Police will have over-all responsibility with the support of the Management of the SA Rail Commuter Corporation, the SA Rail Commuter Corporation Security Services and community organizations.
- (3) Yes. Provision for an amount of R38 million for security has been made in the

Mining, farm land set to be taxed

CAPE TOWN — A Bill which provides for the taxation of mining and agricultural land inside municipal boundaries has been tabled in Parliament by Local Government Minister Leon Wessels.

The Local Authorities Rating Ordinance Amendment Bill pro-

vides for all mining land exempt from property tax to be subject to full rates.

It is proposed that such rates be phased in over three years.

Agricultural land falling inside municipal boundaries would also become subject to tax, but at a reduced rate and in accordance with a formula based on valuation of the land's site value.

It is proposed that all rates exemptions be dropped but that local authorities may give a grant-in-aid.

The phasing in of rates is envisaged as follows: 25 percent from July 1 1993; 50 percent from

July 1 1994; 75 percent from July 1 1995; 100 percent from July 1 1996.

The valuation of rateable property of both the land and improvements should be made according to the market-value system.

Several inquiries have been conducted over the past 10 years into various rating and valuation systems applied in the four provinces.

The findings of these inquiries and final recommendations — as approved by the Cabinet — were referred to the provincial administrations and Department of Local Government. — Sapa.

Land seizure 'is morally wrong'

8/10/92 11/6/92
SUN CITY — Confiscation of property from rightful owners to give it to someone else was morally wrong and economically disastrous, DP leader Zach de Beer said yesterday at the SA Property Owners' Association (Sapoa) Silver Jubilee convention.

"However, unless the majority of our people can see their economic lot improving and the wealth gap narrowing over the next few years, our fledgling democracy is likely to be hijacked by some populist dictator with a mouthful of deceitful promises and a gun in his hand," De Beer said.

Tongaat-Hulett group chairman Chris Saunders told the convention transferring resources from the "haves" to the "have-nots" was not a solution. He said there were too many have-nots for wealth taxes and other similar measures to be effective.

The prime object of SA's political and economic policy had to be the enabling of the masses to share in the creation of new wealth, he said.

PAC secretary-general Benny Alexander said nationalisation was not an effective means of redistribution in itself, as it transferred wealth from only one elite group to another. "Redistribution has to take place at the points of production," Alexander said nationalisation was not the

PAC's primary approach.

He pointed out that redistribution could not be paternalistic, as people needed to become self-sufficient. "Black workers, managers and entrepreneurs have been targeted to benefit from this. A system must be created that allows the worker to feel part of the country and of the economy, thereby adopting a more responsible attitude and satisfying their expectations."

Private business would be asked to facilitate this by creating black equity programmes and issuing new shares or reducing present shareholders' interests. This would include representation and voting rights.

"Redistribution must also not take place from one elite to another and must take place primarily at the point of production and involve those at this level of operation," he said.

Arthur Andersen senior tax partner Pierre du Toit said it was almost inevitable that SA would get a land tax of some sort.

It would be a political move as no future regime would be able to resist the political pressure to tax land.

"A land tax should not be instituted as a tool of restitution or redistribution," he said.

PETER GALLI

Property rights 'should be ^③ inviolable'

CT 11/6/92

TO CONFISCATE property in the new South Africa would not only be morally wrong but economically disastrous, Democratic Party Leader Zach de Beer told the Sapoa conference yesterday.

In his opening address he said respect for property rights was at the epicentre of the capitalist system and that whatever changes or reforms that took place should leave property rights untouched.

"At the same time unless the mass of our people can feel within a few years time that their economic lot is improving and that the wealth gap is narrowing, the fledgling democracy is likely to be hijacked by some populist dictator with a mouthful of deceitful promises and a gun in his hand," he said.

"We have to help disadvantaged people but it will serve them as well as the rest of us ill if we help them in such a way that we destroy the economy in the process."

Chris Saunders, chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett's group said the creation of new wealth was the only cure for poverty and the only solution in the new South Africa for the "excessive expectations" created by the present political structures.

"The idea that something significantly useful can be achieved by transferring resources from the haves to the have-nots has to be refuted.

"Robbing rich Peter to pay poor Paul is not a feasible solution in South Africa because there are too few Peters and too many Pauls."

Farm Bill is ^{3 Gen} attacked by all

Sowetan Correspondents

THE Government has been attacked from all quarters following the tabling of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill last Friday. *Sowetan 11/6/92.*

While the ANC is seeking to have the Bill implemented as soon as possible to expedite employment rights for farmworkers, the SAAU and National Maize Producers Organisation are angered with what they claim is a Government breach of promise.

Nampo claims negotiations between itself, the SAAU and Cosatu over the content of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill, the Labour Relations Bill and the Wage Bill are incomplete.

Organised agriculture sources believe there is a veiled threat to Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels that without the full support of the farmers, the Bill, when promulgated, will not be successful.

"All we are saying is that if the Government does not consult us, its chances of implementing the laws are slim," said a source.

Conversely, the ANC has accused the Government of pandering to the SAAU by delaying the passage of the Bill, claiming that no negotiations had been planned with the SAAU.

The ANC said the Bill had been the subject of high-level negotiations in the National Manpower Commission for more than two years, and the final draft version which resulted represented the interests of the groups involved. There was, therefore, no reason to re-open talks.

Farmers welcome new drought aid

③ CT 12/6/92

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Details of a wide-ranging multi-billion rand aid package to counter "the most devastating drought this century" and to get the agricultural industry back on its feet was announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, yesterday.

He said assistance would be given on a wide scale and to as many farmers as possible.

The SA Agricultural Union welcomed Dr Van Niekerk's announcement, saying it was "very satisfied" with the way the aid measures would be implemented.

Of the R3,8bn set aside, R1bn would be allocated this financial year and the balance over the next three years.

Dr Van Niekerk said it was sad that farmers unable to survive even with significant aid would have to leave the industry. These farmers would be assisted with limited financial means to retire from agriculture.

He emphasised the assistance would mean employment on farms would be safeguarded and stabilised.

Commercial banks had agreed not to charge interest in excess of prime

plus two percent on overdrafts for farmers benefiting from drought aid.

The upper limit for interest subsidies on production credit was raised to R750 000. Subsidies would be 7,5% for amounts of up to R150 000 and decrease to 4,5% for an amount of R750 000.

Dr Van Niekerk emphasised that all would benefit and R130m would go to the self-governing territories.

He said it was incorrect to imply that the aid was for the sole benefit of white farmers.

Although a significant part of the R1bn aid would go towards reducing grain farmers' debts, stock and other farmers would benefit directly and indirectly.

Stock farmers should remember that apart from the R426m allocated to grain farmers — many of whom were also stock farmers — and the R130m allocated to the self-governing territories, they benefit from most of the remaining eight schemes.

Many farmers who had been excluded from past aid, such as part-time, fresh produce, cane and fruit farmers, would also benefit.

Drought aid details released

(3) Gen

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GERALD REILLY

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□ To Page 2

B/Deby 12/6/92

Drought aid

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(3) Gen

□ From Page 1

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Stock farmers should remember that apart from the R426m allocated to grain farmers, and the R130m allocated to the self-governing territories, they benefited from most of the remaining eight schemes.

He stressed that although the measures

were not a solution for all farmer's problems, it would bring much needed relief.

Many farmers who had been excluded from past aid — such as part-time, fresh produce, cane and fruit farmers — would benefit from the package.

Meanwhile, Ambassador to Britain Kent Durr said yesterday that Transnet had distributed nearly 570 000 tons of imported grain to drought-stricken Frontline states over the past two months.

● See Page 3

Underground water falling

GERALD REILL

PRETORIA — Repeated droughts in the past decade have taken a heavy toll on scarce underground water resources which continue to fall to levels causing serious concern. *3 Gen*

Water Affairs deputy director geohydrology Eberhard Braune said two or three summers of above average rainfall were urgently needed to restore the heavy drain on ground water in the drought years.

Irrigation farmers had been particularly hard hit, but many were over-exploiting diminishing supplies, which would have serious consequences if last summer's drought was followed by another this year.

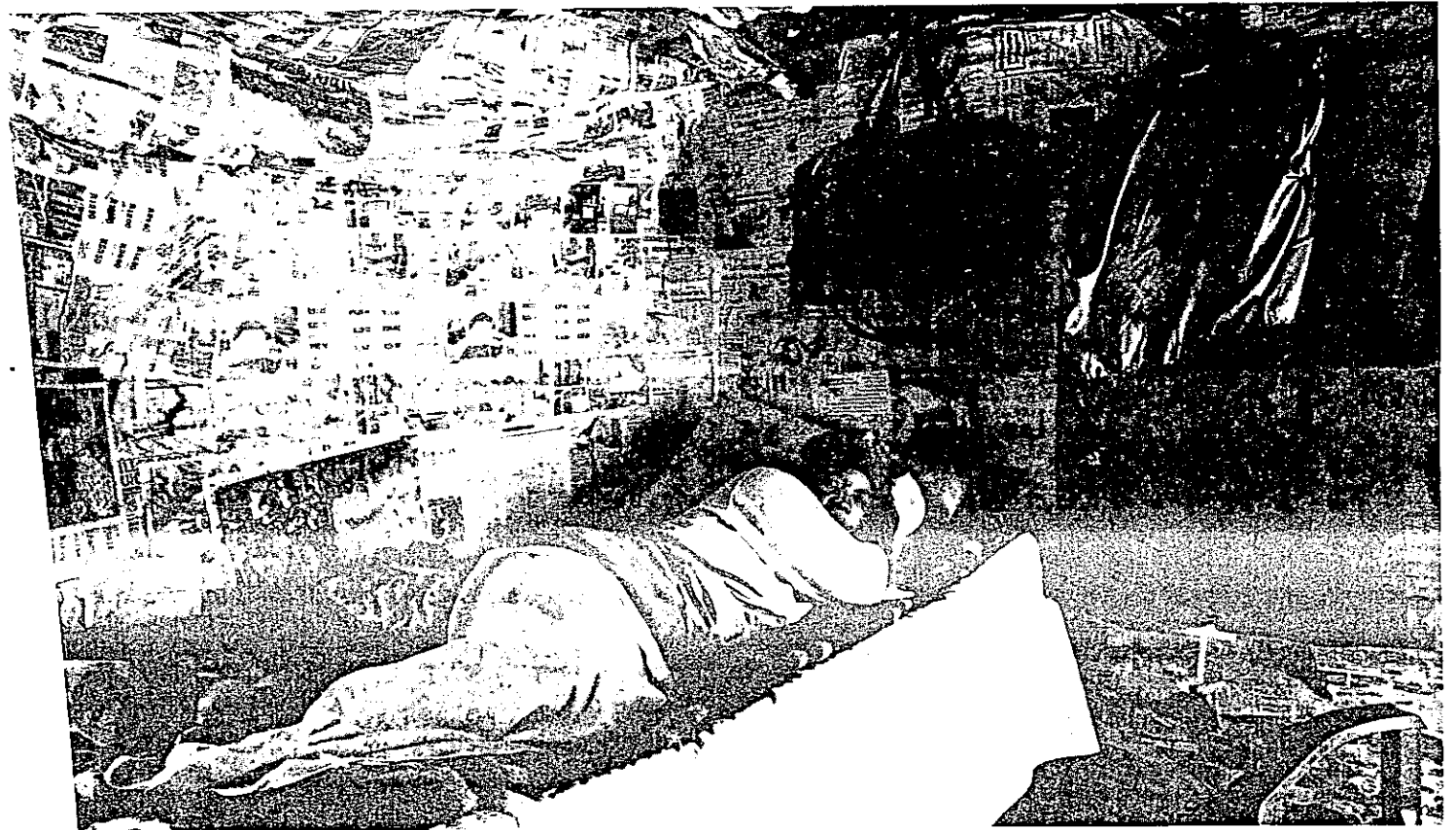
Braune said farmers in some parts were being advised by the department on how best to manage ground water extraction to avoid over-exploitation.

A survey carried out 12 months ago showed boreholes were drying up and the quality of water deteriorating. *6/2/92 12/6/92*

Conditions since then could only have worsened.

A survey found that in four of the country's seven agriculture regions, water yields were declining fast. □ Sapa reports the drought along SA's northern and north-western borders was creating tension between governments as game and livestock streamed across from Botswana and Zimbabwe in search of food.

FOR THE HOMELESS: lay the foundations



REST: A scene typifying South Africa's growing housing problem

investment in housing
not increase the debt
should not be unduly
primary or negatively affect

ance of payments'
SOUTH 13/6-17/6/92

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at all racially- ns should be ns which are nd account-

able to the people, has been included in the De Loor report.

The report recommends a single housing department and financing authority as well as increased subsidies, relaxation of building standards and zoning regulations, greater spending, the integration of local authorities, higher density of populations in urban areas and increased employee activity.

The report says schemes such as the Group Credit Scheme (GCS) and the Home Loans Guarantee Scheme (HLGS) initiated by the Urban Foundation and the IDT are potentially viable ways of overcoming the standstill in housing development in poor communities because of township violence, rent and land repayment boycotts.

The report also recommends an investigation into the possibility of using the assets of the SA Special

Risks Association (Sasra) to insure risks such as the boycotts. Sasra was established to offer insurance against losses caused by political upheavals.

But housing of any kind is expensive, and where will the money come from to wipe out the backlog?

The ANC recognises that any investment in housing should "not unduly increase the debt burden, should not be unduly inflationary or negatively affect the balance of payments".

But it believes there can be a "redistribution of income and assets and the redistribution of investment from one area of expenditure to another and or those areas that have to those areas that do not have".

This will mean some kind of subsidy system for the most needy with, for example, service charges and rate structures that favour the poor and not the rich.

When it comes to the distribution of land for housing, the ANC is wary of private developers. This is understandable, given the record of many property speculators.

It plans to curb speculation by applying high municipal rates on well-located undeveloped land, a capital gains tax on land transactions and the use of legal arrangements and tenure forms which land and housing transactions from the market and guard against raiding by the more affluent groups.

Land: the hunger that may be costly to still

SOUTH 13/6-17/6/92

IN MOST NEWLY independent countries in Africa, land hunger has been one of the most difficult issues to resolve — and it won't be any different in a democratic South Africa.

ANC policy guidelines acknowledge that it will take much more than the repeal of apartheid land laws to redress South Africa's unequal division of land and landlessness.

"The present pattern of land ownership, which is the direct result of apartheid laws, must be fundamentally changed to address landlessness and land hunger," say the guidelines.

"The programme of redistribution of agricultural land must be accompanied by measures which will ensure that land will be productively used. These must include the provision of adequate infrastructure as well as training and appropriate extension work."

The last points have to be fleshed out a lot more. It's all very well to redistribute land, and make sure no-one is unfairly treated, but one also has to ensure that agricultural land-use policies and support services are in place to make the best use of the land so that the country can grow

the food it needs and export crops at a reasonable cost.

That also means the country's mix of economic policies have to support agriculture and ensure that the other sectors of the economy — industry, mining and commerce — can function in the best possible way. Often an attempt to favour one of these sectors can have disastrous consequences.

For example, how will an ANC government deal with the myriad of marketing boards that "protect" farmers and maximise state revenues but also help to increase food prices?

And how will the redistribution of land be financed? The guidelines say there will be compensation for land taken for redistribution. The criteria for calculating compensation should be "of a manifestly just and equitable nature; they should be laid down in advance in legislation, and in the case of any dispute, the courts should have the last word".

The ANC suggests it would be "unjust to place the whole burden of the costs of transformation on the shoulders either of the present generation of title holders or on the new generation of owners".

A special land fund should there-

WELESS: ndations

Green controls urged for 'dirty' industries

SOUTH 13/6-17/6/92

THE ANC wants to run a government that is accountable, fair and "green".

In a welcome development, the new ANC policy guidelines devote no less than three pages to environmental policies in all areas of the economy to ensure that South Africans live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The guidelines say the ANC's objective is to reverse the trend of exploiting non-renewable resources in South Africa. Production and consumption patterns need to be adjusted in order to create conditions conducive to sustainable development.

"It is essential to ensure that a future growth strategy is compatible with ecological and human rights principles, and that growth is geared towards the provision of basic needs for the whole commu-

nity, and is not seen as an end in itself," says the ANC.

It wants to see the development of environment-friendly industries. Where "dirty" industries are unavoidable, they should be subject to strict controls. This will affect industries that process minerals and metals.

"South Africa should also be careful not to accumulate a debt burden which will place it in a position where it is forced to undertake projects that are environmentally unsound in order to service these debts."

It is concerned about the environmental degradation caused by inefficient white farmers who use too many fertilisers and pesticides and black farmers who have been crowded together in the homelands.

The forestry sector is criticised for its massive afforestation pro-

grammes which use alien species in unsuitable areas.

This calls for a restructuring of agriculture to move away from large-scale, single species agriculture and forestry towards a diversified, small-scale system. This should be supported by new services in agricultural education and extension, marketing and credit supply.

But perhaps the worst damage to the environment is caused by mining. The ANC wants to lessen the dependence of the economy on this sector while ensuring that what mining is necessary, takes place under strict controls.

The guidelines provide no details on how this is to be done, but mining houses will be asked to help communities dependent on mining to find alternative means of earning a living.



Land: the hunger that may be costly to still

SOUTH 13/6-17/6/92 (3) Gen

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The last points have to be fleshed out a lot more. It's all very well to redistribute land, and make sure no-one is unfairly treated, but one also has to ensure that agricultural land-use policies and support services are in place to make the best use of the land so that the country can grow

the food it needs and export crops at a reasonable cost.

That also means the country's mix of economic policies have to support agriculture and ensure that the other sectors of the economy — industry, mining and commerce — can function in the best possible way. Often an attempt to favour one of these sectors can have disastrous consequences.

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The ANC suggests it would be "unjust to place the whole burden of the costs of transformation on the shoulders either of the present generation of title holders or on the new generation of owners".

A special land fund should there-



EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS: Squatter shacks destroyed in a flood

fore be established to handle this. The source of the money for the fund will be "part of a wider question of finding resources to finance urgently-needed social development and advancement".

"The ANC supports the idea of developing a national consensus around the principle of sharing the burden of financing land reform, housing, education and training by means of a special fund. The concept of burden equalisation, through the introduction of special taxation measures, has been applied successfully elsewhere and has possibilities for South Africa."

The other option will be to borrow money abroad or to solicit aid funds. But, as the experience of

Zimbabwe shows, this is neither easy nor desirable.

South Africa already has a huge debt burden and it will have to be careful about increasing that without affecting the economy.

To get direct aid for land redistribution, more scientific research into how this will be done is necessary to make the idea easier to sell to foreign funders.

The Zimbabwean experience has shown that black peasant farmers can, given the necessary technical and financial support and access to reasonably good land, make an enormous contribution to agricultural production — but getting the right mix of support measures in place is tricky.

This will have to cover not only access to good land, but technical support, training, credit facilities, pricing incentives to grow suitable crops and the right technology.

Providing all this in a good agricultural season will be challenging enough, but the drought sweeping South Africa will, if it persists, make it more difficult as drought relief schemes take precedence over almost everything else.

The drought has also taken its toll on the quality of land, where conventional agriculture is no longer feasible and hundreds of farmers face bankruptcy.

Redistribution and resettlement under these conditions will need special attention.

Control Boards may go soon — report

REVOLUTIONARY changes should be made to the agricultural and food industries in SA to break the spiral of food price increases, according to the Board of Trade and Tariffs.

The BTT this week presented a potentially far-reaching report on food prices which took 10 months to compile.

A primary proposal is that the statutory powers of control boards should be removed as they are major obstacles to efficient production in the food and agricultural sectors.

Powers removed

Dr Nic Swart of the BTT said on SABC-TV on Thursday night that the BTT's recommendation could mean the end of control boards.

"We recommended that the compulsory powers of control boards be removed." *C/Press*

A four-pronged plan of action was proposed by the report: 14/6/92.

■ The first step was a broad deregulation of agriculture, from governmental through to municipal level.

The BTT believed anything that obstructed competition or an entry to a food market should be done away with. Consumers should be allowed to buy any product they liked direct from farmers.

Adjusting tariffs

■ The report also called for a greater role to be played in the price equation by food brought in from abroad.

This meant adjusting customs tariffs to ensure that healthy competition between local producers and importers was encouraged.

■ The country's health and hygiene regulations were also too high for a developing country the report said.

For instance, if consumers were prepared to buy fifth grade vegetables or non-pasteurised milk they should be able to.

■ The last step was the review of the control boards. — Sapa

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibya, headlines and sub-editing by S James, both of 2 Herb St, New Doornfontein, Jhb.

Ruin for farmland bought out by govt?

③ CT 15/6/92

Political Staff

THE government should take urgent action to ensure productivity on the 4 000 hectares of prime farming land bought at the beginning of the year for R14 million for consolidation into Lebowa, the Democratic Party said yesterday.

The purchase of the land in the fertile Bushbuckridge Valley and Beestekraalspruit

area in the Eastern Transvaal was one of the last acts by the now defunct Department of Development Aid.

"They should never have done this," the DP spokesman on homeland affairs, Mr Peter Soal, said.

"Now that they have done it, they must not allow the land to deteriorate, as has occurred at Rus De Winter where the weeds are now higher than the mielies.

"They must keep the land productive and lease it back to the former owners."

Mr Soal said the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, farmed in the Eastern Transvaal in the Nelspruit area and ought to know what was going on.

"He must take urgent action and he must act immediately."

Whatever happened to the land, it should definitely not be transferred to any of the

homelands, Mr Soal added.

The farmers in the area — who had earned up to R600 000 a year for their export-quality avocado, litchi and macadamia nut crops — were paid out by the government last month for land expropriated at the beginning of the year for incorporation into Lebowa.

At Rus De Winter productive farms bought by the Department of Development Aid five years ago are now ruined.

SAP on trail

Body to look into abolishing control boards

CAPE TOWN — Government has decided to appoint an independent committee of inquiry to investigate whether agricultural control boards should be abolished.

The committee will be headed by Stellenbosch University agricultural economist Eckart Kassier. The four members, including agricultural economists from Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Natal universities are to receive their letters of appointment from Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk this week.

While there have been other inquiries into control boards in the past, this new committee is believed to be the first independent probe with members having no

Monday 15/6/92

LINDA ENSOR

vested interests in the agricultural sector.

The appointment of the committee follows the findings of a Board on Tariffs and Trade investigation into food prices. The board's report recommends that agricultural control boards be stripped of their powers to set prices and to force farmers to use boards to market their produce.

The board found that control boards added about 1,5% to food prices.

Agriculture director-general Harry Hattingh said the committee's brief still had to be worked out, but would include investigating whether agricultural control boards

should be abolished. "If control boards are contributing to higher food prices, then we must look for alternatives," Hattingh said.

He said farmers and other interest groups believed control boards were necessary. If abolition was necessary, the farmers would have to be convinced.

He said farmers favoured control boards as they gave them collective strength to bargain prices with a few purchasers.

The committee's brief would be narrow and it would be required to report within three months.

Hattingh said it was important to appoint independent committee members.

To Page 2

Control boards

Kassier, who has been head of Stellenbosch University's agricultural economics department since 1965, is a specialist in agricultural policy and management. He has sat on a number of government-appointed committees, including the Rürich committee on the sugar industry and several CSIR committees.

He said the new committee would look at the whole issue of control boards.

"It is an exceedingly important committee, especially coming after the Board on Tariff and Trade's report," Kassier said.

He said the investigation probably would be the first probe into control boards where committee members did not have a vested interest in the outcome.

Our Cape Town correspondent reports

Monday 15/6/92 (3) From Page 1

that Homestead Dairies GM John Jacobs said last week the Board on Tariffs and Trade's recommendations to lessen the control of the boards would lower prices and remove "bloated bureaucracy" which operated at the expense of smaller businesses. "The more competition, the lower and keener the prices," he said.

But the Red Meat Producers' Organisation chairman Basie Malherbe said: "There must be some control to ensure reasonably priced meat reaches the consumer."

Wheat Board GM Ivan Hemingway said the boards' abolition would mean huge foreign conglomerates would be able to dump their surplus wheat in Africa, effectively "killing off" local farmers.

● Comment: Page 6

Drought relief body mooted

JOHANNESBURG. — The possibility of establishing a national multi-party drought-relief structure is to be investigated, according to Independent Development Trust trustee Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu.

This was decided at a drought conference held here this weekend attended by, among others, 158 delegates from 68 organisations, including key South African government departments, the ANC, the IFP, PAC, the TBVC states and church groups.

'Willingness'

A report tabled at the conference suggested a flexible national structure be established to ensure rapid response to the drought crisis.

"Although many delegates present could not finally commit their organisations or governments, their very presence at the conference indicated a willingness to co-operate," Professor Nkuhlu said.

He said a steering committee, reporting to a consultative forum, and five working groups were established.

Another report said the current agricultural sector was largely inefficient and should not be propped up by drought relief. — Sapa

Probe into farming boards

5072 16/6/92
The Government is appointing a four-man committee, headed by Stellenbosch University agricultural economist Professor Eckart Kassier, to investigate whether agricultural control boards should be abolished.

The four members of the committee, who include agricultural economists from universities in Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Natal, are to receive their official letters of appointment from the Minister of Agriculture this week.

While there have been other inquiries into control boards in the past, the new committee is

2 Gen
believed to be the first independent probe with members having no vested interest in the agricultural sector.

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The board found that control boards added about 1,5 percent to food prices. — Own Correspondent.

Drought beaters

3 Gen
STAR 16/6/92

By George Nicholas
Agricultural
Correspondent

The current drought and its disastrous impact on maize production has speeded up the efforts of South African agricultural scientists to breed drought-resistant plants.

Under the leadership of Brian O'Regan, principal researcher at the Institute for Plant Biotechnology, steady progress is being made with a project, the aim of which is to isolate genes resistant to water stress.

He says once isolated such genes could then be used in programmes for breeding new varieties for drought resistance.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Loans to certain person for farming purposes
8. Rev A D GOOSEN asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture:†

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, obtained loans from his Department in order to buy a farm and start a farming operation; if not, what are the relevant details; if so, (a) what amounts were lent to this person, (b) (i) at what rate of interest and (ii) on what dates were the loans granted, (c) what is the current market value of the farm concerned and

(3) Gen

(d) what is the expected annual turnover of this person's farming operation;

- (2) whether his Department has taken any steps to establish whether (a) this person is a *bona fide* farmer and (b) the loans granted were used entirely for farming activities; if not, why not; if so, what are the details in this regard;
- (3) whether the loans were paid to the person concerned by cheque; if not, in what manner was payment made;
- (4) whether this person has to date repaid any instalments on the loans to his Department; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amounts and (b) when;
- (5) whether he will disclose the identity of the person concerned to the House; if not, why not; if so, who is this person?

C22E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

It is not policy of the Administration: House of Representatives to disclose the private financial affairs of individuals. The rest falls away.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Children of prison inmates in prisons

36. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) (a) How many children of inmates of prisons are there in prisons under the control of his Department, (b) how many such children have been there for more than (i) one year, (ii) two years and (iii) three years and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D191E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) (a) In the interest of the children and parents concerned and in the absence of suitable alternatives, 235 young children are being accommodated with their mothers in South African prisons in terms of special arrangements.
- (b) (i), (ii) and (iii)

The statistics are unfortunately not centrally available in the format as requested and can only be obtained by means of an expensive and manpower intensive countrywide return.

The following information with regard to the ages of the children who were in prison with their mothers on 30 April 1992 may, however, be of value to the hon member:

0—1 years old	=	143
1—2 years old	=	75
2—3 years old	=	10
3—4 years old	=	7

(c) 30 April 1992.

(2) Yes.

In line with international practice, regulation number 94 of the regulations promulgated in terms of section 94 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959), a female prisoner may be permitted, subject to such conditions as are prescribed, to have her child with her in prison during the period of lactation and for such further period as may be necessary. The necessary clothing, food and medical treatment may be provided by the State for such period as a child remains in prison.

Standing departmental orders also determine that a child may remain in prison with the mother for as long as is deemed necessary for medical and nutritional purposes. Thereafter it should be endeavoured to remove the child from prison, subject to a certificate by the medical officer to the effect that the child would not be harmed psychologically or physically if separated from the mother. In a case where removal from prison is appropriate, it is a condition that suitable abode should be obtained beforehand.

All children are examined by the medical officer as soon as possible after admission to a prison or after birth in order to determine which medical treatment and nutrition is to be prescribed. The child's mass is taken monthly and the necessary injections and vaccinations as applicable are administered by a qualified nursing sister, or otherwise arrangements are made for the administration thereof at the local clinic.

At every prison where children are with their mothers a member of the nursing profession is responsible for the necessary supervision. This member sees to it that all prescribed directives regarding the care of the children are strictly adhered to and that the children's general health and well-being is promoted.

In general it can be mentioned that the Department of Correctional Services places a high premium on the medical treatment of all persons entrusted to its care. In this regard the nursing staff of the Department of Correctional Services are

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes, in my budget speech I addressed the possible deregulation of private hospitals. I stated that on condition to deregulate, private patients should be allowed in State hospitals. Where provincial administrations can already afford it, there are no limits placed on them to render services to private patients at recognizable costs.
- (2) no;
- (3) Yes, at certain public hospitals some patients will be restricted in cases of certain diseases where treatment is extremely expensive and physical resources are limited, such as in haemodialysis or transplants for kidney failure, access to the programme is restricted and if the patient does not satisfy the clinical protocols required for admission.

Total cost of Codesa

*24. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Constitutional Development:†

- (a) (i) What is the total cost of Codesa to date and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished. (b) of what items is the above-mentioned cost made up and (c) who or what body is responsible for the payment of this cost?

B805E

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (a) (i) According to a provisional calculation the total cost of Codesa amounts to R16 042 320,82.
- (ii) June 11, 1992
- (b) This cost is made up of the following items:
- (i) Accommodation expenses of participants in meeting, foreign observers and support and administrative staff R3 981 478,80
- (ii) Travel expenses (road and air) R2 728 853,77
- (iii) Telecommunication R217 798,03
- (iv) Meals and refreshments R145 829,00

- (v) Hire of venues, furniture, offices, electricity, sound and lighting for all the preparatory and plenary meetings R7 051 502,19
- (vi) Printing, stationery and other supplies R155 225,41
- (vii) Hire of electronic data-processing and other equipment R462 503,75
- (viii) Expert and professional services R1 299 129,88
- (c) Constitutional Development Service.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Rural councils: functions/voting power

*1. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Local Government:

- (1) What does the Government envisage for rural councils in respect of their (a) functions and (b) voting power on regional services councils;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B826E.INT

*The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Mr Speaker, on 29 May 1991 the Cabinet passed the following resolution: That the possible broadening of the functions of rural councils be investigated in order to ensure that basic norms and standards be maintained in rural areas.

Following on the resolution, Minister Hernus Kriel, the former Minister of Local Government in the House of Assembly, appointed a committee consisting of Dr Wynand Malan as chairman and Mr Kobus Hugo as member, with the following terms of reference: Firstly, extension of the powers of rural councils in order to take decisions themselves on certain matters; secondly, the incorporation of a rural council's area into the area of jurisdiction of the nearest local authority to form part of the local authority's area and the concomitant extension of the powers of the new local authority; and thirdly, to

report on and to make recommendations on the future of rural councils.

The committee conducted a comprehensive investigation in the Cape Province, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, in which all rural councils, municipal associations, provincial administrations, provincial agricultural unions and the SA Agricultural Union were consulted. As the report of the Malan Committee has not yet been made available to me, I shall only be in a position to make a statement on the matter once the report has been cleared with all interested parties and accepted.

*Mr A A B BRUWER: Mr Speaker, here we have a typical example of the Government's constitutional plans. They establish a so-called level of government for rural areas, but that level of government does not know what it has to do. The hon the Minister cannot seek to establish a level of government and have people elected, when those people do not know what to do. A former Minister, one of this hon Minister's predecessors, said that they should establish at church gatherings what was bothering the people and then act accordingly. How can one run a country in that manner?

Initially it was said that third-tier government should be established for rural areas. There is nothing wrong with that. This third-tier government was then established because farmers had to pay regional services councils without having a say in their deliberations. Suddenly these rural councils were established and the CP controlled most of them. Then all of a sudden they were not good enough and there was a reluctance to give them the voting power which they should have in terms of the norms established for local government. Had they done that, the CP would possibly have controlled the regional services councils.

This is a typical example of a government that sets up a whole lot of institutions. They do not know in which direction they want to go. They are establishing certain structures at certain levels without these people knowing what to do. Surely it would be only fair at least to tell these people that they must fulfil the function of the roads boards or the hospital boards in conjunction with local authorities. Then these people would at least have something to do. However, a level of government has been established here and the people do not know what they are to do.

This is a pathetic example of a government that wants to govern a country.

Mr E W TRENT: Mr Speaker, to an extent I have sympathy with the CP with regard to this issue. I myself was disenfranchised in 1985 when the Regional Services Councils Act was promulgated. It took the Government three years to amend that Act in order to make provision for urban councils.

The problem I have with this interpellation is that this should not have been an own affairs issue. It has to do with general affairs—all rural people being neglected in this respect.

We also believe that any attempt to adapt RCSs on a piecemeal basis in an effort to make them a little more acceptable, is totally unacceptable to us. The hon the Minister gave us the assurance yesterday that no new measures affecting local government, even if it were only on a temporary basis, would be considered until the formation of a fully representative forum has been achieved. I hope that the hon the Minister will stick to that commitment.

Oscar Wilde once described the English sport of fox-hunting as "the unthinkable chasing the uneatable". By the same token it is unthinkable that we should even be contemplating an attempt to change RCSs to make them a little bit more palatable to certain people. In that respect I hope the hon the Minister will stick to his commitment.

What are the facts? The Government does not give us an indication that that is what they are really about. The hon the State President said at the congress of the Association of Regional Services Councils this year, and I quote from a report:

Mnr De Klerk het aangedui dat SDR'e gekom het om te hly.

In other words he is accepting that this is a sort of non-negotiable.

The hon the Minister referred to the Malan Commission. I have a letter here from the Cape Province Agricultural Union. The Union was informed by the administrator and the executive committee that they should make certain recommendations. What are their recommendations? They say—these are the White farmers—that the farm worker should not get a vote in terms of the building which he occupies, because he cannot

be compared to a normal occupant who rents a house in town. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I grant the hon member for Port Elizabeth Central all the pleasure which he derived from his regular weekly bashing of NP Ministers. The hon member is simply not consistent with his policy.

His particular, individual policy is that one must do nothing until such time as one has the approval of the civic associations and the extra-parliamentary groupings. Therefore he zooms in on my statements. I intend sticking to the statements I made yesterday. Did he listen to what I said?

Does it mean one must just simply sit back, idly, passively and do nothing if one does not have the participation and involvement of those people? We shall consult and try to set up the necessary structures. We shall participate in structures in order to make our decisions as legitimate and as legal as possible. Within the framework of the imperfect structure in which we are working, we shall aspire to make it legitimate as well as legal and to arrive at that complete, ultimate, perfect constitution.

*I listened to the hon member for Lydenburg. When he called for the interpellation, he decided that he wanted to pick a quarrel with the Government, irrespective of the facts. [Interjections.] Those hon members are not interested in facts, because then one confuses them. According to the standpoint which I stated here, I am surely in no way able to deal with that report if I do not have it to hand. Why would I adopt a standpoint now, when I know that there is a report pending? That hon member's standpoint that rural councils were established in a haphazard manner . . . [Time expired.]

*Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, the Government has a way of keeping the ball in the scrum, thus keeping it out of play, as with the Pickard Report. Precisely the same thing is now happening here. [Interjections.]

The hon the Minister now tells us that he cannot say anything because a committee has been appointed. I sat listening to him yesterday afternoon as he spoke with great pride about the new plan in relation to local government, what it would look like in the new South Africa, etc. In the same breath, however, he now tells us that he cannot tell us anything about this aspect because

a committee has been appointed. [Interjections.] I venture to predict that this committee will either keep the ball in the scrum until long after the new South Africa has dawned with all its catastrophes, or issue a report and that hon Minister will keep the ball in the scrum until goodness knows when.

This morning we have already heard that we shall possibly have to come back to implement Codesa's decisions. I now want to ask the hon the Minister whether this specific aspect of local government at this level was discussed at Codesa, and if so, what he is going to do with it. Is he kicking that ball into the scrum too? I want to ask the Government rather to make someone like the hon member for Brentwood, who was punished for spending a weekend in the CP and who has never been promoted, Minister of these councils. Then he will at least have some kind of job until next year! [Interjections.] Everything has passed this poor hon member by. Here is a perfect opportunity to create a nice little retirement post for my old friend, the hon member for Brentwood.

*Mr A A B BRUWER: Mr Speaker, I have a great deal of sympathy for the hon the Minister. It is very clear that he does not know the history of these rural councils. He certainly does not know what is going on in his department. He should go into the history.

The problem is that his predecessors were from the Cape. They abolished the system of these divisional councils, which for many years had fulfilled a good function in the Cape, and replaced them with something without knowing what its function was. They started doing the same thing in Natal, the Free State and the Transvaal, still without knowing what they should do. He is a Transvaaler; how should he know how third-tier government functions in rural areas?

I want to suggest that he can come and speak to the CP. We will tell him exactly how rural government should be handled in rural areas. We will be able to teach him a lot about that and about the relationships between people in the country districts, between communities of different races in the rural areas. We can really give him very sound and good advice and we offer it to him because he is very clearly in the dark and does not know what is going on.

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I accept the hon member's invitation. He is welcome; we can make an appointment at any time. I shall make myself available to listen to him and to ascertain his opinion on the issues. [Interjections.] The fact that the hon member has come to the conclusion that I do not know what is going on, is absolutely presumptuous CP arrogance. [Interjections.] When the legislation on these regional services councils was being debated, I sat in Parliament listening to it.

Furthermore I am aware of and familiar with the growing pains associated with the abolition of divisional councils, the need for participation by rural councils and the opportunity sought and created in order to do this in conjunction with those communities. I want to issue an invitation to that hon member. I will make myself available to listen to him.

The hon member for Heilbron obviously has absolutely nothing to say. He is so keen to participate in the Codesa process, it is simply not true. He cannot hide his curiosity. That hon member should rather stop sitting on the fence and say whether he now sides with the hon member for Overvaal or not. [Interjections.] Then we shall know why he speaks in the same vein as the hon member. [Interjections.]

Yesterday I stated the standpoints with regard to the vision for the future in relation to a national constitution and the place afforded therein to local government, strong regional government and the devolution of authority to local government. This report of the Malan Committee will be evaluated within that total package and will be announced simultaneously with that total package.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

+ Indicates a translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Vote on Model C

*1. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

Whether, after his announcement that all ordinary public state schools and Model B schools would be changed over to Model C schools on 1 April 1992, such schools asked for a vote on Model C before 1 April 1992; if so, (a) how many schools asked for such a vote and (b) at how many such schools a simple majority of parents voted against the change-over to Model C?

B748E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Yes.

(a) 351.

(b) 98 schools obtained a vote of more than 50% against change-over.

Bonus paid to certain teachers

*2. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

(1) Whether his Department recently paid a bonus to certain teachers; if so, (a) (i) what criteria were applied to determine who qualified for these bonuses and (ii) who made the recommendations on who qualified for them, (b) what total amount was paid out and (c) how many teachers received such bonuses;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B749E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes, the department particular awards which are part of an action which was piloted by the Commission for Administration for the whole of the public sector and for which funds were provided by the Commission

(a) (i) the usual criteria used in the evaluation instrument for all educators were applied. These include the educator's work performance and his/her attitude towards his/her work and also positive personality factors;

(ii) the Executive Directors of the Department.

Farmers' rescue package 'could go down the drain'

(3) Gen
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Government's multibillion-rand rescue package for agriculture would be money down the drain unless there were comprehensive follow up programmes to remove the industry's basic chronic problems, Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said yesterday.

The immediate effect of the aid would be to save more than 2 000 summer grain farmers, mostly maize farmers, from bankruptcy.

However, Van Zyl said the aid should be seen as a first step only in rescuing an industry which had been deteriorating for a decade and more because of high interest rates, input costs and inflation.

Unless these constraints were brought under control, the aid would merely be a short-term stop-gap palliative with no lasting benefits.

Van Zyl said the uncertainty in the commercial farming community was growing.

"They want to know whether their land will be secure in a new dispensation. They still do not have that assurance."

Few farmers were making new

investments in their farms because of this and, without investment, the downhill slide in the industry would continue.

Commercial farmers, he said, were a vital part of the national economy. They employed more than a million workers and spent several billion rands in other sectors of the economy.

Unless interest rates and inflation were reined in, government's R3,8bn aid package would "disappear without trace in a few years".

Under current circumstances the dice were heavily loaded against most commercial farmers.

Commenting on the Board of Tariffs and Trade report on food price inflation, Van Zyl said the comments on control boards and their functions added up to "absolute nonsense". The boards had an important role in helping maintain a stable farming industry.

The report recommended that the boards should be stripped of their statutory powers.

8/10 day 17/6/92

1	SALDRU'S CORE BUDGET 1992 - ENTITLY 3783	1
2	FORD TRAINEE BUDGET 1992 - ENTITLY 3904	1
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2	ENTITLY 3970	2

Contents

Hout Bay is entitled to keep and retain what it has. This Government does nothing. It sits back and allows things to slide, also in Hout Bay. For that reason the CP will get up every time and fight for the people of Hout Bay, because except for the CP, they do not have people who fight for them.

*The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING: Mr Speaker, the hon member for Overvaal's credibility has grown immeasurably here. The CP sent in their HNP advance guard here and we had to deal with a CP-HNP mentality that has no answers to the problems of South Africa. [Interjections.]

When one talks to them about squatting their policy is not intellectually justifiable, and it does not even stimulate one intellectually. [Interjections.]

That hon member says one should keep what one has. I paid a few visits in that area yesterday and I discovered exactly what is happening there.

In brief our policy in respect of urbanization is the following. Unlike in the past, we will not locate Black people as far as possible from their place of work. I spoke to everyone in the Hout Bay squatter camp that I could get hold of yesterday. [Interjections.] They had work there. [Interjections.] They were working at various places. Those people need places to work and live. Therefore we try to ensure people's stability in smaller packages near their places of work. [Interjections.]

Secondly, local communities must make provision for the informal housing needs in their country as well.

Thirdly, I should like to give hon members the assurance that it is unreasonable and not the standpoint of this House to locate people as far as possible from their places of work. [Interjections.]

There is no way that we can wish these people away and we shall continue to hold talks with the people with established rights as well as those that work in the area but simply do not have accommodation there, as I suggested when I originally put my standpoint.

Debate concluded.

*Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I put the next interpellation, I should like to appeal to hon members not all to take part so boisterously in these short debates. Only the hon members whose names are on my list of speakers should participate, and the other hon members should give them a proper opportunity to state their case in the short time at their disposal.

Escalation in food prices: steps

2. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Trade and Industry: ~~30er~~ 30er

(1) Whether he intends taking any steps to halt the alarming escalation in food prices; if not, why not; if so, what steps:

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? ~~30er~~ 30er

B828E.INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Mr Speaker, the Government is very aware of the seriousness and sensitivity of rising food prices. For this reason continuous consultation takes place with the hon the Minister of Agriculture. Proof of this is the request by the two hon Ministers to the Board on Tariffs and Trade to investigate this escalation. The preliminary report on this investigation was made public on 11 June. As soon as the board completes this assignment and submits its final report and recommendations to the Government, the Government will be in a position to make decisions.

Other steps taken by the Government are the following: The systematic removal of import control on agricultural products and food and the institution of tariff measures instead, a complex process that has international complications through Gatt; the financing of the Consumer Council by the Department of Trade and Industry, which investigates complaints of consumers; the establishment of the Competition Board, which acts on either complaints received, or investigates cases of restriction of competition such as collusion or monopolistic situations on its own initiative; the establishment of Vatwatch, financed by the Department of Finance, which serves as a watchdog to prevent consumer exploitation due to the commencement of VAT; the support of research and development at the CSIR on problems in the food industry; and investigation into ways and means of increasing the competition in, and the competitiveness of,

industry in general. The reform of tariff policy is an example of that. ~~30er~~ 30er

The Government wants to give the assurance that it regards the question of food prices as serious and very sensitive and that it will be treated with vigour and responsibility. ~~30er~~ 30er

With regard to the second question, after studying the final report of the Board on Tariffs and Trade when it comes to hand, together with other reports which may have a bearing on the subject, the hon the Minister will make a statement on the whole matter. The recently released report is a provisional one made available for comment and as a discussion document.

We are aware of the tremendous difference in escalation of prices between the farm gate and the shop shelf. It is the divergence between the rates of increase of these two different prices—in other words, the divergence between PPI and CPI—which was the subject of this investigation. [Time expired.]

Mr D H M GIBSON: Mr Speaker, the hon the Deputy Minister's boss has made himself notorious in the eyes of South African taxpayers by telling them that they are not particularly highly taxed. I expected the hon the Minister to come today and perhaps tell consumers that they are wrong and that food prices are not too high. Instead of that, the hon the Minister has chosen to sit quiet and send the hon the Deputy Minister into the firing line. Instead of savaging the hon the Minister, I have to be a little kinder to the man who is only half responsible for the situation.

I did not hear anything from the hon the Deputy Minister which makes me believe that food prices will come down soon. One day after I gave notice of this interpellation, the long-awaited report of the Board on Tariffs and Trade was suddenly released. There is now a flurry of activity and announcements because the Government has at last realised that the consumers have had enough.

The long-suffering consumers want to know when they can expect action. They are tired of inquiries, reports, ministerial musings and complications. They are even more tired of the never-ending inflation and the inexorable rise in food prices. Consumers believe that they are being ripped off when they hear that food prices may increase by as much as 45% this year. Most

of them believe that it is not the farmers and the primary producers who are the culprits. The real exploiters are further up the food chain, and these include the control boards, the packaging companies and the supermarkets, which always claim to be the consumer's friend.

While they are making that claim, they manage to mark up meat by 103% at Woolworths, 105% at Pick 'n Pay and 108% at OK Hyperama. I am indebted to the *Sunday Star* of 16 February for those figures. Right now one can go and buy potatoes at the market for R21 to R24 a pocket, and go to the supermarket and pay between R35 and R37 for those same potatoes.

Those are not the friends of the consumers. The excuse is always that inflation is causing the increase in the prices, instead of the other way around. This Government has dedicated itself to stopping inflation, and this must be one of the longest-running shows in town, because nothing ever happens.

The economic restructuring that South Africa needs to place it on a satisfactory growth path cannot happen while double-digit inflation flourishes. It requires the best efforts of both Government and business working together to take decisive action to ensure that inflation is slowed or stopped. When this happens, the food price escalation will also stop.

*Mr D G H NOLTE: Mr Speaker, the CP is especially concerned about the increasing gap between the price of the farmers' product and the price of food to the consumer. Statistics at the end of March 1992 confirmed the fact that at 28.9%, food prices increased far more rapidly than the general inflation rate of 15.7% and the farmers' product price of 11.9%.

Furthermore, it is also known that the farmer's share in the final consumer price of food is low, approximately 39.4% and that it is continuously decreasing. The question is therefore, if the farmers do not receive the money, where does it go?

Hence the investigation by the Board of Trade and Industry, the first draft report and recommendations of which were made public last Friday. The report's basic recommendation that the statutory powers of agricultural marketing boards should be taken away to promote competition, still does not answer the basic question of

Don't blame farm boards — Minister

③ Gen
STAR 18/6/92
By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk has come to the defence of agricultural control boards and criticised the report of the Board of Trade and Tariffs which blamed control boards for much of the rapid rise in food prices.

In a surprise move yesterday, Dr van Niekerk sent the Board of Trade and Tariffs to re-investigate high food prices and announced two more investigations into the problem.

Democratic Party MP for Yeoville Douglas Gibson attacked Dr van Niekerk for "protecting his pals" on control boards and said this would not bring food prices down.

Dr van Niekerk had resorted to "classic Government thinking — when in doubt, appoint a committee".

"This is an excuse for inaction. I will only believe that the National Party cares about consumers when they do something about food-price escalation," he said.

Earlier, in a debate on food prices, Mr Gibson had called on the Government to influence business to hold down wage increases and food prices to 10 percent in order to break inflation.

But Deputy Trade and Industry Minister David Graaf said this was tantamount to wage

and price control, which had failed dismally elsewhere.

In a statement last night Dr van Niekerk said he was surprised that the Board of Trade and Tariffs report had not been given to him before it was published. It was a preliminary report that left many questions unanswered.

It had not fully taken into account the effect of the drought and VAT on food prices, and did not give proper credit to de-regulation in the marketing of agricultural products.

Commentary on the report had singled out control boards for criticism, but it would be an oversimplification to say prices would come down if the boards were abolished.

Dr van Niekerk said the producer's share in food prices was only 45 percent and the boards could not be held responsible for the 55 percent added by the private sector.

The facts pointed to a softening influence by marketing boards on consumer prices.

He told the Board of Trade and Tariffs to investigate price increases in the food chain and to look at measures to counter concentration in the processing and distribution sectors.

He also announced that a committee under Professor WE Kassier would probe the effect of the Marketing Act on food prices, and that a policy committee falling under himself would seek a long-term strategy for the marketing of agricultural products and probe the future role of control boards.

FOOD INDUSTRY REPORT

Between the cup and the lip

3 Cen
~~19/6/92~~

The control boards have finally been targeted for some official censure

FM 19/6/92

About time, too. The Board of Tariffs & Trade (BTT)'s long-awaited report on food pricing has prompted powerful calls for the abolition of the 22 control boards which administer various schemes in terms of the Marketing Act. The boards are responsible for a huge quantum of food price inflation — despite having been created to smooth out wrinkles in the market (*Leaders* June 12).

Questions have also been raised about the need for a Marketing Act at all. Freer imports of food products are mooted — and unnecessarily high health and hygiene standards have been pinpointed as another factor that pushes up costs.

Reform won't happen easily.

Firstly, this is a "preliminary" report, which the BTT calls a "discussion document." It will not be implemented immediately. Food committee co-ordinator (and board deputy chairman) Helgaard Muller says the final report should surface only by September "at the earliest."

Meanwhile, deputy director-general of Agriculture Chris Blignaut is appointing a



Jacobs



Summers

committee of academics (mostly agricultural economists) to investigate the Act. "We want them to start work by August 1 at the latest and to report within three months," he says. So prices will go up for a while yet.

The committee's brief will be to look at the "practical" side of changes to marketing schemes and regulations. It will talk to the various boards and investigate the huge differences in the various marketing schemes administered under the Act. These vary from:

Restrictive single-channel, fixed-price systems such as the wheat and maize

schemes;

Surplus removal floor-price schemes backed by producer levies, such as the heavily over-regulated meat scheme; to

Fairly "liberal" operations such as the surplus removal sorghum scheme and the market-driven, highly successful export schemes administered by semi-privatised bodies like Unifruco (deciduous fruit) and the Citrus Exchange marketing co-operative.

If this latter "practical" report is completed by November 1 and if it recommends amendments to the Marketing Act, earliest implementation would be during the 1993 parliamentary session. Until then, another, yet-to-be-appointed board committee, heav-

cont —>

THIS WEEK'S FM

This week's issue of the *FM* has been delayed because of political events coinciding with our printing deadline.

P.T.O.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1)* (a) 33,3% 3 687 000
 (b) (i) 65,4%
 (ii) 17,9%
 (iii) 14,0%
 (iv) 2,7%
- (2)** (a) (b) (c) (d)
 (i) 152 3 059 67 467
 (ii) 316 1 211 147 115
 (iii) 73 2 438 61 185
 (iv) 32 1 709 111 111
 (v) 28 900 30 41
 (vi) 256 26 432 947 844
 (vii) 1 244 25 672 1 429 1 073
 (viii) 80 676 42 321 22 922 6 183
 (ix) 38 085 35 223 12 693 3 525
 (x) 132 2 439 123 110
 (xi) 48 253 344 104 56 313 25 591
 (xii) 39 081 55 487 20 317 8 694
- (3)** (a) (i) 6,7%
 (ii) 11,5%
 (b) 29 March 1990.

* Mid-year estimates as on 30 June 1990.

** Manpower survey as on 29 March 1990—excludes Agricultural sector and Private households.

Charges against persons withdrawn: Bruntville
 338. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether charges against persons who were arrested and disarmed at scenes of violence and multiple murders in Bruntville on or about 4 December 1991 were withdrawn owing to lack of evidence; if so.
- (2) whether sufficient new evidence has since been found to enable the South African Police to bring fresh charges against those concerned; if not, what steps are being taken to collect such evidence; if so, when will charges be pressed;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B834E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes.

B844E

- (2) No, the case is still under investigation. New information is evaluated and investigated on a regular basis, but up to date no *prima facie* evidence could be found to enable the South African Police to bring charges against those concerned.

- (3) No.

Amounts owing to the State

339. Mr H J BESTER asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether any amounts are currently owing to the State in respect of costs awarded to the State or any state official in any unsuccessful court applications or any other civil actions brought by persons, or on behalf of persons, who were detained, banned or otherwise acted against in terms of the provisions of the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982, or any regulations promulgated in terms of section 3 and/or section 5A of the Public Safety Act, No 3 of 1953; if so, (a) what amounts and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;
- (2) whether he intends to institute civil proceedings for the recovery of these amounts; if so, what are the relevant details?

B835E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

As the information required is not recorded and other departments are also involved, the question cannot be replied to within the period specified.

SAP: progress in solving of certain murder cases

342. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether the South African Police have made any progress in solving the murders of certain persons, whose names have been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, which occurred during the period 1 November 1977 to 30 April 1992; if not, why not; if so, what progress?

B844E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

As a result of the extent and nature of the question it is not possible to reply within the prescribed time.

Social Relief Scheme for Farmers and Farmworkers

344. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) (a) On what date did the Social Relief Scheme for Farmers and Farmworkers come into operation, (b) as at the latest specified date for which information is available, how much money (i) was available for disbursement in this scheme and (ii) had been disbursed to persons in need of aid and (c) in respect of each of the recipients of such aid, what are the particulars in regard to (i) race, (ii) sex, (iii) age, (iv) magisterial district, (v) type of farming activity and (vi) occupation;
- (2) whether any farmers, while receiving such aid, retrenched or dismissed farmworkers; if so, how many;
- (3) whether aid granted in terms of this scheme is distributed to farmworkers directly; if not, why not;
- (4) whether representatives of farmworkers have been included in the (a) steering committee of or other structures responsible for this scheme and (b) district assistance committees; if not, why not in each case;
- (5) whether she will take steps to ensure that all the structures of this scheme are made more representative of (a) those at whom the aid is directed and (b) the population of South Africa; if not, why not, if so, (i) what steps and (ii) when;
- (6) whether any church denominations, trade unions and/or other representative institutions have been drawn into this scheme; if not, why not; if so, (a) which (i) church denominations, (ii) trade unions and (iii) other representative institutions and (b) for what reasons was each of these so drawn in?

B841E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) (a) 1 April 1992,
 (b) 31 May 1992.
 (i) R20 million
 (ii) R2,5 million and
 (c) specified information is not available;
- (2) no, not as far as known;
- (3) no, assistance is given to farmers in order to meet the needs of their farmworkers;
- (4) (a) and (b) no, because the farmers apply for assistance for their farmworkers and the farmers' financial circumstances are evaluated in order to qualify for assistance;
- (5) (a) yes,
 (b) yes.
 (i) negotiating more representative composition within the existing structures,
 (ii) according to needs;
- (6) (a) (i) yes, the prominent church societies operating in each area,
 (ii) yes, farmers' associations, Women's Agricultural Union, South African Agricultural Union,
 (iii) banks, co-operatives, agricultural credit boards and welfare organizations,
 (b) to promote community participation.

Amounts granted in aid in terms of certain scheme/programme

345. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) (a) What are the (i) minimum and (ii) maximum amounts granted in aid by her Department to recipients in terms of the (aa) Social Relief Scheme for Farmers and Farmworkers and (bb) Nutrition Development Programme and (b) what factors are taken into account in calculating these amounts;

- (2) how much (a) had been spent on aid in terms of the above (i) scheme and (ii) programme as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) is it estimated will be spent on each in the current financial year?

B842E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) (a) (i) and (ii) A minimum and maximum amount do not apply.
- (aa) R40 per adult per month
R35 per child under 1 year per month
R40 per child over 10 years per month
R25 per child 2-9 years per month;
- (bb) (i) R20 per person per month;
(ii) R30 per person per month;
- (b) The financial circumstances of the farmer is evaluated to qualify for assistance of (aa). With regard to (bb) it is a supplementary scheme that provides for one third of a person's energy and protein need.
- (2) (a) (i) 31 May 1992: R2,5 million and
(ii) 8 June 1992: R88 million awarded/spent;
- (b) (i) R20 million and
(ii) R440 million.

Banquet facilities at home of Administrator of Natal

347. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

Whether banquet facilities have been established at the home of the Administrator of Natal in Pietermaritzburg; if so, (a) at what cost, (b) who authorized it and (c) from which vote or votes was the cost of establishing these facilities drawn?

B845E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

No. (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Forum on curtailment of cost of medicine

348. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether a forum on the curtailment of the cost of medicine was held on or about 28 February 1992; if so,
- (2) whether a record was kept of the proceedings of this forum; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether this record is available to the public; if not, why not;
- (4) whether she has commissioned any investigations as proposed at this forum; if not, why not;
- (5) whether she will make a statement on the recommendations made at the forum?

B846E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes,
- (2) yes,
- (3) no, because all organizations which showed an interest were accommodated at the forum. A copy of the record has been made available to them for submission of further comment;
- (4) no, not at this stage, because all comments has not yet been received. The comments must be studied further and be considered before further decisions concerning investigations can be made;
- (5) no.

SAP: issuing of bullet-proof vests

351. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Law and Order:

With reference to his statement on 3 June 1992 on bullet-proof vests (a copy of which has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply), (a) which branches and/or units of the Police are as a matter of policy issued with bullet-proof vests, (b) on what basis are priorities determined, (c) which of these units had been issued with such vests as at the latest specified date for which

information is available and (d) when is it anticipated that all units will have been issued with bullet-proof vests?

B849E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (a) There is no fixed policy whereby specified branches and/or units are given preference when issuing bullet-proof vests. The issuing of bullet-proof vests is determined by priorities.
- (b) The circumstances of each of the eleven (11) police regions are unique and priorities to establish to whom the vests will be allocated, are determined at a regional level.

Any branches and/or units of the Force may apply to be issued with bullet-proof vests. Reasons must be given in support of the application. Vests are then issued on a priority basis dependent on the available stock.

- (c) As has been mentioned in paragraph (a) *supra*, preference is not given to any specified units in respect of the issue of vests. There is virtually no unit or branch that does not have bullet-proof vests at its disposal.
- (d) As the suppliers cannot meet all demands, it is not possible to give a target date by which all units or branches will have been issued with bullet-proof vests.

Total amount spent on decentralization benefits

354. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (a) What total amount was spent on decentralization benefits in the 1991-92 financial year, (b) how much of this amount is related to new projects commenced during the said financial year and (c) how many new employment opportunities were created by way of such new projects (i) countrywide and (ii) in (aa) Phuthaditjhaba and (bb) Indusitriqwa in the 1991-92 financial year?

B852E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (a) 1982 RIDP—R629 928 789
- (b) 1991 RIDP—R 1 242 608
- (c) (i) 1982 RIDP—new projects which realized in the 1991-92 financial year—666 employment opportunities.
1991 RIDP—approvals from 1 August 1991 until 20 May 1992—17 035 employment opportunities.
- (ii) (aa) 1982 RIDP—new projects which realized in the 1991-92 financial year at Phuthaditjhaba—None.
1991 RIDP—approvals from 1 August 1991 until 20 May 1992 at Phuthaditjhaba—None.
- (bb) 1982 RIDP—new projects which realized in the 1991-92 financial year at Indusitriqwa—40 employment opportunities.
1991 RIDP—approvals from 1 August 1991 until 20 May 1992 at Indusitriqwa—258 employment opportunities.

Registered medical technologists: private practices

355. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether regulations permitting the establishment of private practice by registered medical technologists have been approved; if not, why not; if so, with effect from what date will such persons be permitted to enter into private practice;
- (2) whether any qualifications and conditions have been set for such persons to be able to practise; if so, what (a) qualifications and (b) conditions?

B853E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes, regulations permitting private practice by medical technologists were published

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Final report on food prices will be delayed

31 May 1976/92 (3) Gen

THE final Board on Tariffs and Trade (BTT) report on its probe into food price rises is unlikely to be issued before late September, board chairman Helgard Muller said yesterday.

Reuter reports that he said the final document would be published as soon as possible but there were likely to be discussions with interest groups following last week's release of the preliminary report.

Muller declined to comment on Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk's statement that the BTT report was inadequate.

The report put much of the blame for high food prices on state marketing boards, recommending the broad deregulation of agriculture to stimulate competition and combat rising food prices.

Van Niekerk said the report had not fully taken into account the effect of drought and VAT on food prices. Proper credit had not been given to deregulation in the marketing of agricultural products.

He also announced two more probes into food prices, one investigating the Marketing Act's effect on prices. The other, headed by himself, would seek a long-term strategy for marketing agricultural products and probe the role of control boards.

LINDA ENSOR and GERALD REILLY report that the Deciduous Fruit Board and the SA Agricultural Union yesterday welcomed the steps announced by Van Nie-

kerk to address food price inflation.

Deciduous Fruit Board chairman Stephanus Roussouw said some of the BTT's recommendations were "dubious".

He and SAAU director Piet Swart welcomed Van Niekerk's decision to refer the report back to the board for further investigation as well as the appointment of a committee of experts to evaluate the various marketing schemes on the basis of "realistic criteria".

Roussouw said there was no control over the marketing of deciduous fruit in SA and producer prices were determined solely by market forces.

"Prices are fairly high due to an exceptional demand for our products by all sectors. On the other hand, the price of apricots and peaches earlier this year was lower than in the same period last year due to record crops."

Swart said emasculating the marketing boards by stripping them of their statutory powers would lead to chaos in the collection and distribution of basic foods.

Swart supported Van Niekerk's view that the marketing boards played a vital role. To claim that the boards were responsible for soaring food prices was inaccurate and unsupported by facts.

The SAAU welcomed the investigation into the Marketing Act.

Tribe wins land battle


Sowetan 19/6/92

THE indomitable people of Mogopa, forcibly and unlawfully removed from their farms near Ventersdorp in 1984, have become the first community uprooted under apartheid to have their land officially restored to them.

The decision to allow them to stay on the farm Zwartrand, which they reoccupied without consent about four years ago, and to grant them full title to this land was announced on Wednesday by the director of land affairs in the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Pine Pienaar.

"The Deputy Minister of Law and Order and Land Affairs, Mr Johan Scheepers, has decided recently that the Mogopa community be allowed to remain on the farm Zwartrand," said Pienaar.

"The farm Hartebeeslaagte will, however, remain the

③ Gen 
property of the State. Furthermore, the question regarding the registration of Zwartrand and the name of the tribe or the community or individuals concerned will be negotiated with the community's legal advisers and the community leaders."

Pienaar clarified that this meant "they will have full title, as in the past, at Zwartrand" and said that the Department of Agriculture would provide agricultural extension services to the community.

Mogopa remained in State hands after the removal. Since the Appeal Court had found the removal itself unlawful, there was always the prospect of court action for the return of the land to Mogopa.

This week's announcement is the outcome of eight years of resistance by the community.

Minister 'naive' about food prices

STAR 19/6/92
By Shirley Woodgate

The private sector has labelled as "naive and misleading" claims by the Minister of Agriculture that concentration in the food processing and distribution sectors are partly to blame for soaring food prices.

Defending the marketing boards, Dr Kraai van Niekerk said on Wednesday that the private sector had to take some of the blame for spiralling food costs.

According to Housewives League president Jean Tatham, government figures showed an increase of nearly 30 percent in food prices between April 1991 and April this year.

Econometrix spokesman Tony Teine said all players in the entire supply chain carried the blame for increasing costs and, logically, all were trying to secure the greatest margin possible.

"If the food sector were completely decontrolled, this situa-

tion would continue with each one trying to optimise his position.

"My worry about the piecemeal deregulation of certain areas of the economy is that the areas not deregulated would begin to enjoy huge leverage in negotiating prices because of the protection that regulation implies," Mr Teine said.

"While everyone tries to get the maximum out of the economic system, the presence of additional middlemen such as control boards means there are more players than necessary trying to optimise their positions. This must add to the cost chain.

"The ultimate answer is to deregulate on a broad front," he said.

Pick 'n Pay food director Sean Summers regretted that the minister had resorted to "finger-pointing without getting to the root of the problem".

Calling for the removal of current restrictive tariffs, he said in-house monitoring had proved that the highest levels of price increases occurred in the

cost of agricultural-type products.

"As a broad principle, it is essential to keep the farmers on the land. But with the present drought, there is no logic in protecting non-existent crops by selling imported foodstuffs like maize and wheat at artificially high prices set by the control boards.

"The major task facing the nation is to feed the people. Therefore the need is to import these foodstuffs at the lowest possible levels, without protecting structures and status quos as currently happens," he said.

Pick 'n Pay had initiated talks which would include leaders of the various sectors of the industry, the Government and the control boards.

OK Bazaars food marketing director Mervyn Kraitzick said the minister should distinguish between manufacturing and production, and retailing.

There was no question that monopolies and oligopolies which dictated prices existed in the manufacturing and production sector.

SA in danger of 'drying up'

ALIDE DASNOIS
Weekend Argus Reporter

③ ARG 20/6/92

SOUTHERN Africa will run out of water long before it runs out of food, says Pick 'n Pay chairman Mr Raymond Ackerman.

In a document prepared for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro last week, Mr Ackerman paints a gloomy picture of what Southern Africa will look like in the near future.

No more flushing toilets, no more private swimming pools, water quotas for houses with automatic cut-off systems and big irrigation problems for farming.

Southern Africa is mostly dry country and likely to get even dryer with global warming.

Even if all rainfall could be collected, and industrial and sewerage water recycled, at present rates of population growth southern African countries will run out of water in less than 100 years, says Mr Ackerman.

Water engineers estimate 2050 as the crunch year. He says: "Flood and overhead irrigation farming will be outlawed, and even micro-jet irrigation may not be acceptable".

Dry-season watering of gardens and sports fields will be banned, baths are likely to go out of fashion, and in the kitchen people will have to resort to steam cooking.

By the year 2000, coastal cities like Cape Town and Durban will be planning water desalination plants "on a scale never attempted anywhere else in the world", he says.

Mogopa land return victory (3) Gen

THE Mogopa community, who were forcibly removed from two farms near Ventersdorp in 1984, will have one of the farms, Zwartland, restored to them. *Cipres 21/6/92*

Since 1984 they have battled with the government to regain the farms. In 1988 about 200 families re-occupied Zwartland "illegally" as squatters. The State has retained ownership of the other farm, Hartebeeslaagte.

Surplus

A senior economist says SA should be able to import its maize needs this year and still maintain a surplus on the balance of payments, but added that access to IMF finance could mean that a final arrangement could be reached with foreign bankers on the debt standstill.

"Access to IMF finance would be a signal to the banking community that international banking relations have been normalised.

"If the debt standstill could be finalised, the outlook for 1993 brightens considerably," he says.

SA is in line for massive drought funds from IMF

S/Time (BUSS) 21/6/92

(3) con

By KEVIN DAVIE

THE International Monetary Fund has initiated a massive drought relief programme which could give South Africa access to billions of rands in loan credits.

IMF MD Michel Camdessus has identified SA as one of 13 countries blighted by the drought, which he describes as "probably the worst in 100 years".

Southern Africa, Camdessus says in a statement to the IMF's policy making interim committee, needs grain imports of \$1.4-billion to \$2-billion because

of the drought. South Africa accounted for "somewhat less than half this amount". His statement quantifies South Africa's expected maize imports at four to five million tons, or \$583-million to \$728-million. This is 46% to 57% of SA's total funding quota which it can draw from the IMF.

South Africa has a balance of payments surplus and so is not eligible for normal IMF finance. But sources close to both government and the IMF say SA could access a special fund which fi-

naoces temporary problems caused by loss of revenue on grain exports or additional costs incurred through increased grain imports.

Member countries can apply for up to 83% of their quota in terms of this special facility. In SA's case, this is 83% of 915 SDR's (special drawing rights), about R2.8-billion.

The sources say the effects of the drought will be assessed by an IMF mission in August during their annual review of the economy.

Mr Camdessus identified SA's key role in the drought-relief programme.

"Importation would depend upon access to SA's infrastructure such as ports, storage and transport systems."

South Africa has been denied access to IMF finance since the early 80s as a US law, the Gramm Amendment, has required its representative at the IMF to block loans to the apartheid regime.

Criteria

But US President George Bush issued a statement in February saying the US wanted to be as helpful as possible in promoting a healthy economy in SA. "We would therefore be prepared to consider an IMF facility, subject to the Gramm Amendment."

During the same month, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Hank Cohen, said he did not believe that the criteria demanded by the Gramm Amendment would be "any problem at all".

Reserve Bank Governor Dr Chris Stals says that, since IMF programmes typically run for three to five years, the IMF preferred to do deals with governments which it believed would be around for that duration.

He says an application from an interim authority in SA would make it "easier for us and for the IMF".

A source close to the IMF says the interim committee had responded to Mr Camdessus' April statement by agreeing to provide policy advice and financial assistance on highly concessional terms. The source says an application by SA would be "a matter of judgment for the SA government".

Reinsurers anxiously await end of drought conditions

81 Day 22/6/92
 FAR from being worried by the drought, SA's R783m reinsurance industry's main concern is what happens when the dry conditions break.

Industry spokesmen said resultant hail and floods were likely to result in heavy claims.

SA Reinsurance Officers Association (Saroa) chairman Lenz Keel said:

"The industry has not suffered directly because of the drought, although it has, of course, suffered from the overall drought-related recessionary conditions."

Of more concern to reinsurers was when the drought ended, with floods likely because rainfall would be less easily absorbed into the ground.

Research had shown also that the hail which fell immediately after a period of drought was more damaging and more frequent, he said.

Keel, who is also Swiss-SA reinsurance MD, said reinsurers insured against "catastrophes", the main ones being hail, fire and floods.

Keel said: "Reinsurance is by its nature a cyclical industry — premium rates are currently low because there have not been any major fire or weather-related claims for some years."

3 Gen
MICK ELLINGHAM

However, extensive flood or hail damage claims would probably cause rates to harden.

The seven non-life reinsurance companies which operated in SA showed a total profit of R51,7m in 1990, despite making a R27,5m underwriting loss.

Cologne Reinsurance GM Herbert Ingenillem said: "The drought has been good for us, as it has meant no flooding and little hail damage."

Costly

"The worst months for hail damage to cars on the Reef are normally November and February, but this year comparatively little hail damage occurred."

No major "catastrophe" claims were made last year, reflecting well on Cologne's bottom line.

However, if rain were to follow the current drought, the consequences would be costly for reinsurers, Ingenillem said.

Hollandia Reinsurance MD Steve Murphy, too, was concerned as to the implications of possible flooding after the country's drought ended.

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Farm losses cut GDP by R3bn

6/Day 22/6/92

③ Gen

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Agricultural production losses caused by drought would slash the gross domestic product (GDP) by an estimated R3bn in 1992-93, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said in Somerset West at the weekend.

Van Niekerk said the entire national economy would be adversely affected by the loss.

The impact on the farming industry would be particularly severe against a background of two previous years of financial stress and setbacks, the Minister said.

Last year the gross agricultural income stood at R21,3bn — an increase of 5,4% on the previous year. But the net income declined by 9,1% to about R5,4bn.

Spending on inputs had soared by R910m.

The losses also had an impact on income in those sectors which were dependent on farming activities.

Van Niekerk said this showed that where government gave government financial support "stretched far beyond the farm gate".

Referring specifically to the wool industry, Van Niekerk said production had decreased dramatically because of drought.

It fell by 23,5% to 77,7-million kilograms — the lowest since 1924.

Over the past three years the clip averaged between 90-million and 100-million kilograms.

The drought, Van Niekerk said, would adversely influence production for another two seasons. For the coming season the Wool Board estimated an even smaller clip of 73,5-million kilograms.

The dramatic decrease in the current clip had far-reaching implications for the entire wool industry.

Rural community problems in turn exacerbated the urban squatter problem, industries and the general infrastructure of the country.

On wool's prospects in the coming season, Van Niekerk said the International Wool Secretariat claimed short-term advantage would come from the re-entry of China to the market and the opening of new markets in Korea, Taiwan and South China. Australia's large stocks would influence prices for at least another two years.

□ GAVIN DU VENAGE reports the Maize Board is to give a series of countrywide talks explaining how it plans to deal with the drought.

Board GM P J Cowrie will outline strategy up to the year 2000.

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Whites' paradise is parched, barren

Southan 23/6/92

③ Gen

SOUTH Africa's remote north-western Cape Province is hot, parched and barren, but Afrikaner separatists see it as a potential paradise for whites.

Probably unique in Africa, it is an area where blacks are a minority. The only problem for the Afrikaners is that whites are, too.

The majority here are the coloureds, children of inter-marriage between white settlers, indigenous San tribesmen, Malayan slaves and various other groups.

"We will have to negotiate re-settlement of the coloureds," said Professor Carel Boshoff, a leading would-be white secessionist.

Boshoff has already created a whites-only settlement at the abandoned construction town of Orania, far away on the banks of the Orange River near Kimberley.

But he dreams of a state extending 800km west along the river to the Atlantic coast.

"The exact boundaries are still to be negotiated, but we take the river as our starting point and potential economic backbone," Boshoff said.

A visitor to the main towns of the region - Upington, Pofadder and Springbok - sees plenty of coloureds, a few whites, and no blacks.

"You know, blacks are not interested in this area," said estate agent Mr Boet van Rooyen in the town of Redelinghuys.

"On the black television channel, they don't even include it in their weather maps."

Van Rooyen said whites in the Transvaal were showing increasing interest in property in the area because it had escaped the crime and violence engulfing their towns and cities.

Not all whites in the sparsely-

FOCUS

populated region of vast livestock ranches want to turn it into a Boers-only homeland.

"A couple of people here want that, but we tell them to go and live in Orania," said Mr Koos Louw, a white sheep farmer from Pofadder, a town named after a snake.

"We get on well with our coloureds, we respect each other as human beings. Our coloureds are clean people and they keep their houses neat."

Some farmers in the district refused to acknowledge that apartheid was dying, Louw said.

"They did not want to have a public hiking trail across their properties because they were afraid blacks would use it."

Coloured petrol station attendant Mr Johannes Basson said he had travelled the whole country but would always come back to Pofadder.

"We have no trouble here, everyone lives together peacefully. The only problem is the doctor."

The town doctor has established a branch of the white-supremacist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging which also wants a whites-only state.

Asked recently where he would draw his borders, AWB leader Mr Eugene TerreBlanche said: "We draw no boundaries. Our state will be the battleground where we fight for our land."

The Conservative Party, which most mainstream rightwing whites support, scaled down the projected



CAREL BOSHOFF

size of its proposed white-rule state after a resounding defeat in the reform referendum last March.

It used to say it would begin negotiating from the boundaries of the present white South Africa, excluding the black homelands which occupy 13 percent of the land. Now it wants only the constituencies it holds in parliament.

The CP still balks at joining Codesa where the Government and black opposition are hammering out a transition to non-racial rule.

Boshoff is one of the few advocates of secession to have taken his proposals to Codesa.

"We only want limited participation to present our plan for a white state, we don't want to get involved in negotiating a constitution for the new South Africa," he said.

He believes a separate white state in the north-west Cape could be economically viable.

Apart from the river's largely untapped irrigation potential, the region has copper and mineral deposits, alluvial diamonds and some tourist potential based on the desert's spectacular wild-flower display in spring. - *Sapa-Reuters*.

Keys calls top-level meeting on food prices

B(Paw) 23/6/92

3 Gen

FINANCE Minister Derek Keys has called a top-level meeting in Pretoria this morning with leading food retailers and manufacturers to investigate soaring food prices.

Private sector delegates attending the meeting include Pick 'n Pay food director Sean Summers, Premier CE Peter Wrighton, Tiger Oats executive director Hamish McBain and Shoprite/Checkers MD Whitey Basson. Department of Trade and Industry director-general Stef Naudé and Board on Tariffs and Trade (BTT) CEO Ruel Heyns will represent the public sector. Central Statistical Service head Treurnicht du Toit is also expected to attend.

The Finance Department and private sector representatives would not comment yesterday on the aim of the meeting.

Sources said the meeting reflected Keys's serious attitude to inflation.

The meeting would probably be used to discuss and decide on an agenda to combat spiralling food prices. Summers said the Minister had called the meeting in reaction to the calls by Pick 'n Pay and Premier for

SHARON WOOD

a food price summit in August.

That meeting is scheduled to take place before the release of the full BTT food price investigation, expected in September.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) yesterday informed the BTT chairman in writing of its objection to the board's recently released discussion document on food prices.

GERALD REILLY reports that SAAU president Boet Fourie said the report would be discussed urgently with the SAAU's affiliates at a commodity conference in Pretoria on Saturday.

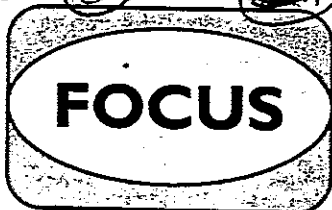
The SAAU has told the BTT that the discussion document's findings and recommendations either contradicted the information available or used it selectively. Many important findings were ignored in the recommendations, it claims.

The document was also strongly biased against statutory marketing arrangements and marketing boards.

Whites' paradise is parched, barren

Southan 23/6/92

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SOUTH Africa's remote north-western Cape Province is hot, parched and barren, but Afrikaner separatists see it as a potential paradise for whites.

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Some farmers in the district refused to acknowledge that apartheid was dying, Louw said.

"They did not want to have a public hiking trail across their properties because they were afraid blacks would use it."

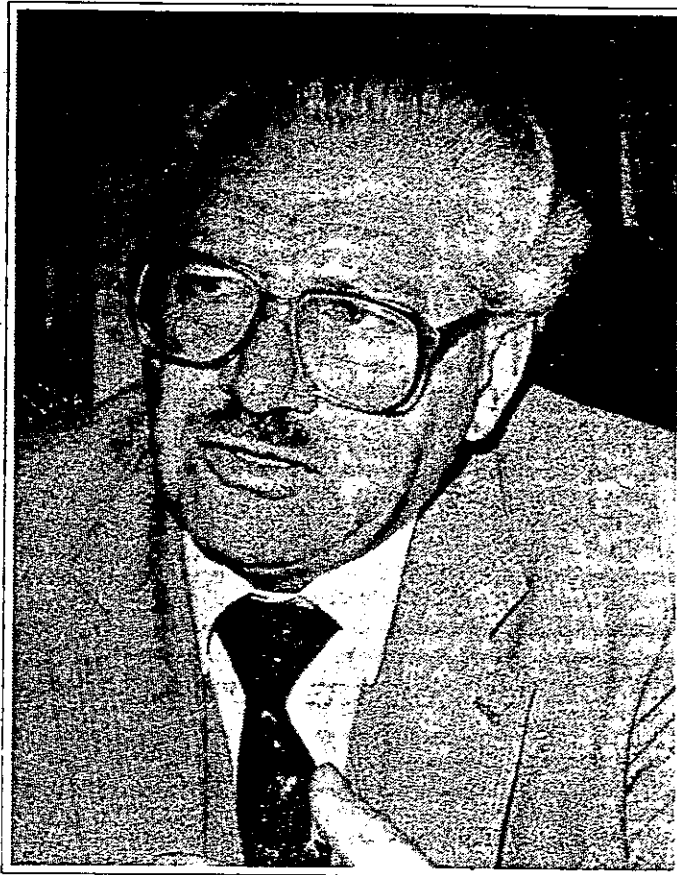
Coloured petrol station attendant Mr Johannes Basson said he had travelled the whole country but would always come back to Pofadder.

"We have no trouble here, everyone lives together peacefully. The only problem is the doctor."

The town doctor has established a branch of the white-supremacist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging which also wants a whites-only state.

Asked recently where he would draw his borders, AWB leader Mr Eugene TerreBlanche said: "We draw no boundaries. Our state will be the battleground where we fight for our land."

The Conservative Party, which most mainstream rightwing whites support, scaled down the projected



CAREL BOSHOFF

size of its proposed white-rule state after a resounding defeat in the reform referendum last March.

It used to say it would begin negotiating from the boundaries of the present white South Africa, excluding the black homelands which occupy 13 percent of the land. Now it wants only the constituencies it holds in parliament.

The CP still balks at joining Codesa where the Government and black opposition are hammering out a transition to non-racial rule.

Boshoff is one of the few advocates of secession to have taken his proposals to Codesa.

"We only want limited participation to present our plan for a white state, we don't want to get involved in negotiating a constitution for the new South Africa," he said.

He believes a separate white state in the north-west Cape could be economically viable.

Apart from the river's largely untapped irrigation potential, the region has copper and mineral deposits, alluvial diamonds and some tourist potential based on the desert's spectacular wildflower display in spring. - *Sapa-Reuter*.

STAR 23/6/92.

Committee to control land sales

By Jo-Anne Collinge

In the light of claims for land restoration by victims of racial property laws, State departments wanting to sell their land will soon be obliged to obtain the approval of an inter-departmental committee constituted by Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Johan Scheepers.

"State-owned land can no longer, as was the case in the past, simply be alienated for whatever purpose," Mr

Scheepers said in an interview in the July issue of the Government publication, RSA Policy Review.

In many cases the State had retained ownership of land from which blacks were removed in the 1960s, '70s and early '80s.

Already, other State departments had been "expressly" informed that the Department of Regional and Land Affairs and the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation should be "consulted to consider possi-

bilities for the use of State-owned land for development purposes before vacant and surplus land is disposed of".

Mr Scheepers said that although the Government did not intend a "comprehensive programme" to restore land to victims of forced removals, it believed that restitution of tenure rights which had been violated in "the enforcement of apartheid legislation of the past, could be considered in cases where the land is still in possession of the State.

Another dry year 'will spell ruin'³

Blom 25/6/92
PRETORIA — This summer's crop would be absolutely the last throw of the dice for about 3 500 drought-battered maize farmers, Nampo said yesterday.

Government disaster aid had enabled them to raise funds to plant the new crop, but if there was another drought year ahead "those hanging by a financial thread will be out of the industry for good".

Nampo estimated that to plant and grow the crop over an area of 3-million hectares would cost up to R2,5bn, including fertiliser, pesticide, labour, tractor spares and repairs.

Nampo economist Kit le Clus said government aid would benefit farmers to the extent of R270/ha. However, it cost about R550 to plant a hectare. A complication for many was the abolition of carryover debt interest subsidy.

To service the massive debt and get some return, favourable growing conditions and an average or above-average crop were essential.

□ A Wits University meteorological division spokesman said weather patterns followed 18-year cycles, with nine dry years and nine wet.

The 1970s were wet, the 1980s dry and the 1990s should be wet.

But with El Nino last year there was a hiccup in the pattern.

"If the Pacific currents warm up there is trouble ahead and a continuation of last year's drought becomes a

GERALD REILLY

real threat," the spokesman said.

Assessment of an El Nino threat could not be made until November.

Meanwhile, Sapa-AFP reports from Nairobi that the US is to donate an additional 500 000 tons of maize to southern Africa. US agriculture department official John Miranda told the 18th meeting of the UN World Food Council that the US had so far pledged more than 60% of all assistance to southern African nations affected by the drought.

The latest donation brought the total US food aid commitment to the region to about 1,5-million tons, worth \$500m. The UN estimated that 18-million people in the region were threatened with starvation.

"Dealing with the emergency in southern Africa needs to be a top priority," Miranda said. He urged parties in Africa's civil wars to give safe passage to food aid and said governments and relief agencies had to work together to target vulnerable groups and unblock logistical bottlenecks in food distribution.

Southern Africa needed to import about 4-million tons of cereals. The UN launched an appeal on June 1 for more than \$800m of aid.

Food council delegates were to discuss global food stocks, the need for a "green revolution" in Africa, domestic food security policies and global trade, officials said.

BUSINESS

Free the markets, urges BTT

w/ mail 19/6 - 25/6/92.

THE long-awaited government study of food prices comes down heavily in favour of deregulation. Its stance is strongly against intervention, such as control boards represent, and in favour of free market solutions.

The Board on Tariffs and Trade (BTT), which undertook the study, issued a preliminary report last week.

As reasons for persistent food price inflation above the rate of general inflation the board rounded up some of the usual suspects.

It mentions wage increases which outpaced productivity improvements, hijackings, removal of subsidies, indirect taxes like Value-Added Tax on food, regulation and marketing board-administered schemes to drain off excess food production.

The board found it impossible to identify specific culprits abusing special privileges. But it did find concentration at agricultural board and processing levels.

"The fact that cost increases can be readily passed on to the consumer seems to indicate a lack of effective competition in certain areas."

The report clears farmers themselves, and it does not make any arguments for breaking up

(3) Gen ~~(4) Gen~~

Agricultural control boards are not the only villains of the food price spiral. Deregulation and breaking down of concentrations are needed, the recent government report found. By REG RUMNEY

as being at the root of the concentration. "It is at the intermediate levels of crop purchase and storage, primary processing and wholesale distribution that concentration tends to be greatest.

"Significantly, it is also at this level that intervention is most common. In the BTT's opinion this intervention increases concentration more often than it disperses it."

The BTT goes on to say that *concentration stemming from control boards contributed to further upstream concentration.*

In the course of its investigation the board has taken a close look at profit margins and returns in various parts of the food chain. But

it urges circumspection about this statistical evidence, arguing that conclusions on efficiency, exploitation, or fairness cannot be arrived at by studying statistics alone.

This could be aimed at among others arguments put forward by the big retailers that their low margins showed they were not exploiting the consumer.

The board notes elsewhere the declining productivity of workers in food retailing, compared to wage rises. It also notes: "The co-operatives do virtually all the wheat storage. Only two companies distribute refined sugar. Seventy percent of maize milling is done by six major companies. About 85 percent of all dairy processing is done by seven major players. Approximately 63 percent of all fresh vegetables are sold on the 15 national markets."

The report does not single out the retail chains or the processors. It merely advocates removing barriers to competition, and identifies a wide variety of such barriers for consideration.

The board believes import tariffs should replace quotas to allow competition from food imports, and that eventually tariffs should only be used against dumping.

It recommends replacing minimum standards with a clear marking of quality and grade.

It urges that the scope of the Competition Board be broadened to that of an "ombudsman" to which anyone could appeal to remove competition-inhibiting laws, including health regulations.

Several issues are not fully dealt with, such as the effect of VAT and whether the official food price inflation figure correctly reflects what is happening to food prices, but the board promises to look at these as well.

●See PAGE 18

GDP to take a knock from drought

B (Sam) 26/6/92
THE drought could knock 1,8 percentage points off SA's gross domestic product this year, predicts the Reserve Bank in its latest quarterly bulletin.

In a special report on the macro-economic effects of the drought, the Bank assumes there will be a 14% decline in the value added by the agricultural sector during 1992.

The Bank points out that although the agricultural sector's contribution to GDP has declined continually from an average of 7,3% during the 1960s to 5,9% during the 1980s, the sector nevertheless still plays a very important role in the economy because of its interdependence in the economy.

Other industries which will be hit by the drought will be those processing agricultural products and manufacturers of livestock feed, fertilisers, insecticides, machinery and implements.

The direct impact of the drought on GDP is predicted to be one percent-

age point and the indirect effect to be 0,8 percentage points, the Bank estimates. *3 Gen*

The Bank also calculates that as a result of the drought, both private consumption expenditure and gross domestic fixed investment will be 0,5 percentage points lower this year.

The current account surplus on the balance of payments will be pulled down by about R1,2m, as a result of the combined effect of higher value of imports.

"The direct negative effect of R2,1bn on the current account balance as a result of the lower maize crop could be partly neutralised by a decline in imports because of the lower level of economic activity," it adds.

The average inflation rate will also be pushed up by about 0,8 percentage points as a result of the lower agricultural production and as many as

69 000 job opportunities may become redundant.

Available statistics indicate that the agricultural sector generated employment for approximately 1,2-million people in 1988 or 12% of the economically active population.

The current drought can cause an approximate loss of 49 000 job opportunities in the agricultural sector this year, it says. If farm labourers' dependents are also taken into account, 245 000 people in the agricultural sector will also be forced to find another livelihood.

"These results are applicable only to the formal sector of the economy and it can be assumed that the informal sector will have to absorb a sizeable number of the unemployed," the Bank says.

It concludes: "The drought is obviously far more severe than originally estimated and will be especially harmful to the producers of summer crops."

Undisputed capital of agricultural industry

ALTHOUGH a bustling business and administrative city, Pretoria is SA's undisputed agricultural capital. ^{(3) can}

It is home to almost 20 agricultural control boards, the head offices of government's agricultural bureaucracy and the SA Agricultural and Transvaal Agricultural Unions. Only a handful of boards are located in other centres. ^{BPC 26/6/72}

On the outskirts of the city are several agricultural research institutes, as well as academic departments at the University of Pretoria (UP) and the Pretoria Technikon.

Between them these various organisations employ thousands of people and make an important contribution to the city's economy.

Investigated

Professor in the UP's department of animal science, Gerrie Smith, recently headed a committee which investigated problems encountered by the agricultural industry.

A major problem for the industry had been access to and facilities at Pretoria's Wonderboom airport, but he added that these would be largely addressed by the council's R8m upgrading programme.

The committee investigated why the industry was so well located in Pretoria. Reasons given included proximity to government and other decision-makers and the proximity to markets and transport.

Despite the negative comments about the control boards' alleged role in price inflation contained in the Board on Tariffs and Trade report, Smith believes these organisations will continue to have an important role to play in their fields and in city's economy.

Drought batters 70 000 jobs

By Sven Lünsche

STAR 26/6/92

(3) Gen

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The devastating drought will severely dent economic growth this year and force 70 000 workers out of jobs in the agricultural and related sectors.

Using econometric models, the Reserve Bank estimates in its latest Quarterly Bulletin that agricultural production could decline by 14 percent this year.

However, the Bank warns that the damage caused by the drought will not only be limited to the agricultural sector but extend to secondary food-processing industries and suppliers to the sector.

A decline of 14 percent in agricultural production will lower the real GDP by about 1,8 percentage points, or roughly R4,55 billion, which represents a direct impact of one percentage point and an indirect impact of 0,8 percentage point."

Turning to the impact on employment, the Reserve Bank says that up to 50 000 jobs could be lost in the agricultural sector this year and up to 20 000 jobs in related sectors.

"Taking the farm labourers' dependants into account, up to 250 000 people will be forced to find another livelihood unless special assistance is made available to farmers."

The Bank calculates that inflation could be 0,8 percent higher because of lower production, although most food prices would probably rise faster. Meat prices tended to rise at a slower rate and could even decline, the Bank adds.

The drought will also have a adverse effect on the balance of payments as South Africa will be forced to import agricultural goods which it previously exported.

The Bank estimates that food valued at up to R500 million would have to be imported while the direct and indirect losses in export revenue could amount to R700 million — a net negative effect of R1,2 billion on

the current account.

● Mozambique is going through its worst drought in a century, the deputy head of the International Committee of the Red Cross relief division, Markus Dolder, said in Geneva yesterday.

Mr Dolder, returning from Maputo, said: "We were shocked by some parts of the country where the population is subsisting on berries and roots because the entire food crop was lost."

The Star Africa News Service reports that the drought is forcing peasant families to abandon their homes in the Massinga district. The exodus could swell the numbers of refugees in cities.

Drought grips the dry land

By MOSES MAMAILA

VILLAGERS at Maungani, one of the Northern-Transvaal villages wake up as early as 4 am to queue for the most potent and simple of all life-giving mutis - water.

Taps in the drought-devastated village outside Thohoyandou are only opened between 7 am and 10 am following "very strict" water cuts introduced in Venda.

Villagers reserve space

in the long queue carrying their 25-litre containers.

The situation in areas such as Muswodi village has dramatically worsened and residents there depend entirely on the supply provided by the government tankers.

Venda government spokesman Lt-Col Brian Du Toit could not say how much this was costing.

"We have bought many water tankers and we are improving 94 bore-

holes. Fifty more will be drilled soon," he said.

The drought has eroded the chauvinist view that it is a woman's job to fetch water. Men now take water containers with them.

A resident of Muswodi village recently told radio Thohoyandou that in his area they no longer wash themselves as the available water was used for cooking and drinking.

3) Gen
CIP/10/28/16/192

By SMITH RADINGWANA

No water for the people to drink

PRAYERS made them feel better, but they didn't bring rain.

Now the people are putting their hopes in a fancy rain machine.

Meanwhile, areas neighbouring the homeland are holding on to water reserves which the people of Sekhukhuni-land desperately need.

Vast areas of the homeland have been brought to breakpoint by the drought.

Attempts to pray for rain failed.

People are eagerly looking forward to crank up the rain machine bought by the late Dr CN Phathudi.

Residents in areas such as Mphanama, Radingwana, Madibaneng and

Malegale have to walk many kilometers to dig the ground to find water.

Mphanama villagers are forced to pay R2,50 for 25 litres.

A spokesman for Mphanama Civic Association, a Mr Segala, blamed the Lebowa government for being ignorant.

"We strongly urge the Lebowa government to feel sympathy for the Sekhukhuni-land people. Without water we cannot eat, walk or perform our daily work. Without water we cannot survive. Water is life," he said.

In a letter to the De-

partment of Agriculture, the MCA asked the minister to act quickly.

In response, the minister informed the civic that their letter had been referred to the deputy general director of the Department of Water Supply and Forestry.

In a meeting at Schoenot, it was suggested that the Lebowa government pressure the Groblersdal municipality to supply residents with water from Loskop Dam.

It was suggested that the Arabi, Olifant and Nkadimeng Dams should supply Sekhukhuni-land with water.

Now tourists flock to farms

By Monica Oosterbroek

Drought-hit farmers are converting their land into tourist attractions in a desperate bid to earn income and hold on to their properties.

As agricultural conditions in the country worsen, more and more local farmers are turning their homes into guest farms offering home-cooked meals, hospitality and fresh air.

SA Tourism Board statistics show that about 300 farmers, mainly in the drought-ravaged Transvaal, eastern Cape and Free State, have made their farms available and many more plan to follow suit.

And there may be cash in the farms as holidaymakers seek

out affordable travel destinations closer to home. Farm holidays can earn the farmer up to R10 000 a year.

The regional director of the SA Tourism Board in Bloemfontein, Fissie Zietsman, said about 20 farmers in the eastern Free State had already opened their homes, which overlook the Maluti mountains, to tourists. More farmers were inquiring about the concept.

He pointed out that farmers needed a licence if they provided holiday accommodation. Health inspectors needed to look over the premises. He also said the Hotel Standards Act was soon to be revised to include farm holidays, which

meant that high standards would be maintained.

Farmers did not have to make large financial outlays as most of the infrastructure was already available. Some farmers had renovated old farmhouses to rent out as self-catering accommodation. Others brought people into their homes and provided all meals and other comforts.

City-slickers could take refuge in a rural and peaceful environment and enjoy anything from hunting and fishing to hiking, horseriding, tennis and birdwatching, Mr Zietsman said. Some farmers' wives, living on farms on main routes, offered home-cooked lunches, which had proved very popular.

Farmers caught in cross-fire

③ Own Correspondent

DURBAN — A small white farming community in the Natal Midlands is on a tense war-footing — caught in the cross-fire of a power struggle for political control of the black people of the area.

A number of the farmers in the isolated valley about 15 km from Richmond, including former Natal rugby player Mort Mortassagne, have received death threats. Mr Mortassagne received another yesterday — and his death is said to be a matter of days away.

Virtually under siege, the farmers live in an area where gunfire across the valleys is an everyday sound and they and their families go about fully armed: the men go about their business armed with rifles over their shoulders and handguns holstered on their hips; their wives never leave their houses unarmed.

Not far away, a Durban man and his wife were shot at while driving their bakkie on the Ixopo-Richmond road — an incident typical of what the people in the district have come to expect. Revenge attacks on blacks appear to be common, as are arson, stock theft and intimidation aimed at the white farmers.

Farm labourers have been threatened with death if they go on working for one of the farmers.

A major target of the political struggle in the area is the black Gengensche location. The people living there — most of whom are sympathetic to Inkatha — are living under virtual siege. In one of the latest incidents, an attack by men armed with AK-47 assault rifles was carried out in Gengensche on Saturday, killing two of the inhabitants and wounding 10.

In a follow-up to that attack, one of the well-known black men in the area employed by Mr Mortassagne as a driver, Isgovuza Mathula, was shot dead in the car park of Edendale Hospital on Sun-



Armed ... farmer and former Natal rugby player Mort Mortassagne and his wife Maureen next to their armoured Ribbok vehicle, with their children Pierre and Richard.
Picture: John Woodroof

day when he went there to fetch the wounded.

And one of the wounded, who had been too afraid to remain at Edendale Hospital, was travelling to another area to recuperate through Richmond yesterday when he was spotted and knifed so badly that he was readmitted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Mr Mortassagne said he had come under fire three times since October, and now had heard through the grapevine that propaganda was being put out that he was the main cause of the unrest in the area because of his support for Inkatha.

He had been told previously that he would not live to see Christmas — now the word was that his death was only a matter of days away, he said.

He said he was not a supporter of Inkatha, but helped the people of Gengensche only because they were his neighbours and some of them worked for him.

His wife Maureen said: "I am not happy any more. I love this place, but every day when I go to work, I do not know whether I'll come back to find my family alive."

For safety's sake, the Mortassagne family, including small sons Pierre and Ri-

chard, travel in a Ribbok armoured vehicle which Mr Mortassagne bought at an auction. He never leaves his family at home alone.

Another person who has received a death threat is local storekeeper Jacque de Bruin, who trucks food into beleaguered Gengensche because the Inkatha people there are no longer able to go into Richmond to do their shopping. If they do, their lives are in danger. Even the pensioners have to have their pensions brought to them on the farms.

The small white farming community, banded together as the Tolweni Fire Cell —

formed initially to fight fires — protect themselves, with two-way radio links, "safe rooms in their homes, and panic buttons which set off sirens. Everyone is armed. The farmers make regular night patrols, keeping a record of vehicles coming into the area and checking people out at night on foot.

"We are determined to stand firm. Their aim is to break up our community, to fragment it. If they succeed, our farms will become worthless and we'll have to leave with nothing but the shirts on our backs. That is what they want," said one.

THE DROUGHT (3) Gen
Shrinking GDP FM 317192

The drought could reduce agricultural GDP by 14% in real terms this year to trigger losses in other sectors of the economy and affect the taxpayer for years as government grants aid to the drought-stricken. Reserve Bank econometricians Coen Pretorius and Daleen Smal reveal this in a *Quarterly Bulletin* study of macro-economic effects of the drought.

It presents two options. A baseline simulation assumes value added by the agricultural sector will continue on its long-term trend — a growth rate of 2,5%. The alternative, which takes the drought into consideration, assumes the 14% decline.

This simulation produces GDP for 1992 which, in real terms, is 1,8% lower than in the first option. In nominal terms this would amount to R4,6bn.

Of the 1,8%, one percentage point will be the direct result of lower farm output and the rest is the result of linkages with other sectors: a fall in deliveries of agricultural products to the manufacturing sector and the agricultural sector's reduced buying power for goods and services.

The drought will have a negative impact of R1,2bn on the current account of the balance of payments for 1992. Though SA will have to import an estimated R1,7bn of maize in

1992, this will be offset by a R1,2bn decrease in nonagricultural imports "as a result of lower domestic demand." Exports will decline by R700m — R365m lost in maize exports and R335m through "linkages with other sectors."

The study notes, however, that maize accounts for only 1% of total exports compared with 4% in the early Seventies. So "the impact of the current drought on the total value of merchandise exports may be smaller than in previous periods."

The study estimates that the CPI will be 0,8 of a percentage point higher as a result of declines in the volume of agricultural output.

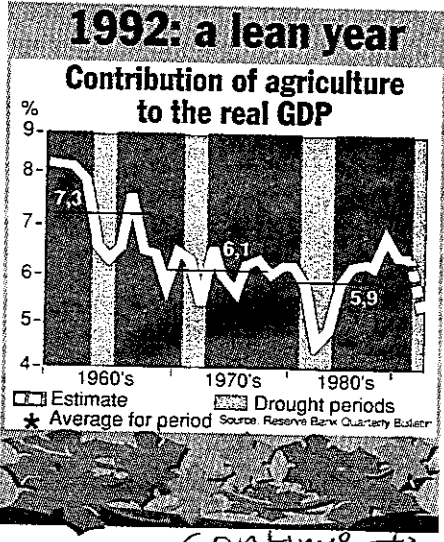
Employment will be hard hit by the drought. In contrast with previous droughts, when "attempts were made to keep permanent employees on the farms and ... farmers usually receive(d) aid from government to support them during these periods," the current drought will see many permanent as well as contractual and seasonal employees lose their jobs.

Assuming there is no aid, about 49 000 jobs are expected to be lost in farming and, with dependants taken into account, 245 000 people in the sector will lose their source of livelihood. In addition, 20 000 jobs will be shed in related sectors.

The fiscus, which will have to provide assistance to farmers over the next three years, will face lower revenues from these sectors.

The study says this will result in increases in the deficit before borrowing. It notes that "if the 1992/1993 Budget did not have to provide for R1bn aid to the agricultural community ... the budgeted deficit before borrowing of almost R16bn, or 4,5% of GDP, would have been R15bn or 4,3% of GDP."

- The alternative simulation in 1992 is:
- Real disposable income will fall 1,8%;
 - Real private consumption expenditure will decline 0,5%;
 - Personal savings will drop by R2,9bn;
 - Gross domestic saving will be reduced by 5%; and
 - Gross domestic fixed investment will fall R230m or 0,5%.



Continue →

Namaqualand farmers are finally learning how best to use their land again after a court ruling the overturned its subdivision and renting out by the government.

Kate de Selincourt

reports: (3) Gen
South 417-8/7192

COMMUNAL farming for some means a system doomed to chaos where nobody has control over land and resources. Yet in Namaqualand, communities are returning to this system after four years of reluctant private ownership — and are now deriving more from the land than ever before.

In the early eighties, the government announced the communal farming system in the "coloured" reserves of Namaqualand had to go, as it was "outdated" and "backward". The land was divided, fenced and rented out to those few people who had capital or stock. Most of the land went to those with other sources of income, like teachers, shopkeepers and civil servants.

In the Kamiesberg region, just south of Springbok, 30 of the 47 units were rented out to 74 private farmers — the other 200 poorer farmers had to squeeze their herds on to the remaining units, which meant less land to grow crops. The animals quickly overgrazed the restricted pasture, and most died of hunger. Others were impounded when they strayed on to private pasture, and their owners fined.

The reasoning was that in private hands the land would be used better and farming would be more "profitable" and "efficient". Displaced farmers were expected to be employed as labourers by the new owners, or to find jobs elsewhere.

What eventually happened was that people lost control of the resource that fed them since time immemorial. Not only did families lose their animals' meat and milk — they also lost access to medicinal herbs, wild fruits, leaves, roots and firewood.

With poverty came TB — six

families were affected. Previously there was only one recorded case. Operation Hunger and the Red Cross were asked to help.

As money became more important, differing financial status divided the community for the first time.

Men left the village to work in the mines, while mothers were left to cope alone for months on end.

The community did not take this lying down. According to local legend, three shepherds walked the 600km to Cape Town to seek legal advice. Their effort paid off. In a Supreme Court ruling in 1988, the privatisation of the land was overturned on a technicality, and the land returned to the community. Since the ruling, other Namaqualand communities also had land-division decisions overturned and

communal farming restored.

The acute poverty began to be reversed, but it was not easy.

Now that the land has been returned, the community is having to rethink how best to use it.

They had to find ways for a growing population to improve their standard of living and to restore the damage done by the imposition of four years of "economic units". Fortunately, doors to new ideas and working methods opened for the community.

Initiatives are co-ordinated by the democratically-run Kamiesberg Development Association (KDA). KDA members facilitate discussions among the farmers.

At one meeting, for example, they discussed some ewes bought with money lent to the KDA. Ten farm-

ers are farming with these animals on a trial basis — they are a new breed to the area and will hopefully produce more valuable lambs while putting less pressure on the veld. One of the risks is the loss of these animals before they have paid for themselves. This happened to a farmer and ways were discussed of how best to carry the loss.

At other meetings a communal garden was planned, spinning and weaving sessions organised and plans to set up a tannery discussed.

KDA is considering buying a lorry to take animals and produce to market without having to hire one. If equipment is owned by the community, fees paid for its hire may be used to acquire more equipment.

A priority is to restore land dam-

aged by overgrazing. Here it is normal for stock to be moved from place to place to make the best use of sparse vegetation.

Even before privatisation, the land was overgrazed. When privatisation occurred, the division of the land and stock overcrowding had disastrous environmental consequences. With the edible plants destroyed, the area was overrun by renosterbos.

The KDA is investigating ways of clearing the renosterbos — finding an unlikely ally in the Department of Agriculture's Directorate of Resource Conservation.

The Kamiesberg development philosophy is simple, said Mr Louis van Wyk of the KDA. "Only the people can develop themselves. Nobody else can do it for them."



WINNOWING: Namaqualand farmers shedding 'reluctant' private ownership for communal farming

Photo: Paul Grendon

Breakdown in Cosatu's talks with farmers' union

^{5/10/92 7/1/92}
PRETORIA — Negotiations between the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and Cosatu on the application of the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act to farm workers have stalled after months of fruitless meetings, SAAU deputy director Kobus Kleynhans said yesterday. ^{3 Gen}

Cosatu had cancelled two meetings, scheduled for June 8 and 18, he said. ^{AD}

"We do not know whether they intend coming back to the negotiating table, or whether there has been a total breakdown."

Kleynhans said the SAAU was uncertain whether Cosatu was the appropriate organisation to deal with on the future labour conditions of farm workers.

"We are looking at the possibility of speaking to and negotiating with other bodies, such as the tribal chiefs, who are more closely in touch with farm work-

GERALD REILLY

ers than Cosatu, political parties and the Rural Foundation. ^{AD}

On the legislative amendments passed by Parliament last session to include farm workers in the Unemployment Insurance Act, Kleynhans said the SAAU was negotiating with the Manpower Department to have promulgation of the amendment postponed until the year's end. ^{AD}

"Then, we believe, other 12 months should be allowed for the 65 000 farmers involved to re- ^{AD} in terms of the legislation."

On the other controversial amendment accepted by Parliament — the application of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farm workers — Kleynhans said this was opposed by the SAAU and the majority of farmers.

Friday 9/7/92

MEREDITH JENSEN

THE drought has prompted the Agriculture Department to advise game farmers in the northern and eastern Transvaal to cull up to 60% of their game.

Specialist extension officer Hym Ebedes of the department's Transvaal region said animals could be expected to die from mid-July. Animals in search of food were trampling topsoil, putting it in danger of being washed away when the spring rains came. It would take years for perennial grasses to reappear. (3) Gen

Sabi Sabi game reserve GM Michel Girardin said the reserve planned a major culling operation.

Twenty of Sabi's 40 white rhino had been sold. The rest might be relocated to Ka-

Game farmers told to cull 60% of stock

Ngwane Parks until conditions improved.

Satour executive director Spencer Thomas maintained a positive outlook. "There have been severe droughts in the past and places like Kruger have never closed down for business."

However, if the drought were to persist, SA would be faced with a situation that could have an adverse affect on tourism.

Kruger Park executive director Salomon Joubert said Kruger had no plans for additional culling. "Periods of both drought and excessive rainfall are natural phenomena where fluctuations in the numbers of animals occur."

Disaster looms as water ³ levels fall

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Disaster conditions were looming in several regions as dam levels sank below the critical 20% capacity level.

Life-threatening situations were expected to develop soon in some areas, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs said yesterday.

Areas worst hit by the drought were the far Northern Transvaal, the Western Transvaal, the Eastern Cape and the Little Karoo.

Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu were also "very critical".

Emergency measures included the use of water tankers and temporary pipelines.

"The situation is particularly critical in the Eastern Cape's Gamtoos River Valley (10% of capacity), the Komati River and in the Njelele area (near Messina) where disaster conditions are threatening," the statement said.

This meant lives would be at risk.

The Water Affairs statement said most of the major metropolitan areas had satisfactory water supplies.

Drought may be worst in history

STAR 1017192 (3) CEN

By Monica Oosterbroek

Human lives are being threatened and thousands of animals will have to be culled as rural areas in South Africa face critical water shortages and possibly the worst drought in this country's history.

According to statistics released by the Department of Water Affairs, the situation is critical in the Njelele and Albasini areas in the far northern Transvaal and the Gamtoos River Valley in the eastern Cape.

Major rivers such as the Limpopo, Komati, Crocodile, Sabie, Vaal, Orange, Modder and Caledon have already stopped flowing.

Disastrous conditions threaten rural communities living beside dried-up rivers.

Apart from the danger of starvation and dehydration, the lack of flowing water could cause fatal diseases like cholera and dysentery, a spokesman for

the Department of Water Affairs said.

The situation, caused by very low rainfalls and a particularly long and hot summer, had also critically affected Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu and emergency measures were being implemented.

Emergency steps, including the use of water tankers and temporary pipelines, were being taken in some areas.

Culling

Technically, it would be possible to supply water by means of transfer schemes but, apart from the socio-political problems that would arise, the cost was prohibitively high, the spokesman said.

Game farmers in the northern Transvaal have been advised by the Department of Agricultural Development to cull up to 80 percent of their animals to prevent starvation and erosion.

A spokesman for the department, Dr Hym Ebedes, said there was no grazing left and artificial feed supplies were dwindling fast. Fodder and lucerne were being snapped up by cattle and sheep farmers and there was little left for game.

If not culled now, the animals could die in the critical months of August and September before the first rains, Dr Ebedes said.

Animals in search of food were already trampling topsoil, raising the possibility of severe erosion when the rainy season begins late in the year, he warned.

The exclusive Sabi Sabi game reserve in the parched north-east plans a major culling operation and has sold 20 of its 40 white rhino because of the drought.

The PWV area is not expected to suffer any water restrictions in the foreseeable future. The dam levels of the Vaal River system are lower than usual but still 61 percent full.

Development in rural areas is a priority

STAR 10/7/92

The relationship between population growth and living standards has been clearly demonstrated worldwide where the total fertility rate (TFR) of women in impoverished and undeveloped areas is generally higher than that of women in developed areas.

In urban areas, where the standard of living is on the whole higher, the average birth rate is three per woman. In rural areas this climbs to an average of nearly six per woman.

Clearly part of the solution to the population crisis is to work at improving the living standard of all the people, but particular emphasis must be placed on rural development for it is in here that the greatest poverty and lowest living standards are experienced.

Lack of development in rural areas in most African countries has led to increased movement of people to the cities, which creates its own problems — lack of housing and unemployment.

Those left behind on the land are caught up in a web of poverty exacerbated by malnutrition, low productivity, and a decrease in agricultural production, of which high birth and death rates are a feature.

It is imperative that living standards in rural areas are urgently improved and that support is given to programmes for rural development.

There are nearly 6 million people living on farms in South Africa in a largely Third World environment. These people, mostly farm labourers and their families are in most cases totally dependent on the farmers. An estimated 80 percent of farm workers can neither read nor write and there is limited access to schools, clinics and training centres. Compounding the problem is the high birth rate of an average of 5.2 children per woman.

With its aim being to improve the standard of living of farm labourers and their dependants, the SA Agricultural Union established the Rural Foundation, which concentrates on practical programmes to improve the quality of life of the workers and aid them in becoming more self-sufficient.

With the co-operation of farmers and their wives, a wide variety of courses can be initiated on farms. These include literacy courses, health counselling and family planning.

Advice on family planning

STAR 10/7/92

The Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa offers an advice service to the public. Its motto: "Small families have big plans for the future", fittingly supports the advantages of small families. However, the organisation stresses its belief that the decision for sterilisation must be

completely voluntary.

The association offers free advice on both male and female sterilisation and will happily answer any questions people might ask.

For more information contact them at (011) 880-2643 or at Box 41636 Craighall 2024.

Women hold key to world development

STAR 10/7/92

The status of women is a determining factor in any population-development programme, and the influence a woman can exert on the family is largely determined by her level of education.

In Africa, and in many developing countries around the world, the status of women and recognition for the role they play in the community, is so low that they form part of the syndrome labelled the "feminisation of poverty".

It is a sad fact that instead of becoming part of the solution, women still remain part of the problem, often through no fault of their own.

This will continue until attitudes towards women, particularly in rural areas, change.

The international conference on "Population Development in the 21st Century", held in Amsterdam in Holland in 1989, issued a declaration which called for the recognition of women as central to the development process.

It stated that the improvement of "their status and the extent to which they are free to make decisions affecting their lives and that of their families will be crucial in determining the future population-growth rates".

According to The State of the World Population 1992, a report issued by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in April, economic growth and improvement in the quality of life have been faster in those areas of the world where women enjoy a higher status.

Women's health and nutri-

tional state during pregnancy and breastfeeding affect the health of the child; and their education and degree of control over family resources affects the child's mental and physical development.

Discrimination against women is still common in many societies, but more particularly in traditional communities.

Women are still often regarded as "poor investments" when it comes to education and this is highlighted by statistics.

In Africa the figures show that at primary school level there are 80 girls for every 100 boys. At secondary school level this drops to only 47 girls to 100 boys.

Female literacy in Africa is put at about 38 percent and out of the world's 949 million illiterates in 1985, nearly two thirds, or 592 million, are women.

In South Africa there are about 3 million women who cannot read or write.

In its booklet "Population Growth — a Critical Decade", the Department of Population Development suggests that certain factors are necessary to improve the status of women.

Their prime needs, it says, are:

- The opportunity to attend school.
- The opportunity to receive non-formal education though which they can acquire skills in areas such as nutrition, child care, domestic budget control and home industry.
- Job opportunities.
- Services and facilities such as child day-care facilities, access to clinics and family planning services.

A-assembled DAF
line 3.5-ton truck
initial

Business Report

Cape farmers buck the trend

③ CT 10/7/92

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

WHILE total debt of SA's agricultural sector was expected to soar to about R20bn this year, Western Cape farmers were bucking the trend, says Boland Bank economist Louis Fourie.

"Not only have they escaped the ravages of the drought, but increased export demand for their produce, which has resulted in little or no increase in the debt problem in this region," he said.

In Boland Bank's latest economic review of the agricultural sector Fourie says real agricultural production shrank by 7.4% and 1.3% during 1990 and 1991 respectively and preliminary indications were that production would shrink by a further 14% this year mainly as a result of the drought.

He said that pressure on the financial position of the farmer during the past two decades had directly affected the industry's debt repayment ability.

"In 1975 farmers were able to pay off their debts with about 1.4 years' farming income but the 1983/4 drought caused the ratio to weaken to 7.1 years in 1984.

"Following a considerable improvement in this indicator of repayment ability since 1986, a renewed weakening in this ratio is

becoming apparent and indications are it could rise to as high as five years within the next year due to relatively high interest rate levels, inflation and most importantly unfavourable weather conditions."

Fourie said of concern was the increase in the total short-term component of agricultural debt from 34.7% in 1975 to 55% in 1991.

A major cause of the increase in this debt ratio was to be found in the short-term credit granted against agricultural land as security.

"This situation is indeed one of the primary causes of the liquidity problem experienced by farmers since the late '80s as farming income had to be employed to redeem short-term interest."

While the contribution of the SA agricultural sector had declined materially over the past 30 years, its relative importance dared not be underestimated as it still provided a livelihood to between five to six million people, he said.

"Furthermore this sector is a major potential employer as an additional 67 people are employed for each extra output of R1m yielded by agriculture against 20 people per R1m extra output in the construction industry."

He said the multiplier effect of agriculture was also borne out by the fact that for each additional

agricultural production yield of R1m, additional production of R600 000 occurred in the remainder of the economy. This multiplier effect was likely to be even higher in rural areas.

In terms of short-term effects, the prevailing drought had caused a critical impact on the production capacity of the industry and its consequent ability to function as a national provider of food and employment, socio-economic stabiliser and foreign currency earner.

"However for the medium term there remain grounds for optimism particularly in the Western Cape. Export opportunities should broaden considerably within the next five years given the lifting of sanctions and renewed international growth and the movement towards more open agricultural markets. In addition more favourable producer price trends normally flourish in such an environment.

"Moreover, the sustained anti-inflation monetary policy is bound to bear fruit in the near future. This is sure to contribute substantially to getting agricultural input costs under control and creating a more sound basis for the financial position of the agricultural sector.

"However good rains during the rest of 1992 and 1993 are crucial," he said.

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Heavy stock losses as snow continues to fall

③ CT 11/8/92

EAST LONDON. — Over 1 000 angora goats died in the bitterly cold weather which accompanied the rain and snow in the Eastern Cape.

More losses are expected as mountains in the region are still covered in snow. The mountains were draped in their heaviest mantle of snow in years — up to 1,5m deep in places.

East Cape Agricultural Union manager Mr Rory O'Moore said he had received several reports of stock losses.

The situation had been aggravated by the fact that many angora goat farmers had shorn their animals last month while many others were at the start of their lambing season, he said.

Mr Louis de Jager of Koringdal in the Aberdeen district lost an estimated 1 000 angora goats. He had only finished shearing the animals last week.

Pearston farmer Mr Johan Greeff lost 80 new-born lambs and 20 adult goats, while Mr Jaq Troskie of Bas-

sonsberg near Somerset East also reported large numbers of animals freezing to death.

Natal was also freezing with more snow, fog and rain forecast.

Heavy snowfalls were reported by residents in the southern Drakensberg yesterday as temperatures plummeted to below freezing.

Farmers in eastern Swaziland also reported stock losses. The cattle had been weakened by the drought.

As water continued to flow into Port Elizabeth's main supply dams yesterday there was hope that the strict water restrictions may soon be changed.

By yesterday the total water capacity stood at 36,9% compared with 21,1% three weeks ago.

Gale-force winds are expected to lash the Peninsula today though the south-easter should have run out of steam by this evening. — Own Correspondent, Sapa

Home sweet hell!

SOUTH 11/7-15/7/92

3) Ben

There's a farm in Bellville which produces only human misery — hundreds of tenants are living there in unhygienic, overcrowded conditions and paying exorbitant rents.

REHANA ROSSOUW reports:

A CLOUD OF black flies hovers over the ablu-tion block in an old prison which houses more than a hundred families. The flies settle on mounds of refuse, overflowing toilets and small children's faces.

The stench is nauseating. The squalor and human misery is pitiful.

Morgan's Farm in Stikland, Bellville, is home to more than 300 people who pay exorbitant rents for minimal shelter.

The old prison on the farm, which does not seem to have seen a lick of paint for decades, is home to over 100 people.

The farm itself employs only a handful of labourers. All the labourers' cottages have been rented out to people who work in the surrounding industrial area.

A few squatters on the farm are constantly under threat of being evicted as they live there illegally.

Some of the tenants in the prison block — called "Die Tronk" by the residents — were originally workers on the farm who grew too old to be

productive.

Mrs Katie Olifant and her husband, Mr Pieter Jacobs, pay R15 a week to sleep in the draughty corridor of the prison block.

Jacobs worked on the farm until he was involved in a car accident. "This is no way to get old. One winter morning we will be found dead in our beds," Olifant said.

"But where else can we go? We've been on the farm since we were young."

Mrs Annie Leonard, her husband and her two-year-old daughter have been living in a single cell two metres wide and about three metres deep for three months. Their rent is R10 a week.

The only furniture they could fit into the cramped space is a single bed, a shelf and a tiny table for their gas stove.

"This place is very cold and very dirty. It's no place to raise a child, a lot of the children here have TB. It's like living in hell," Leonard said.

Leonard buys water from one of the residents in a labourer's cottage, at R5 for 25 litres.

When the weather is bad, she and her daughter spend all day inside their "cell", which has no windows.

"We have to get out of here before the end of the year or else I will go crazy," she said. "I feel as if I'm locked in this prison for life."

At least the Leonard's have a roof over their heads.

Mr Edward Valentine and his wife sleep under a sheet of plastic held up by a few pieces of wood on the farm — and pay R50 a week.

Their plastic sheet just about covers the single bed they sleep on and their shelter isn't high enough to

allow them to stand upright.

They have an 11-year-old daughter who lives with one of the families in a labourer's cottage on the farm — for R80 a month.

"We couldn't keep her with us in the bush. When it rains, the water soaks our bed," Valentine said.

"There's nothing we can do about it, we have to sleep under wet blankets until they get dry."

In the past year, Valentine has been arrested twice for trespassing.

"It's strange that I keep getting arrested. We pay our rent to Mr Morgan's grandson, who is a policeman," he said.

"He knows it's illegal for us to live like this but he comes in his police uniform to collect our R50."

Last month about 10 families living in the labourers' cottages were served with eviction notices as some of the farmland is being developed as an industrial site.

Their attempts to stop the evictions and find alternative housing brought their plight to the attention of the Bellville ANC branch and the local civic.

"I was really shocked when I saw the conditions at Morgan's Farm. White people would not even allow their dogs to live under those circumstances," said Mr Anthony Fraser, spokesperson for the ANC branch.

"We will definitely be pressuring the municipality to do something about this situation."

Mr Coen Roux, a lawyer acting for the farm's owners, refused to comment on the conditions at the premises and threatened to take legal action against SOUTH if the paper published this story.



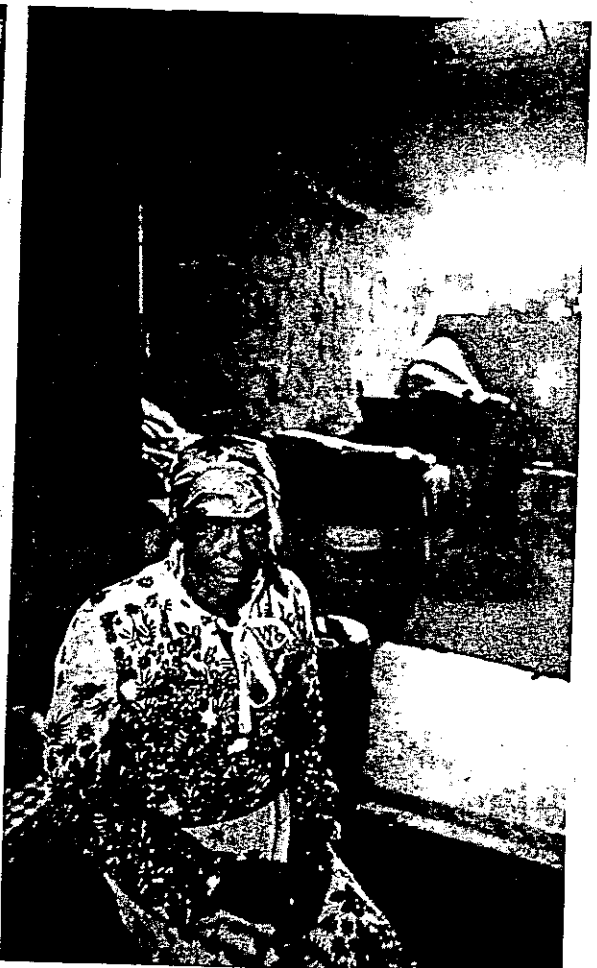
EVER SO HUMBLE: A draughty corridor is home to Katie Olifant and Pieter Jacobs. Photos: Yunus Mohamed



FILTHY FACILITY: Sarie Williams in the filthy ablu-tion block which is used by more than 30 families in the old prison block



WET AND WEARY: Although this plastic sheet is the only shelter they have on Morgan's Farm, Edward Valentine pays R50 a week in rent for his dwelling



IN THE COLD: A single bed and a table is all Katie Olifant can squeeze into the tiny space in the corridor she calls home

ANC to dole out unjustly gained farms

St. James 12-17-92
By CHARLES LEONARD

AN ANC government would redistribute farmland acquired through nepotism and corruption or which was "hopelessly indebted".

This is outlined in the organisation's land and agricultural policy, which forms part of a comprehensive policy document drawn up with little fanfare at the end of May. *(3)ben*

The policy also provides for a limit on the number of farms owned by individuals and for redistribution of "vacant, unused and under-utilised state land suitable for residential and agricultural purposes".

Access

It adds: "Persons who have benefited from corrupt and illegal transfers of land and interests in land, or from corrupt and illegal investment in, or development of land, shall be required to account for such benefits and make appropriate restitution."

The policy stops short of nationalisation of farms, but does make provision for family farms, small-scale farms and co-operative farming systems.

While priority would be given to victims of forced removal, "no one will be evicted from land or have his or her home destroyed, unless a tribunal or another court has considered the availability of alternative accommodation".

State rushes to sell disputed tribal land to white farmers

STATE officials have rushed through the sale of 6 000 hectares of public land to white farmers knowing that black former occupiers have lodged claims to be allowed to return to the land.

After months of delay, the officials quickly closed the deal and registered the transfers within a few days — before a government commission on land claims could hear arguments from the former inhabitants.

Mr Justice Van Reenen, chairman of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, this week ordered an immediate inquiry into the sale of the more than 6 000ha at Majeng near Barkly West, in the northern Cape, to six white farmers two weeks ago.

"We are having a lot of difficulties in this regard," he said, but declined to comment further.

In March Judge Van Reenen publicly appealed to the government to freeze the sale of all land under review by his commission. The body was set up by the government recently to adjudicate conflicting

By BRIAN POTTINGER

land claims in the post-apartheid era.

The Majeng land was sold despite:
● A promise by Agriculture Minister Kraai Van Niekerk in May 1990 that agricultural land seized by the government in terms of apartheid's consolidation policies would not be sold, and

● A pledge by Dr Jacob de Villiers, Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, that black communities forced off their land by past policies would be given a chance to put their case to the Land Commission.

Urgent

This week lawyers representing the Majeng community, shocked by the sudden registration of sale, were preparing to take legal action to challenge the transaction.

The transfer of the land has taken even ministers by surprise.

Dr De Villiers conceded in a letter to the legal representatives of the community on June 18 that he was unaware the Majeng land had been

advertised for sale. He promised to arrange an urgent meeting between the legal representatives, himself and Dr Kraai van Niekerk, under whose jurisdiction the matter ultimately falls, to discuss the issue.

The date for the meeting was to be set on Dr De Villiers's return next week from abroad. He will be too late: officials have forged ahead with the registration of the deeds of sale.

The Majeng community only recently discovered that the land they were contesting was in the final stages of being parcelled up and sold off to white farmers.

The community lived in the area between the Harts and Vaal rivers near Barkly West since before the turn of the century.

Between 1969 and 1974 the families were compelled by the government to move to Vaalboshoek, about 50km away, which was later incorporated in Bophuthatswana. In 1984 many of the families were again moved — this time to Kgomoitso, about 30km from Majeng.

The Majeng land, meanwhile, was registered in the name of the SA government. For years it lay fallow and was then leased to neighbouring white farmers.

Since late 1989 members of the Majeng community have petitioned the government for permission to return to the land — either as tenants or owners.

The Majeng community's name has appeared on all the lists of dispossessed communities represented by the National Land Committee — an association of legal and development agencies — since March last year.

Expense

On March 17 this year lawyers advised the Land Commission that representations were to be made on behalf of the Majeng community for the return of their land.

A delegation of former residents went to visit one of the white farmers presently occupying Majeng land early last month to request permission to visit and clean their ancestors' graves.

The occupier refused them entry and claimed that he and other white farmers had already bought the property. The astonished delegation also heard that a large section had been acquired by the Department of Correctional Services for the building of a prison.

Lawyers representing the community were then told by the government that the farm had been sold on January 31 to an unnamed number of farmers.

The Majeng land had been advertised in 1989 and was available to farmers with adjoining properties.

The purchasers of the new land would have to consolidate their land with the newly acquired land at their own expense within five years.

The sale took effect from January 31 this year — nearly 20 months after the promise by Mr Van Niekerk that no more land expropriated from blacks would be sold.

Signed

On Saturday, June 20, this year, impatient with refusals to allow them to visit their ancestors' graves, the Majeng community attempted to unilaterally visit the family graves on one of the white-occupied farms. Police turned them away.

The demonstration, however, had an apparently electrifying effect on the bureaucracy.

On the following Monday, June 22, the six farmers hastily signed their final assurances that they would consolidate the newly purchased land with their existing holdings.

The documents were delivered the next day by hand to the Deeds Office in Kimberley. The title deeds were lodged and registered the same day — remarkable given that the usual registration period is at least a week.

The Department of Agricultural Development official dealing with the Majeng matter has since been transferred and was unavailable for comment.

The departmental official at present responsible for Majeng did not respond to inquiries.

Drought brings record harvest

ST Times (Buss) 3 Gen
12/7/92

THE drought has been good for at least one sector of the farming community.

Grape farmers on the banks of the Orange River between the Buchberg dam and Anghrabies Falls expect a record crop of sultanas and raisins.

Production is forecast at 41 000 tons compared with 38 000 last year. Most of the crop will be exported and could earn about R55-million in foreign currency.

Louis Roux, production manager of the SA Dried Fruit Co-operative near Upington which processes sultanas throughout the year, says this could make SA the world's second-largest sultana exporter.

He says ideal conditions are little rain in the growing season and none during the drying. The drought has made conditions perfect for the crop.

Grapes are dried on

cement bases in the open.

About 500 farmers cultivate an area of about 260km along the Orange River. They grow golden, Thompsons and Orange River grapes, which are used for sultanas and raisins. Small quantities are also delivered from Namibia and the Douglas area near Kimberley.

The SA market takes between 8 000 and 10 000 tons, leaving about 32 000 for export, mainly to Japan and Europe.

Production costs are about R2 500 a hectare with an average yield of about 21 tons a ha. Farmers are paid a minimum of R500 a ton by the co-operative, rising to R750, depending on quality.

Mr Roux says international prices are lower than in 1991, but grades are better.

By DON ROBERTSON

Mfengu move closer to home

THE Mfengu community, dispossessed of their land in the Tsitsikama in 1977, will resettle 50 families on land held in trust for them by the Moravian Church.

The move comes after a 15-year struggle by the community to return to ancestral land given to them by the British in appreciation for Mfengu assistance against the Boers.

They were forcibly moved to the Ciskei in 1977, and their land was sold to white farmers.

The Tsitsikama Exile Association's co-ordinator, Mashwabada Msizi, said this week the resettlement is to take place in August, and forms part of a community programme of action decided on in April last year.

Msizi said: "Fifty families will be resettled on the Moravian Mis-

Ciphen 12/1/92
sion land which is adjacent to the land which we were removed from.

"The resettlement to the Moravian land has been properly planned with the assistance of professionals, a town planner, civil engineer and a land surveyor."

According to Msizi the community and the Moravian Church were shown the final draft of the resettlement area which was drawn up by "professionals".

"The community is now waiting for the Moravian Church to resume the process of resettling the community."

He said the government had agreed to the return of the land several months ago, but there had been many delays.

Msizi said the government asked "us to come up with a resettlement package".

(3) Gen
The community demanded a substantial portion of the original Mfengu land for farming, some state-owned forest land, an appropriate site for resettlement with infrastructure and housing, and State assistance for the return and integration of the community back into the Tsitsikama.

However, the government asked for time to prepare its own package.

"We see the state's delaying tactics as a means to try and stall the resettlement process.

"The state has also conveyed to us that they do not have money to buy the land from the farmers who now own the Tsitsikama land.

"The association rejects this notion, especially after hearing that the Department of Development Aid squandered R3,2-billion." - Pen

Farming machinery sales set to plummet

BIDAY 14/7/92

3 Gen

EDWARD WEST

THE agricultural machinery industry, serving a sector burdened by heavy debt, high interest rates and drought, faces a gloomier future.

Tractor sales — which accounted for about 50% of total agricultural machinery demand — look set to drop again, this year by a third over last year, and will probably barely peak at 2 000 units in 1992. This was a far cry from 1981 when 24 862 were sold, Boeresake MD Lukas Rautenbach said.

Farm implement sales had dropped steadily over the past decade because of recessionary conditions in the agricultural sector.

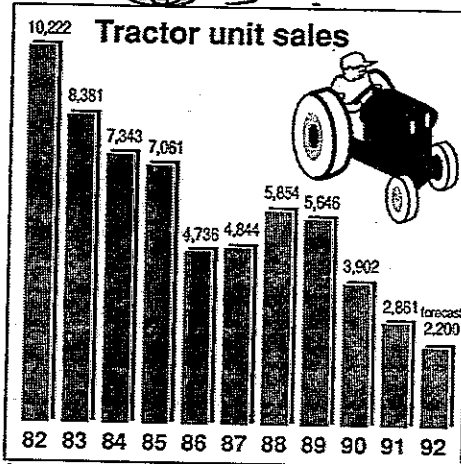
The full effect of the most recent drought on tractor and farm implement sales would become apparent only towards the end of September. Combine harvester sales had already plummeted from 800 in 1991 because there was no crop to harvest. Rautenbach believed only 50 would be sold this year.

Jim Rankin, director of Agfacts, a close corporation providing regular agricultural statistics, forecast tractor sales to continue falling in the short term although a slow recovery could materialise the medium term.

Average sales of 15 000 a year which characterised the 1970's were gone forever. He said long term sales in the future would probably peak at between 7 000 and 8 000 a year.

The local tractor industry was living hand-to-mouth, said Rankin. And it could be assumed that employment levels in the tractor assembly industry had dropped in line with sales. Many dealers were diversifying.

AIM Holdings MD Roy Wiggle, with three Massey Ferguson dealerships, said a trend had developed with agricultural co-operatives buy-



Graphics: RUBY-GAY MARTIN Source: SAMCOR

ing financially-strapped private dealerships.

Ford tractor sales manager Bunty Raphael believed an industry shakeout could be imminent even though two manufacturers, Landini and MB-Trac pulled out last year.

Four manufacturers, Ford, Massey Ferguson, John Deere and Fiat accounted for 90% of the 873 sales to May 1992 with Ford in the lead with 32,5% of the market.

In 1991, tractor sales fell 26,7% to 2 861 units compared with 3 402 the previous year, Agfacts statistics showed.

Tractors were imported in semi-knocked down form. The import duties on tractor engines — designed to protect SA engine manufacturer Atlantic Diesel Engines — added 40% to the cost of an imported engine and 25% onto the cost of the tractor.

Drought toll far-reaching

CAPE TOWN — The drought would have a critical effect on the agricultural industry's ability as national provider of food and employment, socio-economic stabiliser and foreign currency earner in the short term.

Preliminary indications were that farming production would shrink by a further 14% this year, Boland Bank said in its July economic review of agriculture in SA.

However, for the medium term, there was cause for optimism.

"Export opportunities should broaden considerably within the next five years, given the lifting of sanctions, renewed international growth and the movement towards more open agricultural markets", the bank said.

The sustained anti-inflation monetary policy was bound to bear fruit in the "near future" and was sure to contribute to getting agricultural input costs under control. — Sapa.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 Gen B DAY July 1972
Drought aid committee

GOVERNMENT had established a ministerial drought committee as part of a co-ordinated drought assistance plan, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk announced yesterday.

The committee is to attend to the formulation and further refining of the countrywide drought assistance policy and will be responsible for its implementation.

Govt sets up new drought committee

PRETORIA. — The government has established a Ministerial Drought Committee as part of a co-ordinated drought assistance plan, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk announced yesterday.

The committee will formulate and be responsible for the implementation of the countrywide drought assistance policy. It will be supported by a management committee with the superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, Dr F J van der Merwe, as convenor.

③ OCT 14/7/92
● More than 960 000 people are receiving drought relief food in Zimbabwe's Masvingo province every month, the region's governor Mr Josiah Hungwe said yesterday.

In June 964 000 people were fed and this month 968 000 people in this parched province of 1,5 million would receive free rations, he said. — Sapa

Knowing more about women's organisations

STAR 15/11/92

3) *sen* of *kgotla*. That is why we say women must be on the *kgotla*."

Rural women face oppression from four sides — because they are black, because they are women, because they are poor and because they live in the rural areas. But the rural women's movement plans to change all this. **Learn & Teach** reports.

women face.

She says that although the women often have a better understanding of what is happening in their areas, they are left out of the *kgotla* — the traditional community decision-making body. "When I first started working for Trac in 1986, I found that men excluded the women from the *kgotlas*."

Yet, she adds, when government officials arrived in the community, the first people they contacted were the women, who were looking after their children and their homes. Their husbands were usually away from the vil-

lage, in the veld tending the cattle or even in the towns working as migrant workers.

When many communities faced the threat of forced removals or incorporation into "independent" homelands and self-governing states, it was the women who made the decisions because the men did not know very much about what was happening.

"The men would ask the women for information and then they would support the women in their fight against the Government," says MamLydia.

"But that was not enough, because women were still out

Another problem the woman have is that traditional law allows a man to have two or more wives. "This causes problems," says RWM president Beauty Mkhize. "Men cannot support many wives financially and they cannot give all their wives the same amount of love and affection."

Given enough time, it seems the RWM will give women in the rural areas a stronger and more powerful voice.

For more information about the RWM, you can contact Lydia Kompe at: TRAC, Box 2827, Johannesburg, 2000. Tel (011) 833-1063/4.

Learn and Teach magazine is available at street corners and book shops at R1,95.



On the move . . . women in the South African rural areas have started to rise and fight for their correct place in the institutions of power in their communities. They no longer accept that their place is in the kitchen.

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208r
411

Stutterheim³ rations water

ARGT 17/1/92

EAST LONDON. — Water restrictions have been implemented in Stutterheim because of the drought in the Eastern Cape.

The Stutterheim town council has banned the use of municipal water for gardens, sportsfields and to wash cars.

The restrictions will be eased when a pump at the Kubusie river is replaced in seven weeks at a cost of R308 000.

Most of the town's water comes from the Gubu Dam, now only 52 percent full. — Ecna.

ST Times 19/7/92

(3) Gen (1974)

Land grab: deeds officer

GOVERNMENT officials persuaded the registrar of deeds in Kimberley to rush through the sale of public land to six white farmers without informing him that the land was also being claimed by black former residents.

The Department of Agricultural Development in Pretoria dispatched a senior official to Kimberley to shepherd the registration of the land through within a day instead of the normal week.

By BRIAN POTTINGER

Mr Willie Swanepoel, registrar of deeds in Kimberley, said this week he would never have speeded up the registration of sale of the 6 000ha of land near Barkly West if he had known the background.

He said the department had told him there was a danger of "squatters" moving on to the land.

"I was unaware that the land in question was the subject of an inquiry by the Land Commission," he said. "Had I known there was a challenge to the land I would not have expedited the registration."

He said the department had contacted him about a week before the registration to make an appointment to lodge the documents.

The registrar's statement adds to the growing row over the treatment of the Majeng community. The dispute is now set to culminate in a court action aimed at setting aside the sale of the land.

The community was removed from its land outside Barkly West in the Northern Cape between 1969 and 1974 in terms of apartheid policies.

Since late 1989 members of the community have petitioned the government to let them return to the land — either as tenants or owners. The community's claims are before the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation — a special government commission set up to make recommendations on the use of state-owned land.

Earlier, two cabinet

ministers had given assurances that land seized under apartheid laws, or subject to claims before the Land Commission, would not be sold off.

Last week lawyers representing the Majeng community discovered that the 6 000ha of disputed land had, in fact, already been parcelled up and sold off to neighbouring white farmers. The transfers had been registered on June 23.

Officials from the Department of Agricultural Development speeded up the process of registration when they learnt that lawyers for the community had become aware of the agreements to sell the land. The lawyers had contacted the government in an attempt to prevent registration.

Irrevocable

The state officials, it now appears, waived the condition of sale that required the farmers to consolidate their existing land with their newly acquired land before registration could be effected.

Instead, the officials got the farmers to sign irrevocable undertakings that they would in future consolidate their land, thus bypassing the terms of the agreement of sale and enabling immediate registration.

A legal representative of the Majeng community confirmed that senior counsel had been briefed and papers were being drawn to contest the sale of the land in the Supreme Court.

'mistled'



PART OF THE SOLUTION . . . Free State farmer Cas Human on his farm near Harrismith. He believes the ANC offers the only home for those who believe in a non-racial South Africa

Picture: HERBERT MABUZA

A DIRECT descendant of President Paul Kruger is the latest true-blue Boer to join the ANC.

Free State farmer Cas Human, 37, left the Democratic Party — for which he once stood as a parliamentary candidate — and joined the ANC a few months ago “because I’m a democrat, not a liberal”.

“There is a role for liberals to play in South Africa, but if you support a non-racial society, there is only one organisation for you, and that’s the ANC,” he believes.

Born in Pretoria and raised in a traditional Afrikaner home, Mr Human — a devout member of the NG Kerk — took a BSc degree in agriculture at Stellenbosch University.

“It was at university that I began to realise apartheid was wrong. It was 1976, and politics formed an important part of student discussions, sometimes right through the night.”

“After ’76, the Afrikaner lost his vision. The ‘swart gevaar’ propaganda took hold, total onslaught became the watchword.

“Now the Afrikaner has had a new awakening. My generation is slowly but surely becoming part of the

Free State Boer signs up for ANC

By CHARLES LEONARD

In 1989, Mr Human stood as the DP candidate in Harrismith.

“We didn’t do too well — pulled in only 400 votes — but the spin-offs were important. I didn’t really want to stand for office, but a man from the district told me I should, as it would let him use his vote for the first time in 65 years.

“The DP enrolled quite a few active black members in the eastern Free State, especially from

Qwaqwa. At the beginning of 1990, when the homeland government called an election, the DP and the ANC were part of a broad alliance opposing the election.

“That was my first encounter with mass meetings and grassroots democracy, and it became clear that the ANC and I were talking the same language.”

But it was not until five DP MPs joined the ANC this year that he

switched his allegiance.

“Pierre Cronje is a good friend, and when he told me they had been kicked out of the DP for joining the ANC, I knew the right thing for me to do was join as well. I went to the local township office of the ANC the very next day and signed up.”

Mr Human’s political affiliation is common knowledge among his friends and neighbours.

“I’ve made no secret of it, but ev-

eryone seems to have accepted it. Recently, I was elected chairman of the soil conservation committee despite my politics. No one discriminates against me, my wife or our three children.”

One thing Mr Human and his neighbours are in full agreement on is the effect of the drought.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re NP, CP, DP or ANC, the drought is taking its toll on all of us, but with drought relief, we’ll probably survive.

“I just hope the economy recovers, and agriculture along with it. Once that happens, there’ll be room for more people on the land. What we have to guard against is the trap of concentrating on particular kinds of farmers. There should be land and state support for all,” he believes.

Mr Human’s relations with the labourers who till his 3 700ha farm are interesting to an outsider.

This week, as they planted wheat, some called out “dag Cas” while others opted for the time-honoured “dag baas”.

Mr Human said: “We’re all facing the crisis in farming together.”

solution again. The difference is that my father’s generation solved the poor white problem by looking after themselves — perhaps a little too well — whereas we are part of a broader South African solution,” said Mr Human.

The path that led him to the ANC was via the public service — as an agricultural information officer in the Bethlehem district — and post-graduate study at Pretoria University.

He started farming part-time near Harrismith in 1981.

“That’s when I began to realise something was wrong with our economy, and with our politics. Almost daily, I was being confronted by people asking for a place to live, a bag of mealie-meal, anything, just to stay alive.”

SI Times 19/7/92

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White wealth 'won't be siezed'

AFFIRMATIVE action did not mean that white property and wealth would be "appropriated wholesale and given to blacks", ANC constitutional expert Prof Kader Asmal said in Durban this week. *C/Press 19/7/92*

Addressing the fifth annual Labour Law Conference at the University of Natal on Friday, Asmal said affirmative action implied that "national resources and revenues will be dedicated in large part to eliminating the advantages possessed by whites".

(Handwritten initials)

(3) Gen

Baralong refuse to accept court ruling

By DAN DHLAMINI

FIFTY Baralong ba Modiboa tribesmen this week refused to accept the withdrawal of trespass charges against them.

Charges were laid following a second attempt by the men to re-occupy Machaviestad in April this year.

A Baralong spokesman told the Potchefstroom magistrate that they would not accept the withdrawal of charges and that the case should proceed in order for them to return to their ancestral land.

The magistrate postponed the hearing to August 17 and the accused were released on R30 bail.

Angry Baralong said their return to Machaviestad was not negotiable.

27 JUL 1992

The Star

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New project . . . will take food to the hungry.

New drive to feed our drought-stricken nation

By Michael Chester

Nedcor Bank and The Star today link forces to launch a dynamic new rescue operation to throw emergency lifelines to tens of thousands of destitute families threatened with starvation in the drought crisis.

The project, named "Harvest for the Hungry", aims to trigger an action plan to rush food shipments into rural areas hit hardest of all.

The meals to be distrib-

ed every month promise to run into millions.

It is planned to keep supplies moving at least until the end of October, when it is hoped the spring rains will have relieved the drought.

The disaster fund has been launched in urgent response to new warnings that no fewer than 2,5 million destitute South Africans are now suffering from malnutrition.

Nedcor Bank chief executive officer Richard Laubscher and The Star's

STAR 217192 (The) HARVEST

for the hungry

editor-in-chief Richard Steyn have urged as many business concerns and social organisations as possible to join the emergency exercise.

Nedcor is engaging all of its banking divisions in the project - Nedbank, Nedfin and the Perm, with a nation-

wide network of branches.

One innovation is a plan to contribute an amount equal to the cost of feeding one child for one day each time a customer uses any of the 1 000 ATMs operated by the Perm and Nedbank - expected to total 3,5 million meals every month.

The Star plans to devote a new 087 line to a special service to enable telephone callers to pledge contributions.

From tomorrow, 10c from every call made to one of

TelStar's 087 lines will be donated to the fund.

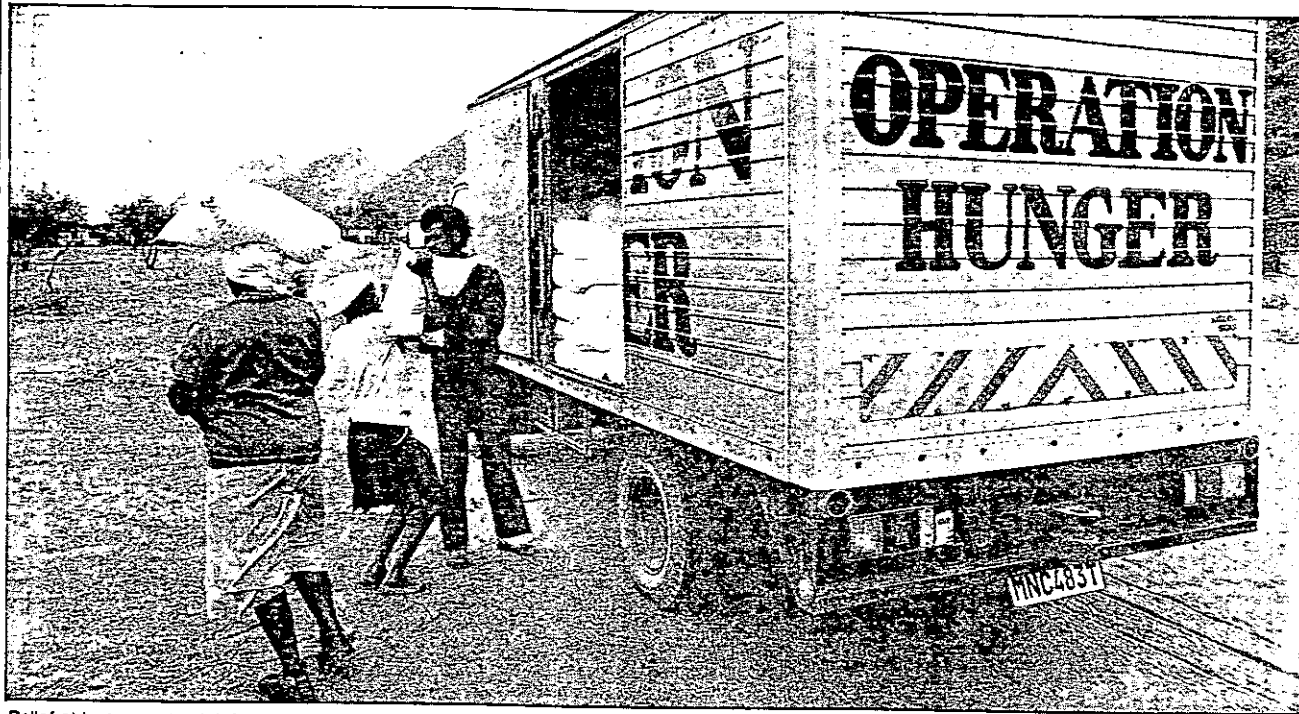
The Star will also mobilise its official fund-raising infrastructure to set up and manage the "Harvest" fund, in conjunction with the Nedcor Chairman's Fund.

Also being encouraged are special "Harvest Festivals" nationwide as collection points for food packages.

● Food for all the bottom line - Page 15



Urges action . . . Nedcor Bank's Richard Laubscher.



Relief at last... a truck brings emergency maize supplies to Mathabatha in northern Lebowa. Up to 80 percent of grain crops have been wiped out in South Africa and Zimbabwe in a drought zone that stretches north as far as Angola and Tanzania.



Happiness is a full belly... schoolchildren at an Operation Hunger emergency feeding scheme at Matsika school in Venda.

Food for all the bottom line

THE FULL drama of the drought has started to unfold in surveys that have probed beyond the economic cost of crop failures and begun to measure the growing threat of starvation now faced by tens of thousands of rural families made jobless and penniless by the disaster.

A recent count by the World Food Programme, run by the United Nations, put the number of lives and livelihoods now at risk on the southern African subcontinent at 18 million or more. No less than 11.5 million tons of food from overseas were needed. The WFP called it the worst drought in living memory and stressed the need for "a complex emergency operation on a scale never attempted in the region before".

As much as 70 to 80 percent of grain crops have been wiped out in South Africa and Zim-

babwe in a drought zone that stretched north as far as Angola and Tanzania.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman estimates that at least R9 million a month is needed to feed up to 2.5 million people in South Africa alone, with a growing list of victims who are destitute and unable to afford even basic food.

Poignancy is added to the drama by an assessment of the repercussions made by Professor Johan van Zyl, dean of the faculty of agriculture at Pretoria University. He calculates that as many as one in three of all the children in rural villages in South Africa suffer from malnutrition.

At the SA Agricultural Union, chief economist Kocs du Toit says the crisis, though perhaps worst in the Transvaal and Free State, now has nationwide dimensions. White and black

Star 211792. (3) Gen (2)

Nedcor Bank and The Star have linked forces to launch a disaster fund named Harvest for the Hungry. It is an emergency response to grim warnings that as many as 2.5 million destitute South Africans are victims of malnutrition as a result of the worst drought in living memory, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

communities alike were suffering grim hardships in drought-stricken rural areas in the aftermath of crop failures that wiped out jobs and incomes, leaving families foodless and destitute.

This was the scenario of tragedy that prompted Nedcor Bank and The Star to join forces with the launch today of the special new emergency scheme named "Harvest for the Hungry" that plans to rush assistance to families hit hardest by the crisis. Both hope that the launch will inspire many more companies

and organisations to join the initiative in a nationwide rescue operation for drought victims.

While planning goes ahead at national and local levels to find long-term solutions to poverty and famine, Harvest for the Hungry aims to trigger immediate action to solve the plight of families trapped in a tragic struggle for survival. "Our primary concern is the inevitable time gap between the planning phase and actual implementation of longer-term programmes," says The Star editor-in-chief Richard Steyn. "What is needed is

an emergency scheme to combat the current malnutrition tragedy without delay. The evidence stresses that solutions have become urgent to alleviate the worst of the suffering.

"There is no time to hold thumbs and hope that a grand solution will emerge sooner or later. People are facing starvation at this very moment. Action is needed now. All of us must become involved and volunteer assistance."

Nedcor Bank chief executive officer Richard Laubscher, who took the lead in the new initia-

The
HARVEST
for the hungry

tive, agrees that the Harvest for the Hungry fund needs to ensure emergency food deliveries start moving without delay — and keep rolling at least until the spring rains.

The Nedcor Bank group will engage the entire nationwide network of all its divisions — Nedbank, Nedfin and the Perm — in the campaign.

● For every transaction conducted by bank card-holders at Perm or Nedbank ATMs between now and October 31, the bank will contribute an amount equal to the cost of feeding one

child for a day. With almost 1 000 automatic teller machines in operation, that alone promises to provide as many as 3.5 million meals every month.

● Pre-encoded deposit slips will be handed out at all branches to clients wishing to make direct donations.

● Inserted in all new cheques will be simple donation slips that can be used to contribute amounts varying from R5 to R25 via current accounts.

● Facilities will be made for credit-card holders to contribute, too.

● Lunches at all executive dining rooms will be scaled down to the most simple fare — and savings ploughed into the Harvest fund.

● All staffers in the group will be invited to make voluntary contributions by pledging a percentage of their annual 13th salary cheque to the project, up to

a maximum of 3 percent. The total amount donated will be matched rand-for-rand by the Nedcor Chairman's Fund.

The Star plans to devote a special TelStar 087 line to the project to enable callers to make donations by telephone.

The Star will also use its official fund-raising infrastructure to set up and manage the Harvest project, in conjunction with the Nedcor Chairman's Fund.

Funds raised by the scheme will be channelled into expert agencies with proven records of swift effectiveness in food distribution schemes.

Nedcor and The Star will also be encouraging a series of special "Harvest Festivals" for the collection of donations in the form of actual food packages.

Those alone should guarantee an immediate start of actual food distribution to families in most desperate need. □

'Emergency'³ in water crisis

4/21/1972

PRETORIA. — Parts of Southern Africa are running out of water.

In Lesotho, the drought is hitting hard in mountain districts where even hospitals are running out of water. In one hospital, only one tap was being used for one hour a day for all hospital needs.

In Natal, 30 million litres of water are to be delivered to drought-stricken communities in the Natal sugar belt.

Operation Amanzi, instituted by the South African Sugar Association (Sasa) this month, aims to counter the effects of the water crisis which has reached emergency levels throughout most of Natal.

Severe water restrictions came into force in the Amantzimtoti/Kingsburgh area yesterday, while similar restrictions have been in force on the South and North Coasts since February this year.

South Africa and Botswana have joined forces to save about 120 hippos threatened by drought along the Limpopo river.

Conservation authorities of both countries have agreed to jointly feed the animals until the start of the rainy season, the TPA said yesterday.

In Swaziland, the electricity board has cut the power supply to hundreds of consumers, including businesses and some government departments, which have failed to pay their accounts. — Sapa

Weatherman sees good rain coming

BIDAY 22/7/92

(3) Gen (100)

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The great drought which devastated millions of hectares of SA's farmlands last summer is almost certainly over and a season of good rains ahead is a "probability", according to authorities.

Pretoria University's meteorological department head Prof Johan van Heerden said although the weather was still influenced by El Nino, a high pressure system off South America's western coastline, the "event" appeared to be in a decaying phase.

This century there had been 16 El Nino episodes and only once had it happened that the phenomenon had occurred in consecutive years.

Van Heerden stressed, however, that El Nino was not the only cause of droughts. Records confirmed an El Nino event was usually followed by average or above-average rainfall.

"The probability is the coming summer will be a wet one," Van Heerden said. However, it would be until end-September before it could positively be said that El Nino "has either left us or still lingers".

The probability of normal rainfall in the coming summer is great news for the economy. Last summer's drought, according to official estimates, cost the country R2,5bn in lost exports. To be added, economists say, is the enormous cost of importing grain to supplement crops destroyed by drought.

To rehabilitate distressed farmers government has allocated R3,8bn in drought aid. The foreign exchange loss is not the only drought-associated loss to the economy, economists point out. The plunge in farmers' incomes rippled through to adversely affect other sectors of the economy. □ The sense of urgency brought about by the drought has led to the

Public Works Department speeding up work to eliminate congestion of heavy vehicles at Beit Bridge border post.

A R12m upgrading of the post, which will allow it to cope with the traffic for the next 10 years, has already begun.

A Public Works spokesman said in Pretoria the drought in Zimbabwe — the worst in living memory — and improved commercial relations had resulted in a sudden and dramatic increase in traffic, reversing a decision to postpone the upgrading until 1994.

A new border post on the Zimbabwe side is also nearing completion.

Sapa reports the emergency fund of the SA Agricultural Union grew to R3m yesterday with a donation of R1,5m by the Pretoria City Council.

Of the donated amount, R1m is to be paid into the fund. The rest is to be spent on a study into a report by the Human Sciences Research Council on the marketing of fresh produce.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said the donation would help the union provide assistance to drought-stricken farmers and farm workers for another three months.

□ About 30 000 tons of dry beans, shipped to SA as part of the biggest consignment of the commodity imported to the country, has landed in Durban. About 90 000 tons of beans are to be imported because of drought-related shortfalls in the local crop.

Our Durban correspondent reports the millionth ton of maize was unloaded in Durban Harbour yesterday since the start of the drought relief import programme.

Foreigners put off
by politics, violence

OFFSHORE interest in local residential properties has dropped off substantially due to political instability and violence.

Seeff international properties director Carmella Seeff says that after Nelson Mandela's release interest was brisk and had been expected to continue.

"We saw a lot of inquiries for farms and holiday accommodation along the Atlantic seaboard. We sold over R100m worth of properties after Mandela's release and believed that would continue as SA moved towards a political solution.

"However, foreign investors are now still looking at our properties but definitely adopting a wait-and-see attitude. They are concerned about the security and return on their investment and are not prepared to buy until the situation has improved," she says.

A more concrete ANC policy on foreign investment, the resumption of Codesa talks and a more positive mood would see renewed foreign interest.

Regular tours of prospective buyers are brought out from London, Germany, the Far East and the US.

The London office has received more than 300 inquiries from prospective immigrants, who are unable to sell their present homes due to the tough English market.

"We are looking to move into the investment field rather than the residential market in the UK and are talking to two of the largest London-based English real estate firms," she says.

Trade missions are being opened in Pretoria and Cape Town, but tend to rent residential properties rather than buy them. Speculation in residential property by foreign buyers has also dried up as it is now difficult to rent the property, resulting in the investor receiving no return on his investment.

Interest is still centred around Cape farms and several spectacular sales are concluded every year.

Last-ditch bid to halt drought exodus

RELIEF agencies have launched a last-ditch bid to halt the exodus of 3-million drought victims from rural areas to townships in the PWV area.

An Independent Development Trust (IDT) spokesman said yesterday five task forces had been formed as part of an urgent R100m drought relief programme.

The main aim was to prevent the movement of affected people by providing emergency aid to the hardest-hit areas of the northern and eastern Transvaal.

Administering assistance would become too difficult once people had relocated to

urban areas, the spokesman said.

One of the task forces, the water provision force, was launched earlier this week and four field teams were mobilised in parts of Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

Task force co-ordinator Len Abrams said the only source of water in many areas was coming in by truck. "In the most critical places, tankers are providing a mere 25 litres of water every four days for each family."

To Page 2

③ *Gen*
MEREDITH JENSEN

8/DA7 2317/92

Drought 8/DA7

He said many people were forced to buy additional water from vendors for as much as R6 a litre.

"In Venda, only one third of the country will get any crop at all, and that will amount to only 12% of a normal crop."

Abrams said 75% of the livestock in the homeland was expected to die.

"There is an enormous amount of state resources that have not been going to the right places."

The IDT has earmarked an initial R400 000 for the water provision task force, while funds from government's R3,8bn aid package were also being made available.

2317/92

③ *Gen* From Page 1

Abrams said several private companies had expressed interest in donating money as well as transport and manpower to the task force.

An additional R2,2m has been pledged by an overseas organisation.

Water Affairs strategic planning deputy director Simon Foster said the water provision task force would combine with the state's resources to identify the worst-hit regions and provide immediate help.

Foster said Water Affairs had been eager to get involved with drought relief schemes but had not been allocated state funds to do so.

STAR 2317192.

Helping hand for needy on farms

Organised agriculture is now dispersing an average R500 000 a month in emergency aid to the needy on farms in drought-stricken areas. More than two-thirds of the money is spent on helping black farmworkers and their families.

"We do not make relief contributions available for the purchase of food. There

are other organisations, including The Star and the State, that provide such funds," said SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Piet Swart.

The SAAU emergency relief fund has now received about R3 million in contributions. — Agricultural Correspondent.

Bid to halt 3m drought victims

JOHANNESBURG. — Relief agencies have launched a last-ditch bid to halt the mass exodus of three million drought victims from rural areas to townships in the PWV area.

An Independent Development Trust (IDT) spokesman said yesterday five task forces had been formed as part of an urgent R100-million drought-relief programme.

The main aim was to prevent the movement of affected people by providing emergency aid to the hardest-hit areas in the Transvaal.

Administering assistance would become too difficult once people had moved to urban areas, the spokesman said.

One of the task forces, the water-provision force, was launched earlier this week

and four field teams were mobilised in parts of Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

Task-force co-ordinator Mr Len Abrams said the only source of water in many areas was coming in by truck.

"In the most critical places, tankers are providing a mere 25ℓ of water every four days for each family."

Mr Abrams said many people had no choice but to

buy additional water from vendors for as much as R6/ℓ.

Water Affairs strategic planning deputy director Mr Simon Foster said the water provision task force and the state's resources would combine to identify the worst-hit regions and provide immediate help.

● In the Eastern Cape many drought-hit farmers are on the brink of financial col-

lapse.

Some have tried planting crops as many as four times in a drought that has been described as the worst in 70 years.

Dairy farmers have to feed their animals — mostly with feed bought from other areas.

Some farmers are selling their holiday homes to save their farms.

ET 23/7/92 ③

Deregulation of industries 'to continue'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — A shift on direct state involvement in non-strategic industries was already in progress and would continue, Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer said in Bloemfontein this week. *BIDA-4*

Speaking at the Orange, Free State Milk Producers' conference, he said there was justification for the criticism that SA was over-regulated. *24/7/92*

Referring to the sharp increase in retail food prices, Meyer said during the past 11 years the CPI had risen by 352% against a 397% increase for food. This translated on an annual basis as 14,7% against 15,7% for food prices.

On the Board of Tariffs and Trade investigation into food price inflation, he said an unfair share of the blame for food price rises was attributed to the control boards.

The report claimed 29% of the difference between producer and consumer prices was caused by control board schemes.

Meyer said this was an oversimplification. The mere stripping of boards' statutory powers would not result in less expensive food for consumers. The recent removal of statutory control over consumer prices on certain agricultural products had resulted in sharp price increases and not the other way around.

He said the food price problem was part of the entire economic process. The BTT investigation is continuing with a deeper probe into the reasons for price increases in the food chain after products leave the farm gate.

Referring to the Dairy Board, he said a new dairy industry stabilisation scheme was under consideration.



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Cheques in payment of interest will be posted in Johannesburg on or about 28 August 1992.



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Removals victim goes to court

Wilmart 24/7-30/7/92
3 Ben

BY CARMEL RICKARD
OLD age pensioner Andries Radebe, victim of the government's "black spot" removals 15 years ago, wants the supreme court to declare the expropriation of his land unlawful, and give it back to him.

Radebe, who had title deeds to his farm in Cremin, Natal, has begun action in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court testing the legality of his 1977 forced removal. However, 99 other people removed from their land at Cremin during the same period are waiting in the wings to see whether Radebe is successful.

His is the first case this decade giving the courts an opportunity to test the legality of removals carried out under apartheid legislation. Radebe was moved under laws which allowed the state to expropriate land, force black title-holders off their properties (called "black spots") and clear them from areas the government designated "white".

By 1985, an estimated 3,5-million people had been removed under these laws, and another 1,9-million were under threat of removal. Many, like Radebe, have never given up hope that they will return to their land. Even before the court starts to hear his application, it could encourage "black spot" victims in other parts of the country to look for possible grounds for similar court action.

Lawyers from Durban's Legal Resources Centre who are acting for Radebe argue that in (non-political) expropriation cases, the courts protect the rights of the landowner by insisting that every procedural technicality is observed to the letter.

However, in Radebe's case a number of formalities required by the law were not carried out. For example, the Land Act and the

Expropriation Act say the owner of a property must be properly notified of a planned expropriation. Radebe claims he never received any notification, nor was any notice put up on his house or the boundary fence.

The Expropriation Act also says if the owner cannot be traced the notice must be published in the *Government Gazette* and other media. This too was not done.

The law further states that expropriation must be carried out "for public purposes". However the land lay fallow for 11 years after Radebe and his family were removed to Ezakheni township in northern Natal. Only then was it sold to cattle farmer Derek Dreyer who used it for pasture.

Radebe says that if his land had been needed for public purposes, it would have been put to that use immediately after it was expropriated, or very soon afterwards.

Therefore, he argues, "the minister did not come to his decision to expropriate fairly and honestly because the property was not in reality required for public purposes".

A major hurdle for this and any other case brought to test "black spot" removals is that it happened so long ago. To explain the delay, Radebe outlines steps he took over the years to contest and query the expropriation as well as the R4 017 cash he was paid in compensation, which he offers to return.

Former Catholic priest and author of several books about the effects of the removal policy, Cosmas Desmond, supports Radebe's application in an affidavit. Desmond explains how removals affected the communities — usually illiterate, frightened, rural people. He says the results were so devastating that "immediate and effective litigation to rectify wrongs" was almost impossible.

ANC-Cosatu plan daily paper

Wilmart 24/7-30/7/92
By REG RUMNEY

THE African National Congress-Congress of South African Trade Unions alliance is planning to launch its own daily newspaper.

The publication will not, it is reliably learnt, rely solely on donor money but will mobilise private sector funds. Details are still sketchy but it is understood a company will be set up to run the paper. The company will be controlled by a trust, comprised of two ANC representatives, two Cosatu representatives, one South African Communist Party representative, one other and private investors. The trust and the private investors will appoint the board of directors of the new company.

The ANC and Cosatu have started to raise funds. Nigerian investors are said to be interested, and the ANC has commitments from Italian unions and the Italian government to set up a democratic media centre. Potential local investors such as the Federation of African Business and Consumer Organisations and National African Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also been approached.

Whether to buy an existing operation or start a new paper from scratch has not yet been decided. But it is unlikely the Anglo American-controlled English media groups will sell any of their papers. Anglo is believed to be strongly opposed to selling any of its newspaper interests to political organisations.

Argus chief executive Doug Band says his company's position is clear: it has no publications for sale to political organisations. However, it will be willing to help any "political" newspaper with distribution and printing and the like. "Should the ANC and Cosatu wish to buy or start a newspaper we would help them in any possible way."

Are you interested in

Drinking water black market

Weekend Argus
Correspondent

ML 25/10/72

MARITZBURG. — A black market in drinking water has emerged as the drought tortures people and animals in thornveld areas between Greytown and Muden.

Desperate people in isolated areas are having to pay as much as R10 for 25 litres, although the "going" rate is R2 for 25 litres. Their streams, dams and boreholes have dried up and they do not have transport to cart water. The main water sellers are taxi drivers.

Oilseeds Board helps drought-hit farmers

3

Oilseeds Board
MEREDITH JENSEN

THE Oilseeds Board has allocated R26,3m from its reserve fund to curtail the effects of the drought on agricultural production. **BIDAY 27/7/92**

Oilseeds Board acting GM Simon Streicher said the financial situation of producers was critical.

Poor agricultural conditions and high input costs threatened to force many farmers out of business.

Subsequently, the board had started to make discretionary payments of R6/ton in the case of groundnuts and R15/ton for sunflower seeds. The payments were based on delivery to agents during 1989, 1990 and 1991.

"Money for the reserve fund, raised by a special levy, has been kept for just such an emergency."

Streicher said the board would not be making payments to any insolvent estates.

Nor had funds been earmarked for soya bean producers as reserves were too small for any meaningful payments to be made.

The latest estimate for the sunflower crop was 174 000 tons, down from its average annual yield of 600 000 tons. Streicher said manufacturers of oilseed products would be importing seed and oil to compensate for the shortage.

"This is a disaster year and despite our efforts we could see a lot of producers forced out of business."

A minimum amount of money had been set aside within the reserve fund in the event of further drought.

CT 27/7/92

Africa ^③ 'unable to feed itself'

LONDON. — The number of starving people in the world has fallen over the past 20 years, but in Africa populations continue to rise beyond the continent's ability to feed itself.

A report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation released yesterday says 18 million people will need emergency food aid for the rest of this year in Southern Africa, where drought has led to a drop of about 60% in food production.

It also warns that there is a threat of widespread famine in the Horn of Africa

unless a major relief effort is mounted, because rains have been poor in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

FAO director-general Mr Edouard Saouma said: "While many countries have made impressive ground in the fight against undernutrition, especially in the Far East, Africa still gives grave cause for concern."

The report shows the number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries was 786 million in 1988-1990 compared with 941 million in 1969-71.

The percentage of the population of developing countries who do not receive their energy needs has fallen from 36% to 20%.

But Africa's number of starving rose by 67 million in 20 years, from 101 million in 1969-71 to 168 million in 1988-90.

By 1988-90 there was enough food in the world — if distributed according to individual requirements — to feed the world's population more than adequately.

The FAO is launching a global campaign on nutrition, starting with a major conference in Rome in December. — Telegraph

Competing with the rats for food

STAR 28/7/92
BLOEMFONTEIN — The withering drought is driving black peasants from the dusty brown veld into rapidly growing shacklands around cities.

Here, people like Leah Mokgothu live, in every sense, on the fringes of society, virtual refugees in their own country, dependent on handouts.

Ms Mokgothu and many like her have been laid off by white farmers, themselves facing bankruptcy. They now scratch for a living in city rubbish dumps.

The Urban Foundation says by 1988 about 7 million South Africans were living in shacks; some 2 million of them around Johan-

nesburg and Pretoria.

Ms Mokgothu, "retrenched" earlier this year after 25 years' labour on a Free State farm, spends her days competing with rats and dogs to scavenge food from Bloemfontein dumps. On a good day she earns R5 from selling plastic or glass to recycling firms.

Her family of eight depends heavily on Operation Hunger, which feeds some 2 million people.

"Some shack settlements outside Free State towns have doubled in size since December," said Operation Hunger deputy director Mpho Mashinini. "All because of the drought."

"It is anticipated that there will

be major flows out of the homeland rural areas into the metropolitan areas," a recent study by the Urban Foundation said. The foundation estimated more than a million people would move from the homelands to the cities in this decade.

Its figures show Durban nearly doubled its population from 1970 to 1980, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

"The extent of Durban's squatting problem is second only to Mexico City's," said Anthony Minnaar in a study of squatter settlements around the city. — Sapa-Reuter.

Farmers' market ^{(3) Gen} cuts out retailers

By George Nicholas
Agriculture Writer

STAR 29/7/97

In an effort to get food cheaper to consumers and at the same time benefit producers, a large "Jacaranda market" is being planned for Pretoria by Transvaal farmers.

The object of the weekly Saturday market, which is expected to open on August 15, is to cut out what farmers describe as the "exorbitant profits made on farm produce by retailers".

By selling their produce direct to consumers at prices much cheaper

than those charged by the retail trade, they are convinced both consumers and producers will benefit considerably and that the relationship between the two sectors will improve.

The scheme has been organised by the Transvaal Agricultural Union and only members of the union will be permitted to send their offerings to the market, to be held at the Pioneer Museum at Silverton.

Farmers who wish to take part should contact the market's administrative official, Lorraine Hgermann, at (012) 800-1568.

Food stored as poor starve

Sowetan Correspondent

FOOD IS BEING stockpiled because consumers cannot afford to buy it.

About 9 000 tons of red meat will be in storage by the end of July, according to the Meat Board.

The chicken industry had huge stock build-ups between January and June which a large producer attributes to the flagging economy.

Consumer demand usually exceeds supply in the fishing industry but this is not the case at the moment.

This was largely because of slower sales owing to the state of the economy, a spokesman for a major fish wholesaler said.

Dairy Board general manager Mr Edu Roux said that the poor economy had also affected the dairy industry.

"Although there is still a shortage, the trend is towards a surplus in about a year's time," Roux said.

The Meat Board predicts a six percent producer price increase for 1992.

Sowetan 30/7/92

STOCKPILE SHOCK Tons of red

meat is being hoarded in cold storage

because of the flagging economy:

According to the latest consumer price index, the price of meat has risen 27 percent over the past year. This figure includes 10 percent VAT.

A spokesman for a major retail chain disputed the CPI figure. He said his chain had reduced prices in accordance with the meat surplus. The average price in October was R16,38 compared with R14,98 this month.

Hard-pressed consumer

Stockpiles of chicken had largely disappeared because sales had picked up, owing to the cost of chicken relative to red meat, said County Fair group marketing manager Mr Jeremy Owen.

Just where should hard pressed consumers turn for essential protein?

Mrs Sally Mottlana, president of the Black Housewives League, feels the situation is a disgrace.

"Unemployment is very high which directly affects the eating habits of poor people. They try to run away from red meat to fish but the price of fish goes up.

"They look to dairy products and see them pouring milk down the drain because of surpluses."

The Meat Board pointed out that meat was 50 to 60 percent cheaper if bought in bulk.

Mottlana said bulk sales were directed at high income earners and were not affordable in poorer, black communities.

ANC publicity officer Mr

Mziwonke Jacobs lays the blame at the door of the Government.

"Food surpluses should be a factor in looking at the poor relief programme the Government is supposed to be addressing," Jacobs said.

"It is extremely distressing that there should be artificial price boosting in a supposedly free market economy."

Enraged consumer bodies have called for an urgent probe into the food industry following the release yesterday of CPI figures which showed an overall food price increase of 29,3 percent in the past year.

Vegetable prices alone rocketed 83,2 percent between June 1991 and June this year because of the drought.

According to Consumer Council director Mr Jan Cronje, the food price index for June was nearly double that of all consumer index prices - "a clear indication that food prices must be probed urgently".

The Meat Board denies that stockpiling translates into price boosting.

The Housewives' League of South Africa disputes a Meat Board statement that meat can be frozen for up to five years without a reduction in quality.

Abakor privatisation on track

PRETORIA — The privatisation of Abakor must hold tangible benefits for the public and should not be used to favour or entrench vested interests, says the Competition Board.

This was one of several recommendations made to the government, board chairman Pierre Brooks said yesterday.

Brooks said care should be taken to ensure a market-related price was obtained for the business.

Abakor held a dominant position in the market and adequate steps should be taken to ensure a dominant parastatal was not simply converted into a dominant private sector business.

The current overlap between management of the Meat Board and Abakor's directorate should not be allowed to continue after privatisation.

A serious attempt should be made to sell Abakor on a fragmented basis, with interested parties being able to tender for abattoirs on a single unit

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or collective basis. (3) Gen

GERALD REILLY

The board also told government that privatisation of the red meat industry should be preceded by deregulation of key areas of the industry.

The minimum deregulation before privatisation should ensure that meat should be able to move freely throughout the country irrespective of its grading.

Privatisation should follow a suitable "window" period after deregulation so that investors could make a meaningful assessment of the worth of the business.

Meanwhile, according to the Policy Unit for Public Enterprises and Privatisation, the privatisation process of Abakor was "a long way down the road" and should be completed by the end of October.

The auditor's report on the organisation has almost been completed.

Game farmers battle to save animals as drought tightens grip

By Dirk Nel  3 Gen STAR 30/7/92
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Game farmers in the drought-ravaged northern Transvaal now face crucial decisions as they consider ways to save thousands of vulnerable animals, while conservation officials are hard-pressed to deal with drought-related environmental issues over a wide area.

Kudu and giraffe are among the most recent species to succumb to the drought, and even the hardy warthog is threatened in some areas, ranchers say.

"It is not simply a matter of letting nature run its course," said Letsitele game rancher Piet Vorster. "We have inter-

ferred with the wildlife cycle, and now have the task of managing the game under our control, because their movements are restricted by fences."

Mr Vorster, owner of a herd of sable antelope, said he would soon have to capture these animals and feed them in specially constructed enclosures in order to ensure their survival.

He is a member of the local sable study group, established to work for the conservation of this species in the Letsitele-Gravelotte area, regarded as one of their prime habitats.

The Star observed that antelope in the bush were being fed lucerne on a large scale by many ranchers, particularly in the Letaba and Soutpansberg districts, because of the declining water supply and deteriorating grazing conditions.

More hunters are being

brought in to facilitate culling operations, but the profits for game ranchers are meagre, as most of the hunting proceeds are going into the feeding of the remaining animals.

Meanwhile regional nature conservation chief Dr Feltus Brand has expressed optimism about the survival of hippos in the rapidly drying Limpopo River, where a systematic feeding scheme has been in progress for two months with the aid of the Northern Transvaal Hippo Survival Fund.

He said the success of the scheme had been largely due to excellent teamwork between the provincial directorate of nature conservation, the SA Defence Force and the public.

During a briefing at Sterkloop farm near Groblersbrug, Dr Brand thanked the media for their role in publicising the plight of the hippos.



Govt relief funds locked in system by bureaucrats

DROUGHT relief funds will gather dust in government bank accounts until as late as March next year because of slow bureaucratic processes, says Water Supply Task Force co-convenor Len Abrams.

Abrams said the R30m allocated to Lebowa — one of the worst hit areas — would only arrive in March next year, because of the slow transfer process.

Relief money to other areas, such as Gazankulu, KwaZulu, Qwa Qwa, Kwa-Ndebele and KaNgwane, had been allocated but not transferred, he said.

Abrams said the areas desperately needed the money now because water resources were dwindling at a fast pace.

The task force is a joint initiative of government and independent agencies to bring water to most affected areas.

It was "totally absurd" that the task force had to rely on foreign funding to bring water to areas where the water shortage had reached emergency proportions, while government funds remained dormant, he said.

"There is a need for this money to flow, but it is tied

RAY HARTLEY

up with other issues in the political environment.

"Among these political issues is the bantustans policy," he said.

Of the three-year R3,8bn aid package, R1bn had been allocated to drought relief for this financial year and R130m of this was allocated to the homelands.

An Agriculture Department spokesman, who did not wish to be named, denied yesterday there was any delay in getting aid money to relief agencies.

Funds would be distributed by the end of the year "at the latest".

Agricultural Development Department spokesman Mario Jordaan said yesterday the emphasis was on getting the money out "as soon as possible".

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that subtropical fruit producers might have to ask government for survival aid for the first time in the sector's history.

Letaba District Agricultural Union chairman Edward Vorster said banana farmers had already experienced harvest losses of up to 50% in some areas.

THE DAGGA DEBATE ...



JABU the Trader wears a green jacket with a white symbol of Zion embroidered on the back. He bustles around his little store not far from where the mighty Tugela, now reduced by drought, trickles through a ravine in the rugged foothills of the Drakensberg.

Ask how he found the cash to buy a shop and Jabu the Trader, if he trusts the people who introduce you to him, will tell you stories about the way the industrious people of the region work at night, by the light of the moon, to irrigate the fields that flourish in the stony mountains around his shop.

"Some people think dagga is a weed that makes people mad. They are wrong. It is our cash and it is our lives," he says. "People here may be afraid to talk to you. But among themselves they speak with pride of their skill in growing *mtl.unziwenkhuku* (chicken shade)."

The name derives from the way most homesteads in the Tugela Valley have a few dagga plants growing near their huts, which provide the only foliage under which the fowls can shelter from the blazing sun.

Everybody here grows dagga. A small patch near the homestead can produce 60 bags a year, each worth between R600 and R800. Consider

Dagga, it's the green

W/Mail 31/7-6/8/92

that a bag of maize, which requires arduous labour and then shrivels under the pitiless sun, sells for less than R80, and it's little wonder that the local economy revolves around a weed that grows in the most inhospitable terrain with little effort.

But the idea that growing dagga is an unskilled job is something that perturbs Jabu the Trader. "Let me tell you that there are men here who are proud of their job. If a grower sees that you are a man who knows dagga — when to water it, how to cut the leaves, which ones to leave alone and which ones to harvest — then you can earn R50 a day."

That's 10 times the daily rate paid by white farmers for casual labour.

"Police have reported the existence of dagga fields in the Tugela Valley one kilometre long and 500m wide with plants so luxuriant that it required the strength of two grown men to uproot them," says a report in a recent edition of *Indicator SA*, a journal published by the University of Natal.

Dagga keeps hunger at bay in poverty-stricken rural areas like the Tugela Valley. But legalising it would ruin the small farmers who tend their crops by the light of the moon.

By **EDDIE KOCH**

Jabu explains how these fields work. A syndicate of men from a village get together and locate a spot that cannot easily be found by the police. They gather their wives and children and trek into the mountains where they make a clearing by slashing and burning the trees. Then they prepare furrows and irrigation channels before planting the seed saved from the previous harvest.

"We often work night shift. The labourers take their buckets down to the river and climb up into the field to give our plants water. When the

moon is full they clear out the weeds that grow between the plants," says Jabu. "We plant twice a year. Once in summer and once in winter. It takes about five months for a seed to grow into a dagga tree. That tree gives us three crops of dagga. We take the first leaves off when the tree is young.

"You can smoke these leaves or sell them for a little money. But it's not good stuff and we do this mainly to make sure that the plant grows well. Then you take the second layer of leaves. They make a strong dagga that earns good money."

The third layer of leaves, which grow near the top of the plant where concentrations of intoxicating terrohydrocannabinol are at their highest, provide the best grade, which Jabu describes as "poison that gives us our real cash".

The harvest of an average field will produce 15 to 20 bags which can be sold to runners on the roadside or at any of the stores that intersperse the region. And it's a growers' market, says Jabu. "I've never seen a seller waiting with his

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...THE POLITICS AND ECONOMICS BEHIND THE WEED

gold of the rural poor

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bag. People want this stuff. The dealers don't argue a lot. They come. They look in the bag and smell some of the dagga. Then they say 'OK' and pay up."

At R800 a bag that's R16 000 per yield from an average plot. This means that a talented dagga farmer who plants two crops a year and manages to get two harvests from each crop can generate an income of R64 000 a year. Every family in the Tugela Valley knows of people who have accumulated enough to buy a shop or start a small taxi business.

Two years ago Alan van Zuydam Reynolds, researcher for *Indicator SA*, estimated that the value of South Africa's dagga crop amounted to a staggering R12-billion a year. This is more than six times the value of the country's sugar production and nearly half the turnover of the country's largest industrial conglomerate, Barlow Rand.

He based his rough estimate on a conservative assumption that police seized one-tenth of the amount of dagga produced every year. This year

police report they seized dagga with a street value of more than R4-billion, suggesting that the annual input from sales of the drug into the local economy could be as high as R40-billion.

Dagga is grown in the hills and valleys of a swathe of territory that runs down the eastern side of South Africa from Swaziland in the north, where "Swazi Heads" originate, through Natal where the legendary "Durban Poison" is cultivated, and down south into Transkei where the best brand is known as "St Johns Number One".

David Cooper, an agriculturist who works for the Group for Environmental Monitoring, explains that much dagga is grown undercover because of its illegal nature.

"A few plants mixed in with a field of maize, or planted in an old field between homesteads, where ownership is not clear, or on a commercial farm is common," he says. "But dagga growing in some areas relies on highly sophisticated agricultural practices: terraced fields and micro-irrigation where a spring or stream is

diverted to water the field."

Dagga is by far the biggest rural industry in the country. It keeps hunger at bay in thousands of households and there are countless children who owe their education to proceeds from the industry. In a village on the Transkei coast there is a small building which testifies to this: a primary school built out of profits from a field that was planted and harvested by the community.

"Dagga growing is a highly successful system of private enterprise carried out by some of the poorest and most marginalised people in the country," says Graeme Addison, chairman of the Natal branch of the South African Rivermen's Association (Sara). He has the opportunity to study the industry during frequent visits to remote parts of the country.

"It is the most viable cash crop for rural people, especially in areas where people have been forced off white-owned farms and into congested and eroded homeland areas like the Tugela Valley ... Dagga is not a crime problem. It is an economic and political problem that is, in many

ways, a legacy of apartheid."

Police action, which takes the form of annual forays by helicopter into the main growing areas, hardly makes a dent in the trade. But it hurts the growers.

Jabu says turnover from sales of bread and other foodstuff to local people from his shop drops by up to a third after police raids. The statistic is confirmed by Linda Calverlee, owner of a nearby trading store, who says her revenue plummets by between 20 and 40 percent after a major police operation.

One of the skills a dagga cultivator must learn, says Jabu, is not to show how despondent he is when the police slash and burn a field near his house. "If he looks sad, they know he is the owner and arrest him."

But don't suggest to Jabu that this harassment should stop. Legalisation is a concept that worries him badly. "No man. That would mean anybody could grow the stuff and the growers would make less money."

A friend of Neil Alcock, a development worker from the Tugela Valley who was killed while trying to negotiate a peace treaty during a faction fight there, put it differently: "The police are my friends. The police work hard for me. I'd go broke if dagga was legal. Every bloody fool would start growing his own."

Farmers unhappy with drought aid measures

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PRETORIA — Organised agriculture is to appeal to the Justice Minister to appoint former magistrates to help apply the drought aid measures recently announced by government. (3) Gen

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said magistrates, who also happened to be chairmen of the joint local committees that dealt with applications for drought aid, were in many cases unable to carry out the additional tasks.

Bruwer said the TAU would try to get financial institutions to join forces to assist farmers.

Meanwhile the severe drought is starting to kill big game. Hundreds of antelope and other grazing animals have begun to weaken and die in the parched plains of the north and east.

Hippo and crocodile face starvation.

Lion, leopard and hyena, while thriving as prey weakened by drought becomes easier to catch, have started killing one another in disputes over shrinking water-bearing territory.

But game experts and officials say that the survivors, and the tourist industry that depends on them, will emerge stronger from nature's onslaught.

"If you can divorce yourself from the impulse of sentiment, drought is really a very beautiful process," said Kruger National Park director Salomon Joubert. "You get a purification of the gene pool. It's a rejuvenating process."

Tourism, officials say, will benefit as stronger, better looking animals will boost SA's reputation among game viewing enthusiasts overseas.

However, "game farms do not maintain predators like lion and also provide winter feed for their stock, so overpopulation and overgrazing is a problem," said Johan Pauw of the Pasture Research Institute in Pretoria. "Every blade of grass is chewed off so plants cannot reproduce."

The agricultural development department has advised game farmers to cull up to 60% of their stock to conserve topsoil and grasses. — Sapa-Renter.

Angola poised to be friend, not foe to SA

ARG
6/8/92 (3)

STEFAANS BRÜMMER
Staff Reporter

UNTIL the Namibian settlement, South Africa and Angola traded little but death and destruction.

Now Angola — less than two months from elections that could finally bring down the curtain on years of instability — promises to become one of South Africa's main economic partners in Africa.

Trade and project deals could mean millions for South African companies and the Western Cape — the closest industrial hub by sea — is well placed to clinch a major share.

In return, Angola could benefit from South African expertise to rebuild an infrastructure and economy ravaged by war.

Mr Andrew Maggs, manager of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation's Africa trade intelligence programme, said there were no comprehensive figures on trade between the two countries, but he confirmed the trend.

He predicted that Angola's rich potential could eventually make it South Africa's main African trading partner, ahead even of Zimbabwe.

"Potentially it's bigger than Zimbabwe. You can say it's in an embryonic stage now, but 10, 15 years down the line it's possible — even probable — that Angola will be the biggest," he said.

A survey by his organisation last year showed that South African companies regarded Angola as more promising for

future opportunities than any other African country.

"We frequently take delegations into Luanda," said Mr Maggs. "Most of the guys are from the construction industry ... To state the obvious, there is an enormous amount of reconstruction to be done there as a consequence of the war."

World Bank funding for reconstruction projects provided an extra incentive to get involved. If all went well in the elections, the bank was expected to step up that funding.

But there was scope for development beyond reconstruction, said Mr Maggs.

"Most guys have it on their hit list because of the projects. But there is potential across all sectors."

Angola was rich in oil and minerals and had huge agricul-

tural potential — not least in coffee, an important export before the war.

Renewed interest in Angola has meant more South African ships carrying cargo to Luanda and Lobito.

Last month, Unicorn Lines extended its traditional coastal container shipping service between Durban and Walvis Bay to Luanda.

Captain Dave de Wet, Unicorn executive director for SA liner services, said that after Angola "became open" last year a mixed breakbulk/container service was provided by ships on the West African route.

"There has been a rapid growth from occasionally calling to a regular call every two to three weeks."

Half of all farmers need drought aid

PRETORIA — About half of SA's farmers are applying for drought aid from government, agricultural sources say.

All applications must be in by the end of next week.

However, farmers say bureaucratic delays in distributing the R3,8bn in drought aid may result in aid coming too late in the season to make the planting of summer crops possible.

It is understood the problem was discussed urgently yesterday by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The enormous task of processing the applications for aid by the agricultural co-ops has run into a bottleneck, and urgent short-cut procedures are required, farmers say.

An Agricultural Department spokesman said 60 000 aid application forms had been sent to 36 agricultural co-ops.

The eastern Transvaal co-op alone had asked for

10 000 forms.

The co-ops, aware of the approaching planting deadlines, are working hard to process the applications.

The livelihood and survival of many drought-battered grain and livestock farmers will depend on the extent and timing of the assistance, agricultural economists stress.

Farmers who qualify will be entitled to R175 a hectare. Also available is R100/ha to compensate for last season's losses.

The economists say that without the aid, the coming summer crops — especially maize — even in a favourable season, will not meet domestic needs.

Meanwhile, CSS figures released yesterday show an increase of 13% in farming debt at the end of 1990 — from R10,774bn in 1988 to R12,176bn.

Sapa reports that Zim-

babwe has increased estimates of its maize imports by nearly 60% to 2,5-million tons.

Demand was increasing in peasant farming areas — the worst hit sector — while improved transport meant more food was being delivered.

Zimbabwe aid agency officials said the rate of consumption had risen from about 140 000 tons a month in June to more than 180 000 tons in July.

The number of people totally dependent on drought relief had soared from an April estimate of 4,7-million to 6,5 million — nearly 70% of the population.

MICHAEL HARTNACK reports the Zimbabwean government yesterday gazetted price increases of more than 50% for maize meal and bread to offset import costs.

The move is likely to fuel inflation, unofficially estimated at up to 55%.

B 10A7 6/8/92

GERALD REILLY

(3) Gen

Countdown to food aid drive under way

By Michael Chester

Nedcor Group and The Star today began the countdown on the start of emergency food shipments under the new "Harvest for the Hungry" disaster programme to rush aid to hundreds of thousands of families suffering from malnutrition as a result of the drought crisis.

The countdown began as volunteer offers of assistance continued to surge higher in a dramatic response to the appeal for funds or contributions in kind — from food parcels, to help with transport to distribution centres.

The first allocation of funds to set shipments rolling will be made as early as August 31 — within less than six weeks of the launch of the campaign.

The urgency of the timetable from an initial planning phase to actual action with fund allocations promises to make the "Harvest" exercise one of the

The HARVEST for the hungry

speediest of its kind on record.

Relief agencies anxious to share in the first allocation of funds should submit their proposals on how they plan to handle distribution of aid by August 15 to The Editor of The Star, 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg.

The deadline for written proposals will be extended if necessary to make allowance for the shipments that will go out in a regular flow after the first allocation.

However, both Nedcor Group and The Star, along with the Nedcor Chairman's Fund, stress their insistence that proposals from agencies must meet a strict set of criteria aimed at ensuring the optimum impact. The rules:

● The programme will concentrate on the poor — irrespective of gender, race, colour, creed or

political affiliation.

● Relief support will be directed to the areas of priority need.

● Where possible, all affected parties must be involved from the outset on issues such as the identification of projects.

● Assistance will avoid reinforcing any particular power group and will concentrate on actual beneficiaries alone.

● The aim should be equity — total openness with systems and budgets.

● Assistance will be implemented by agents at local level wherever possible.

● Efforts should aim at co-operation at community level and a prevention of duplication.

● Projects should complement rather than compete with support from other sources.

● Proposals must be sound in administrative, physical, financial and social terms.

● Financial control must be seen to be clean and open.

● Agencies must agree to accountability to the "Harvest" fund on meeting the criteria.

Drought still critical despite heavy rains

By Louise Marsland

Despite recent heavy rains in some parts of the country, the drought remains critical in the far northern Transvaal and eastern Cape, Department of Water Affairs officials said yesterday.

Disaster conditions are threatening in the far northern Transvaal where stringent water restrictions have already been implemented because most of the State dams are low, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry says in its latest review of the drought.

Severe restrictions are in force in Louis Trichardt and Potgietersrus and to a lesser extent in Pietersburg and Tzaneen to ensure that supplies last until the next rainy season.

The flow in the Komati River is very low.

No restrictions are envisaged in the foreseeable future for the PWV, nor for the supply area on the eastern Transvaal highveld or the lower Vaal River.

"We are still in dire straits in these areas," Water Affairs director of hydrology Stefan van Biljon said.

"Despite the recent rains, there has been no appreciable difference. The levels of crucial dams have not risen significantly. We need rains to increase catchments and increase soil moisture.

"But we must be optimistic. There are indications that we may be returning to normal seasons with the wane of the El Nino weather phenomenon," Mr van Biljon said.

Water Affairs planning managing engineer Dr Paul Roberts said another year of drought could mean moderate restrictions in metropolitan areas.

At present the Government's Drought Assistance Programme was implementing measures to relieve the current problem. "If the drought persists, these activities will have to be intensified," Dr Roberts said.

The drought is aggravated by the high degree of utilisation of water resources in many areas because more people are dependent on them now than in previous drought years, the department says in its review.

The present drought has affected the rural communities and wildlife more than the urban areas.

Khayelitsha: ^③ New hope for the starving

ARG 18/1/92

Self-help scheme — a response by residents to their immediate needs

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

ALTERNATIVE farming techniques — and a good dose of dedication and determination — have resulted in an oasis in the Khayelitsha "desert" designed to give hope to the township's people.

Abalimi Bezekhaya (Planters of the Home), a community-based greening and food gardening project, has proved by example that it is not only possible to "green" an arid environment, but also to provide sustenance against poverty.

The Khayelitsha oasis is one of two well-stocked people's garden centres — the other is in Nyanga — with the dual purpose of being both training centres and low-cost nurseries.

Project co-ordinator Mr Dave Golding said the major aim of the project was to help people grow some of their own household fruit and vegetables, as well as to see them "greening" the environment.

He said the project encouraged self-help and the "fantastic" community response clearly disproved claims that township residents did not care about their environment.

Inaccessible water supplies, usually a major problem in the townships, are overcome by alternative techniques of deep trenching and mulching. Although water is often difficult to obtain in squatter areas, it is, however, free of charge.

To develop further skills and knowledge, project workers will soon attend permaculture (permanent agriculture) design courses:

"Permaculture aims at reducing consumerism and promoting 'producerism'. We are very much behind creating that kind of culture which is why we believe permaculture has relevance for the desperate situation in the townships today," Mr Golding said.

Abalimi Bezekhaya workers believe their efforts have had a significant effect on the township residents:

"Since we started in Khayelitsha in April 1989, we have seen sales of resources increase by 80 per cent," project developer Mr Rob Small said.

The workers don't wait for the people to come to them, and their other efforts include:

- Regular "manure runs" which take the centre's resources to more distant areas;
- On-site demonstrations, workshops and follow-ups for individuals, community workers and township projects;
- An annual Arbor Day focus which provides free trees and shrubs from the centres and in selected township areas; and
- A Cape Flats townships' greening project which aims to plant one million trees in co-operation with community structures and residents.

The project was funded by a Catholic agency in Germany. Mr Small said it was important that they "vigorously develop a local donor base".

"The garden centres are run like businesses but, because of the low mark-up on products, they will never be totally self-sufficient," he said.

● Non-profit permaculture design courses to be run at Camphill Village Alpha in Malmesbury from March 1 to 14 and March 20 to April 2. For further information call Julia Wilson or Lori Lake at (0226) 22345 before the end of January.



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, Weekend Argus.

□ **GARDEN GRANNY:** Khayelitsha resident Mrs Minah Nonkonyana proudly shows off her private garden into which she has put hours and hours of work. With her are her husband Fraser and granddaughter Ivy.



□ **"DESERT FRUITS":** Ms Christina Kaba, above, garden manager of the Khayelitsha people's garden centre, shows off the spoils of the Abalimi Bezekhaya demonstration garden.

□□□□



□ **PLANT POWER:** Ms Christina Kaba, with her "baby", the greenhouse of low-cost indoor plants for sale to township residents.

The HARVEST³

Countdown to lift-off for drought aid plan

ARC TO 18/92

THE Argus and Nedcor Group have started the countdown on emergency food shipments under the "Harvest for the Hungry" disaster programme to rush aid to hundreds of thousands of families affected by the drought.

The countdown began as offers of help — from food parcels to transport — poured in following the appeal for contributions.

The first allocation of funds to set shipments rolling will be made as early as August 31 — less than six weeks after the launch of the campaign.

The adherence to the tight timetable from planning to action promises to make the "Harvest" exercise one of the speediest of its kind on record.

But proposals from agencies must meet a strict set of criteria aimed at ensuring the best result:

- The programme will concentrate on the poor — irrespective of gender, race, colour, creed or political affiliation.

- Relief support will be directed to the areas of priority need.

- Where possible, all affected parties must be involved from the outset

on issues such as the identification of projects.

- Help will avoid reinforcing any particular power group and will concentrate on the beneficiaries alone.

- The aim should be equity — total openness with systems and budgets.

- Help will be implemented by agents at local level wherever possible.

- Efforts should aim at co-operation at community level and a prevention of duplication.

- Projects should complement rather than compete with support from other sources.

- Proposals must be sound in administrative, physical, financial and social terms.

- Financial control must be seen to be clean and open.

- Agencies must agree to accountability to the "Harvest" fund on meeting the criteria.

The final selection of relief agencies to be engaged in the scheme will also be carried out in consultation with a specialist advisory team drawn from the new Consultative Forum on Drought Relief that has created a series of expert task forces to tackle the crisis.

Rain and snow relieve drought

THE heavy rain and snow that has been falling over the past few days has started filling some dams in the drought-stricken Eastern Cape.

One of Port Elizabeth's most important storage dams, the Churchill Dam, is overflowing for the first time in years.

Although the Paul Sauer Dam was 18% full earlier yesterday, this figure is expected to rise as soon as the snow on the Kouga Mountains starts melting.

Kareedouw has recorded the highest rainfall in the Eastern Cape following widespread rain along the coast and the interior since Friday.

Rainfall in Kareedouw measured 171mm since Friday, 151mm in Port Elizabeth, 146mm at Alexandria, 90mm at Bathurst, 77mm at Graaff-Reinet and the H F Verwoerd Airport near Port Elizabeth, and 74mm at Hankey and Cape St Francis.

In East London it was reported that vehicles were trapped, road and telephonic communications disrupted and sporting fixtures cancelled as bone-chilling temperatures accompanied by snow and heavy rain gripped the Border region at the weekend.

The Weather Bureau in Pretoria predicts the bitterly cold weather will persist over most of the country, with more snow expected in the southeastern Cape last night.

● Despite the presence of snow on the Hottentots Holland mountains and a chilly weekend, Capetonians can expect fine weather later this week, the Weather Bureau said. — Own Correspondent, Sapa

Race to halt rural exodus

STAR 10/8/92.

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The drought threatens to trigger the mass migration of thousands of black families in a desperate search for survival from food and water shortages, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

ELITE teams of international engineers and local experts have formed a special task force in the northern Transvaal on the most dramatic mission most of them have ever tackled: find water — and avert one of the biggest and most tragic mass migrations on record in southern Africa.

Director of operations Len Abrams, from the new Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, estimates the numbers in the trek may swell as high as between 2.5 and 3 million unless new water supplies can be tapped from deep under dried-out river-beds and land parched by the longest and most severe drought in living memory.

"We're in a desperate battle against time," he says. "Drilling operations are running round the clock. Unless we can trace new water sources and unless spring rains come to the rescue, the start of a massive migration from hundreds of villages will be inevitable in the next three months."

The hunt for water has been spread out across hundreds of kilometres of the northern Transvaal and most of the Venda and Lebowa homelands, where hundreds of thousands of black families have found themselves trapped in the drought crisis.

New boreholes are being drilled, broken pumps repaired, every small leak in water pipes plugged, new dams laid out to secure even the tiniest trickle from springs...

The extent and degree of the drought is seen in the obvious desperation of long queues that form in rural villages when government or military trucks arrive with tankers carrying precious water supplies.

The water shortage is so

widespread that rations often have to be limited to a meagre 25 litres per family — expected to last four long days. Because of the size of many rural families, that in reality comes down to only 2 or 3 litres per villager — or little more than half a litre per person a day.

"And that," Mr Abrams notes, "is not only for drinking-water or tea or coffee. That also has to suffice, somehow, for washing, scrubbing clothes and cooking. Very often there's nowhere near enough water to cook the scarce mealies and food scraps on which many villagers are struggling to survive. The potential health as well as malnutrition hazards are enormous."

"The drought crisis in many rural areas is sadly underestimated in the big metropolitan centres, protected by sophisticated water supply systems and with the cash to buy food in the supermarkets."

"But if solutions do not come in time, with rains or successful new boreholes, there will be no possible way to avert a mass rural exodus."

"More funds and more volunteers are vital to keep assistance and technical operations running at full speed."

For Len Abrams, the operation comes as a dramatic initiation as the first executive director of the Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, which has thrust the problem to the top of a growing list of priorities.

Fortunately, a background as a qualified civil engineer and director of the Rural Advice Centre has made him the ideal candidate with the practical knowledge and experience to head the hand-picked task force out on constant assignment from a special operations centre established in Pietersburg.



Hard labour . . . getting water from a spring in Lebowa. It is covered with thorns at night to prevent wild animals taking the precious liquid.

Mr Abrams has already succeeded in bringing in specialists from overseas to join local engineers recruited from various government departments and the private sector.

Engineers from Germany were among the first arrivals to be shocked by the extent and degree of the drought crisis. From Britain, engineers from the crack volunteer unit known as the "Red R" — the nickname of the Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, with long experience of global emergencies — have joined the operation.

International Executive Ser-

vices, another crack unit of volunteers, has sent in more than a score of professional engineers from posts around the world. And now the United States government has pledged to send in a team.

The huge operation marks the real launch of the Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, which was created out of a special conference co-hosted by the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust three months ago as the urgent need for emergency measures became a national concern.

It also marks a breakthrough

in efforts to bring together all the main players and persuade them to leave their political differences on one side while they combine forces in the search for solutions.

Somehow, the forum succeeded in bringing as many as 68 organisations to the conference table to agree on an action programme — covering a spectrum that spans the whole gamut from the ANC to various government departments, from the trade unions to the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

"By striking at least a temporary peace accord between

all the players," says Mr Abrams, "we believe we can finally push ahead with an action plan that cuts straight through the red tape and bureaucracy that has held government initiatives in slow motion."

The forum has laid plans to launch a series of five special task forces, each assigned to tackle one of the specific problem areas that have been spotlighted by the drought crisis.

The issue of water supplies has been the first item on the agenda, but expert teams will also concentrate on practical solutions to malnutrition, short

and longer-term plans for the future of agriculture, answers to the unemployment caused by the drought as well as new approaches to job creation, and a concerted study of socio-economic development as a whole.

"It's much more than merely yet another discussion forum," adds Mr Abrams. "It's a think-tank that intends to turn theories into practice — and at full speed."

"The next priority will be to ensure full participation at down-to-earth community level, where voices have been ignored for far too long." □

Call for halt to public land sale

3 rev LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — The SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) has called for a moratorium on the sale of all public land until an interim government is installed and a housing and development policy formulated for metropolitan and regional development.

Sanco is to form a coalition with the ANC and other land and environment organisations to look at issues relating to the future development of SA.

"We can no longer look at land issues as isolated problems.

"They must form part of a housing strategy aimed at investigating the land question and its implications in the greater metropolitan context," western Cape regional vice-chairman John Neels said yesterday.

"A critical part of this initiative would be the question of affirmative action and redistribution of land to communities historically deprived by apartheid."

Minister launches bid to help sacked hospital staff

HEALTH Minister Rina Venter said yesterday she had launched a major initiative aimed at resolving problems involving the 7 000 hospital workers dismissed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

She said negotiations had begun on Friday between the TPA and the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) after requests from the Wits/Vaal regional dispute resolution committee which met Venter last week.

The negotiations were continuing yesterday.

Venter also said she had set up two committees to investigate aspects of the hospitals crisis.

One was to "see what we can do to provide social assistance for dismissed workers". She said she was considering some sort of assistance in kind, such as food provision, but not financial assistance.

The committee would also look at how demands for the reinstatement of the 7 000 workers could be considered without firing workers since em-

CHARLIE PRETZLIK

ployed by the TPA.

The second committee would examine ways of normalising "the atmosphere" at the Medical University of SA (Medunsa) and its adjoining teaching hospital.

Representatives from Medunsa told Venter last week the situation at the hospital remained volatile, which was affecting training.

A committee similar to the one dealing with Medunsa had been set up in Johannesburg at the instigation of the Wits/Vaal regional dispute resolution committee, she said.

Venter reiterated her commitment to outlawing strikes in the public sector, but said "we will institute a dispute resolution mechanism to ensure a similar strike never occurs again.

"Draft legislation is currently being negotiated between the Commission for Administration and the 11 public sector unions, except Nehawu, which boycotted the talks."

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Rains bring limited relief to drought areas

RAINS that fell in the drought-stricken Transvaal recently would have limited agricultural value because the area was a summer rainfall region, Agriculture Department spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

Rain was recorded at more than 50 measuring stations in the Transvaal including Louis Trichardt and Tzaneen in the past two weeks.

The rain will boost the level of the water table and provide desperately needed surface water. There were sufficient rains in the east-

RAY HARTLEY (3) Gen

ern Cape to rescue some crops, he said.

"Rain in the northern Transvaal may bode well for the growth of vegetation in spring, but it would not be adequate for the planting of crops. However, this depends on the soil type."

CSIR water quality expert Peter Ashton said yesterday salt levels in water in the drought-ravaged northern Transvaal were rising and this could become a health risk in the future.

11/11/79
B/DA

Drought threatening jobs ^{GEN}

UP TO 69 000 jobs could be lost in the agricultural and associated sectors as a result of the past year's drought, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk says.

He told the Northern Cape Agricultural Union annual congress in Kimberley yesterday that if it was accepted that the gross value of the agricultural sector in 1992 would be 14% lower than in 1991, the GDP growth rate would fall by 1,8% and 69 000 jobs would be lost in these sectors. When dependants were taken into account, more than 300 000 people were threatened.

Van Niekerk said other serious macro-economic consequences included a decline in agricultural production which could raise the inflation rate by 0,8%. The current account on the balance of payments

could also be weakened. The need to import 4,6-million tons of maize at about R500 a ton would shrink the current account balance by about R2,4bn.

The financial obligations of farmers, farmer-associated undertakings and government would also increase. "The entire economy, already in the grip of a prolonged recession, will be further mauled."

Van Niekerk said some farmers blamed government for maintaining interest rates at an artificially high level. However, government did not dictate monetary policy to the Reserve Bank.

He said government had launched the most comprehensive aid package yet.

B/DAJ 12-18/92
GERALD REILLY

Farmers face death threats, stock killing

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Cattle are being mysteriously slaughtered and threats made over telephones in an isolated Natal Midlands community near Richmond where intimidation against white farmers is continuing.

The farms, described as being on a "tense war footing", are about 15 km from strife-torn Richmond.

Families, including former Natal rugby forward Mort Mortassagne, were at the receiving end of threats to leave the area or "face the consequences". They said they were forced to live virtually under seige. They carried firearms for protection as they went about their daily business, whether it was working in the fields or nursing children.

One farmer in the area has reportedly had more than 70 head of cattle either slaught-

ered or stolen.

Another farmer, Barry Pottow, said a resident of the nearby Gengesche location was ambushed and shot dead with automatic weapons last week. His home was then petrol-bombed.

Tensions are still running high in the community where, he said, Inkatha-supporting residents found it very difficult to get to Richmond to buy groceries.

Mr Mortassagne, who travels everywhere with his family in an old Rheebock armoured vehicle, recently received a second threat over the telephone. He had previously been warned that his death was "only days away". This time he was told that his home would be burnt down.

"The intimidation is carrying on. There's no doubt about it," said Mr Pottow.

However, another farmer said he believed a criminal element was taking advantage of the tense situation in Richmond and fomenting trouble.

3 Gen STAR 13/8/92

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Halt sale of State land, urges ANC

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The ANC is gearing up for battle over the proposed auction of 53 parcels of Government land in prime residential areas across the Reef.

Yesterday the ANC released a statement calling on the Government to suspend the auction on August 26 at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg.

Sources close to the ANC said the organisation viewed the auction as a test case, and would fight the Government with all its resources.

"The offer of this land to speculators and developers completely ignores the enormous land and housing crisis in the country, particularly in the PWV," the statement read.

The ANC demanded that the sale be halted "in order to provide the opportunity for a more socially responsible approach to be formulated - an approach more in keeping with the future of our cities than with their past".

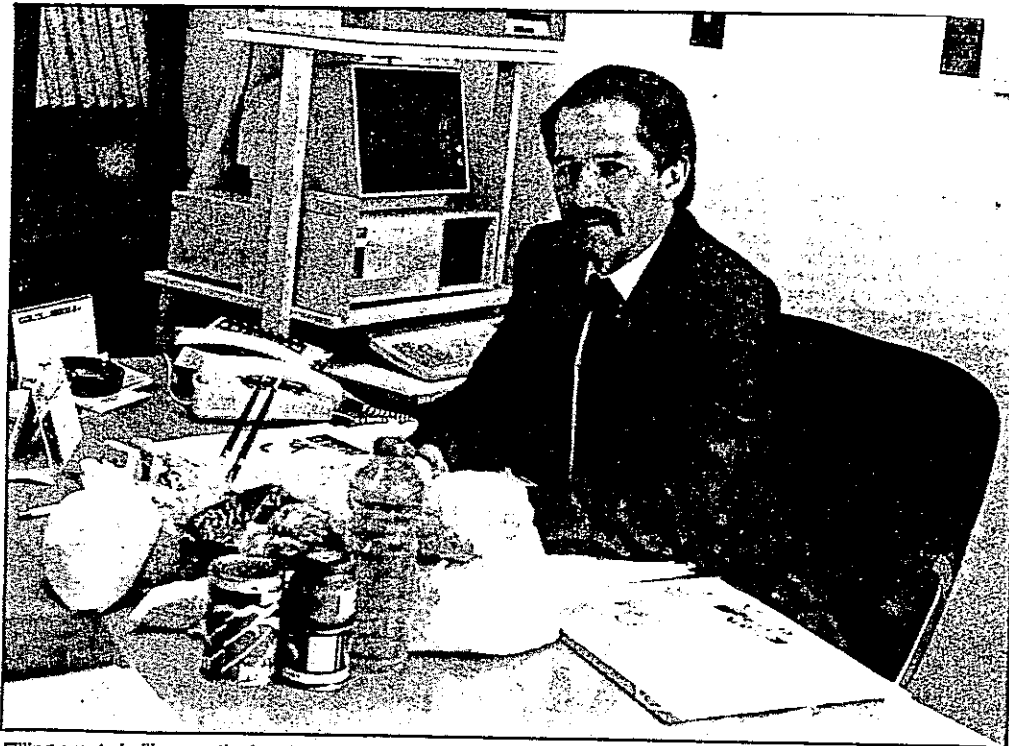
Protested

The ANC said its demand for a halt to State land sales extended to provincial and local authorities.

Recently the Department of Public Works suspended the auction of several agricultural properties in the Queenstown and Tarkastad areas of the eastern Cape. The auction was due to have taken place yesterday, but land rights groups and communities uprooted by forced removals protested against the sale.

In rural areas the demand for a moratorium on the sale of State land relates largely to the fact that the Government still holds many areas from which "black spot" communities were removed.

Since the appointment of the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, several communities have lodged claims for the restoration of this land.



Filling empty bellies . . . the headmaster of Dirkie Uys Laerskool in Norwood, Christo Lodder.

Helping hand for hungry Norwood schoolchildren

By Anna Cox

In the heart of the upmarket suburb of Norwood, Johannesburg, there are children who go to school hungry every day.

And if it were not for the efforts of Christo Lodder, headmaster of Dirkie Uys Laerskool, who runs a feeding scheme at the school, many would go home hungry.

"We have our own twilight children at this school. It is

one of the last few Afrikaans schools in the northern suburbs, and when Joubert Park Laerskool closed we got many children from Hillbrow and Berea," said Mr Lodder.

"I found out by accident that certain children were coming to school hungry when a Grade 1 pupil was found stealing a classmate's lunch. She was caught red-handed, with a sandwich in her mouth.

"She had taken nothing except the food and when I asked her why she had done it she answered very simply that

STAR 13/8/92

she was hungry," said Mr Lodder, who took over as principal in April.

He began investigating all the suspected cases of hardship and personally visited each family to see what conditions they were living in.

"Some families are sleeping on blankets on the floor of unfurnished flats in Hillbrow. Husband and wife are often unemployed and there is no income. Some parents are even struggling to pay bus fare to school," he said.

After appeals for help from

the local community failed, Mr Lodder asked the O'Connor Foundation for assistance. Forty food parcels a month are now being sent to the school for the children to take home.

"It is not enough. We need money to get these children proper school uniforms, track-suits and clothes for the cold winter days, but not many people are prepared to help."

Anyone who can assist should telephone Mr Lodder at 728-6307.

New HIV and hepatitis test to be launched soon

Medical Reporter

A new test for the HIV and hepatitis virus - a 10 minute "tongue-tip" saliva test - will soon be launched in Johannesburg.

British dental consultant Dr Marsh Midda, who is involved in clinical trials and the launch of the new test, arrived in South Africa this week to attend the Dental Association of SA congress.

Developed by Oracle Diagnostics of California, the saliva test is reportedly as accurate as the Elisa international standard test on blood but has the convenience of being quick, painless and affordable, and can be done in the privacy of one's home.

National Institute of Virology director Professor Barry

Schoub said the test was still under evaluation and so he could not comment fully.

"If it is proved to be reliable then certainly it would be a very useful facility," said Professor Schoub.

However, he strongly cautioned against people checking themselves in the absence of professional advice.

According to Dr Midda the home test-kit has met with some controversy in the UK and US as any patient undergoing an HIV test must have full professional counselling as well.

"In some cases, however, it would be better to have a quick diagnosis as some patients who were negative committed suicide before receiving the results of their blood tests," he said.

Arsonists set school bus alight

A bus belonging to a school for the handicapped was set on fire early yesterday, causing R50 000 damage, said Soweto police liaison officer Captain Mariemuthoo.

"There have been problems lately at the J.C. Merkins School for the Handicapped in White City, Soweto," Captain Mariemuthoo said.

In July, 36 of the school's teachers were arrested after a sit-in demanding the reinstatement of a colleague.

Yesterday at 3.30 am the tyres of the bus were slashed and the bus was set alight.

The arsonists could expect strong action from the police, Captain Mariemuthoo warned. - Sapa.

Several hurt as hospital workers, protesters clash

By Thabo Leshilo
Labour Reporter

Several people were injured in a clash between sacked hospital workers and those on duty at Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg yesterday.

The confrontation took place at about 2 pm when 200 National Health, Education and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) members gathered for their daily picket. The SAP, Nehawu and the hospital gave different accounts of how it started.

A Witwatersrand police spokesman said hospital workers on duty "decided they had had enough of the shouting and noise of the protesters".

Hospital senior superintendent Dr Trevor Frankish said fighting started after two

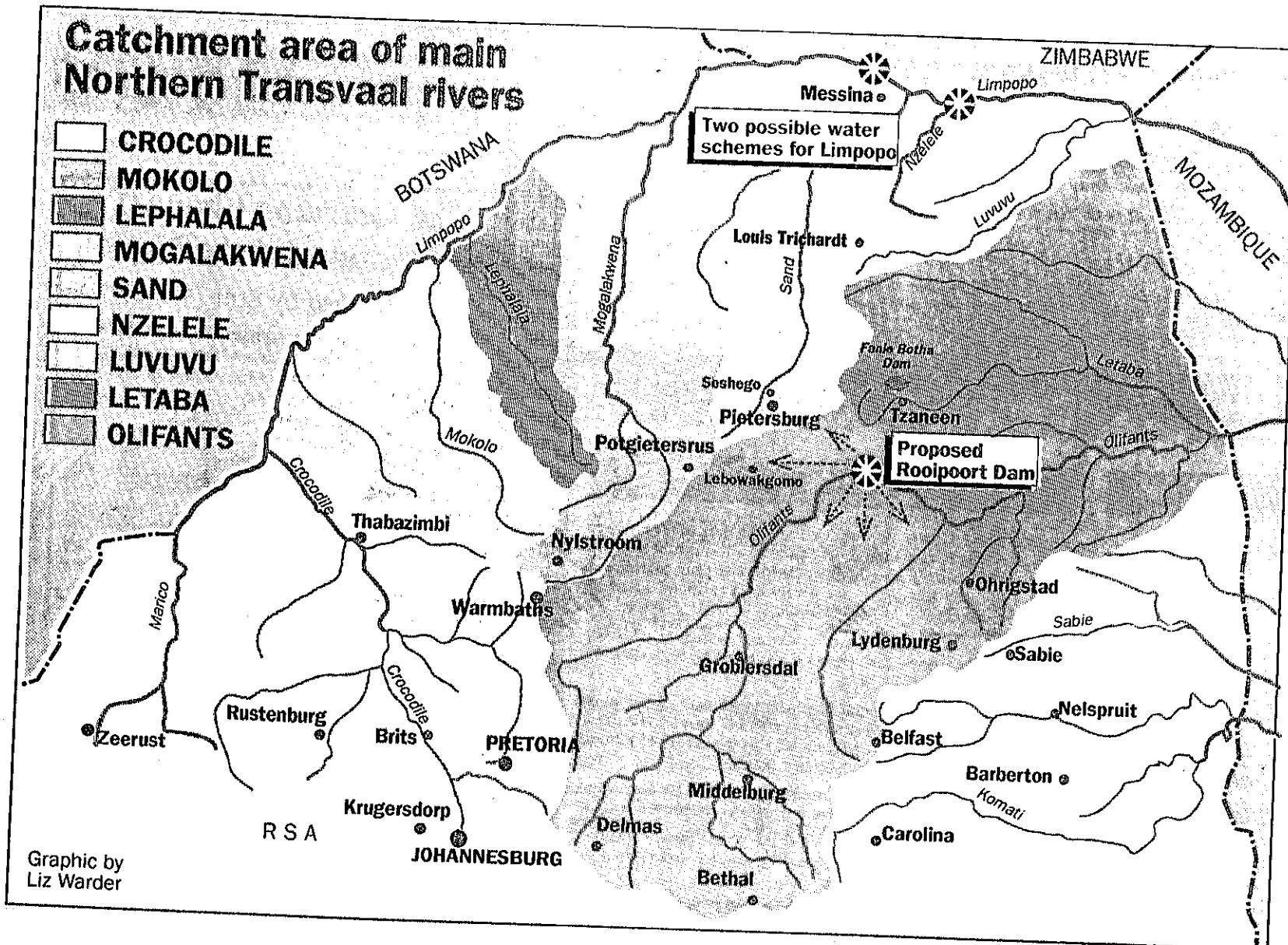
workers on their way to work were stabbed by strikers.

However, Nehawu's Johannesburg branch secretary Bongani Tsimo claimed the attack was unprovoked. He said three Nehawu members were admitted to hospital in a serious condition.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday it would meet the Soweto Action Committee for talks on restoring Baragwanath Hospital services to normal.

Fanie Ferreira, MEC for health services, said reinstating sacked workers would be discussed at the committee's request. Of the more than 7 000 sacked, just over 1 000 had given reasons why their dismissals should be reconsidered, he said, and about 400 had been re-employed.

Drought gives water experts flood of ideas



While the drought was devouring the northern Transvaal this week, experts were planning major water schemes. DIRK NEL reports.

STAR 13/8/92
POLITICS pulled the plug 10 years ago on joint water schemes with Zimbabwe on the Limpopo River.

At Pietersburg this week, a few kilometres from the river, South African and Zimbabwean officials were in the mood to revive them at a conference on water affairs.

Changes in South Africa meant politics was also a prompt for reviving the plans, supported by the best reason of all: mutual need. It is still too early for details of joint schemes to have emerged from the conference, but it looks promising.

Urgent task

Domestic planning was easier to be specific about, and one project outlined was a large dam on the Olifants River, at Rooipoort in Sekhukhuneland, to serve Pietersburg and neighbouring towns.

A working group was formed at the end of the conference to make specific proposals for action. The task is urgent, since the conference heard that the drought threatens the water supply of 5 million people in northern Transvaal alone.

The talks ranged widely, and the animals in the Kruger National Park were not forgotten; one suggestion was improving water supplies to the park, using the Olifants, Levhu and Letaba rivers. □

Graphic by Liz Warder

Cashing in on the tou

w/ Mail 14/8-20/8/92.
After resisting it in the past people in rural areas have realised that preserving wildlife can be profitable.

3 Gen By **EDDIE KOCH** 

THERE'S a new breed of man who travels deep into the wildest areas of the country with enough stamina and determination to save our ecology from total ruin.

You will find him being feted by government ministers, entrepreneurs, planners, farmers and tribal chiefs. From the bankrupt farms of the northern Transvaal to the congested plains of the homelands, they revere him as the new messiah.

Thousands of his kind come to the region every year, sometimes with hunting rifles strapped to their backs, but mostly with the latest in video technology around their necks and lots of dollars or yen in their pockets.

They call him homo superbus.

South Africa's official tourist body, Satour, reports that 1,7-million foreigners visit this country every year. Eight out of 10 say that they have come to appreciate the wildlife, indigenous vegetation and scenic beauty of South Africa.

And with a new environmental awareness seeping into the public mind, there is an increasing number of local people who choose to spend a week out in the bush instead of gambling at Sun City.

"Commercial wildlife management and the attendant tourism development provide a land-use option that is not only profitable and sustainable but also has the capability to heal the scars of earlier degradation," says a recent report by ecologist David Grossman and Tony Ferrar, executive director of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

"With the imminent redress of former political problems, the region is preparing for a growth in eco-tourism. The existing state-run parks are stretched to capacity and private sector conservation-based developments are emerging to cater for the game viewing market."

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) reports that there were 50 000 local hunters and 400 professional hunting guides inside the country and that 4 000 hunters from abroad visited South Africa, bringing in an income of some R270-million.

But the Kruger National Park, and other game reserves, find they don't have enough beds to accommodate the demand. Every year, during the peak holiday season, they turn away one out of every second person trying to get into the park.

All sorts of schemes are springing up in every part of the country to cater for this demand. There are now some 800 reserves, excluding those owned by the National Parks Board, ranging from exclusive resorts like Mala Mala and Londolozi to small tribal resource areas in the homelands.

The SAAU's National Game Organisation reports that in 1990 there were 9 000 game ranches occupying some eight million hectares of the country.


A total of R355-million was generated by game farming in 1990. Three quarters of this came from safari hunting and the rest from tourist visits, game auctions and sale of venison.

The government, recognising the capacity of eco-tourism to kickstart the rural economy, this year made R600-million available to fund the infrastructure for these kind of ventures.

"Farmers, hard hit by economic depression and the drought, are selling their cattle, erecting game fences, stocking the land with wild animals and building lodges or chalets and holding thumbs that this will save them from going under," says Grossman.

Conservation authorities in kaNgwane and in

Harvesting tourists

● From PAGE 23  3 Gen

Bophuthatswana report that, whereas they struggled to sell the notion of conservation to rural people in the past, they are now receiving spontaneous applications for reserves to be established in parts of these homelands.

Take a tiny reserve at a place called Mzinti in a remote and drought-stricken corner of KaNgwane not far from the Mozambique border. Here the KaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC) made a healthy turnover of

R100 000 over the last year by conducting a few safaris for foreign hunters, accommodating some tourists in tents and selling a few head of eland. w/ Mail 14/8-20/8/92

The parks authorities aim to use these resources for building civic projects in the local community such as clinics and creches. "These are small amounts of money. But in these depressed areas it indicates some form of growth and development," says KPC director Jeremy Anderson.

The result is that wildlife ranching is now the fastest growing and most dynamic livestock industry in South Africa — and it is fast becoming the most dynamic force for conserving the country's indigenous plant and animal species.

And it's not only wildlife tourism that is encouraging farmers and peasants to preserve the rural environment. In the northern Transvaal and parts of the eastern Free State, farmers are converting their old stone buildings into guest houses for sensitive visitors. Others are allowing their properties to be used, in return for a fee, as horse and hiking trails.

But Grossman and Ferrar point out in their report, published in the latest edition of *The Traffic Bulletin*, that eco-tourism should not be seen as a magical panacea that will automatically solve the problems of rural development.

"Game ranching should not be a quick-fix solution to poverty in the white and black rural areas. A lot of people put up a fence and call the place a game lodge and think they will make megabucks overnight," says Grossman. "But it doesn't work like this. These projects need care and planning. They have to be carefully marketed so that they can become financially viable and, most of all, they have to have popular support."

Many new game farms and private reserves have adopted the latest conservation principles being promoted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which stress the need to promote tangible benefits to rural people living in and around these protected wildlife areas.

"Perceptions in the rural areas are changing. People used to see wildlife as a nuisance and a threat to their traditional way of farming. There is now a growing awareness of the potential for rural development through game farming," says Grossman.

"But in South Africa revenue derived from the wildlife trade does not reach the rural poor as well as it does in certain projects in neighbouring countries and there is not sufficient participation by local people in decisions about these conservation activities."

These inadequacies have to be addressed for wildlife conservation to achieve the full potential it has to help reconstruct South Africa's rural economy.

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New law and land deputies ^{CT 14/3/92} ③

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk has announced the appointment of a new Deputy Minister of Law and Order and an official government spokesman.

The current Deputy Minister of Law and Order and of Land Affairs, Mr Johan Scheepers, will serve as full-time Deputy Minister of Land Affairs only.

Mr Gert Myburgh, MP for Port Elizabeth-North, will take over as Deputy Minister of Law and Order.

Mr De Klerk said the continuing pattern of violence and the urgent need for real action regarding the problems surrounding the land issue dictated that these departments acquire special attention.

The new appointments come into force on Monday.

Mr De Klerk also announced the appointment of Mr Dave Steward, current head of the SA Communication Service, as special government spokesman.

R150m paid out to farmers

(3) Gen
BIDA 1418192

PRETORIA — More than R150m in government drought aid had been distributed since April, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekirk said yesterday.

The largest amounts had gone to interest subsidies on carry-over debt (R55m), debt consolidation (R39,5m), interest subsidies on production credit (R26,6m) and relief for stock farmers (R25,3m).

Van Niekirk said bottlenecks were being identified in the processing of aid applications and these were being removed as a matter of great urgency.

He warned that although the aim was to assist as many farmers as possible, not all farmers would be able to survive financially because of the stressed situation in the industry.

GERALD REILLY

A management committee and a co-ordinating centre had been established by government to ensure the smooth operation of the relief process.

Communities with critical water and food needs were asked to contact urgently Mike Walters of the centre at (012) 206-2287.

Van Niekirk said a task group was visiting the independent and self-governing territories to integrate short-term relief with longer-term development programmes.

Governments of the self-governing territory had full authority to spend funds according to their specific needs. In fact, these gover-

ments were already involved, through drought relief committees, in job creation programmes, water supply schemes, the supply and transport of stockfeed and the granting of interest subsidies for production credit.

Van Niekirk said not all drought relief measures involved cash transfers.

An example of this was the emergency water schemes, where the defence force was transporting water and the Department of Agricultural Development was responsible for sinking emergency boreholes.

There was still time for farmers to submit applications for aid under some of the schemes.

R1,5-bn for drought relief since April 1

300m
STAR 14/8/92

A total of R1,5 billion has been spent on drought relief since April 1, mostly to subsidise interest on farmers' debts, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

A sum of R55 million had been channelled for this purpose and R26 million had been paid towards interest subsidies on production credit, R25 million on disaster relief for stock farmers, R39 million for debt consolidation and R3,8 million for the transport of stockfeed.

A task group was visiting independent and self-governing territories to integrate short-term drought relief with development programmes.

In addition, the SADF was helping to transport water, and boreholes were being sunk.

Communities in need of water and food supplies can contact Mike Walters at (012) 206-2287. — Staff Reporter.

Cutting red tape helps to quench their thirst

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — A red tape-cutting initiative has brought water to thousands of drought-stricken villagers said to be worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq.

The urgent programme, involving private enterprise, Department of Water Affairs officials and British disaster relief engineers, is operating in remote rural areas in Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu.

A water supply task force, operating under the National Drought Relief Consultative Forum, this week invited the media to visit its projects.

The project uses private-sector finance and equipment, government influence and infra-

structure, and ready-for-anything action teams to get the job done, said Water Affairs strategist Simon Forster.

Engineer David Williamson co-ordinates events from an operations room in Pietersburg where crisis information is gathered and urgent drilling, repairs and maintenance are arranged.

"By cutting out all formalities which cause delays, we have managed to supply thousands of drought-hit people with clean drinking water within a short time," Mr Forster said.

The situation was critical in some areas, said British relief engineer Ian Johnson.

"Some villagers in Venda are worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq — many are down to a quota of a litre of water a day each, and such people are in danger of contracting all kinds of diseases because

domestic and personal hygiene is virtually non-existent."

At a village near Elim Hospital, villagers crowded expectantly around a drilling rig. The contractor predicted he would strike water within two days.

A few kilometres down the dusty road, 200 children, all carrying 25 litre containers, queued for water at a dusty pump.

Task force leader Malcolm White said the pump provided water for thousands of people.

Meanwhile nutritional, agricultural and employment task forces went about their work in other areas this week as part of the overall programme.

"The drought relief programme supplies employment for many," said Mr Forster.

The Delta Motor Corp had provided a fleet of vehicles to get work teams to project sites, and other firms had provided advice and equipment.

Apartheid rolls on

S Times 16/8/92

THE six homelands are set to gain administrative control of more than one-million hectares of land, prompting an outcry that the government is surreptitiously continuing to implement grand apartheid.

Plans for the transfer of the land, earmarked during the apartheid era for incorporation into the homelands, will go before the cabinet this month.

However, ANC spokesman on land affairs Aninka Claassens has already slammed the proposed move as "cynical and dishonest".

This land was formally owned and administered by the SA Development Trust, which was attached to the discredited Department of Development Aid.

In terms of the White Paper on Land Reform released last year, the incorporation of this trust land was stopped in the light of the government's reform process.

But the state has come under pressure from homeland leaders, who said the land was promised to them in the past and that they needed it now for development. The

By EDYTH BULBRING: Political Correspondent

bulk of this "promised land" is being claimed by Kwazulu and Lebowa.

About 520 000ha of the land is already occupied by communities and tribes. A further 500 000ha, although partly earmarked, has not been allocated, and could be sold or developed.

Almost 240 000ha of this land is presently leased to farmers, mostly whites. The leases expire at the end of the year.

Prohibition

Deputy Land Affairs Minister Johan Scheepers said this land could not be left without tenants. The government would have to decide soon what to do with it and other promised land.

It had to reconcile promises made years ago to the self-governing territories, and policy contained in the White Paper which prohibited the incorporation of this land for state farming purposes.

The land, Mr Scheepers said, could not be sold on the open market, as this would

create problems with extra-parliamentary organisations and with the homelands, which claimed it as their own.

An interim solution would be to place the "promised land" under the administrative control of the self-governing states. Joint structures between the government and the homelands would be set up to decide how the land should be used.

"We must come to an agreement with the self-governing territories on how they are going to utilise the land. It is not a question of merely handing over the land for administrative purposes," he said.

He stressed that while the land would be administered by the self-governing territories, it would still be owned by the state, pending further decisions.

Miss Claassens said yesterday the proposed action was ultimate proof of the government's bad faith over "de-racialising" access to land.

Recent government policy expressed in the White Paper was cheap fraud, she said. The only land identified by the White Paper for emerging black farmers was the same trust land which was now being given away.

3 Gen
By putting the onus for development of the land on corrupt and unpopular homeland governments, she said, the state was absolving itself of further responsibility for rural development.

It was an attempt by the government to pre-empt a new rural-development policy by an interim or future government.

Negative

"It indicates a mad scramble to get rid of state assets so that it cannot be used as a national resource in the future."

Miss Claassens said it was cynical and dishonest to say that the transfer of land was less serious because it involved only passing over administrative control.

For people living in these areas, administrative control by the homelands had exactly the same negative effect as full incorporation, she said.

If the government went ahead with its plan, it would be reverting to the unilateral apartheid land policies of the last decade, thus slamming the door on the possibility of negotiated land solutions.

● See Page 12

Jannie gets tough and refuses to budge from family farm

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

Times 16/8/92 (3) Gen

A BATTLE is looming between a Free State farmer and the Qwaqwa authorities who want to incorporate his prime farming land into a national park.

Farmer Jannie Ballot has been given until August 31 to vacate the land that has been in his family for more than 130 years — but he says he will not budge and has appealed to the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) to intervene.

“When our farms were first expropriated we were told the land would be given to black farmers in Qwaqwa. Now we find that rich, productive farming land is being given to wild animals which will have to be trucked in. It would be a criminal waste and I will not let them do it,” he said.

Mr Ballot is one of seven farmers in the fertile Eastern Free State valley, Die Moot, whose land was expropriated by government in 1986 for incorporation into Qwaqwa.

Die Moot, about 2 500ha, was part of a larger tract of land expropriated between Harrismith and Kestell.

While the other farmers left Die Moot, Mr Ballot remained on the land that had been in his family for four generations and leased it back from the Department of Development Aid at R15/ha for grazing and R29/ha for arable land — about half the going rate for land in the area. Last December, control of the farm was handed to Qwaqwa, and three months later, he received his eviction notice.

“It breaks my heart. This valley is like the Hex River Valley and was once one of the richest farming areas in the Free State. The soil is so good that you can farm practically anything.

“After 1986 the other farmers left and their farms were ruined. Their houses were stripped and the entire farming infrastructure here collapsed.

“The mobile clinic stopped doing the rounds, the school closed, the shops went out of business, and those who suffered most were the black residents.

“Our labourers were distraught — they didn’t know what would happen to them and they didn’t want to leave either.



JANNIE BALLOT, who says he has nowhere else to go
Picture: HERBERT MABUZA

Heritage

“I carried on farming because this is my heritage. Besides, I’ve got nowhere to go. I love this land. It has enormous agricultural potential,” he said.

Mr Ballot’s former neighbour, Brigadier Robert Crowther, has also applied to ACLA to have his farm returned to him.

Mr Erik Buiten, chief director of land matters for the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, said the Qwaqwa authorities and the now defunct Department of Development Aid had jointly decided to incorporate Die Moot into the Qwaqwa National Park.

Professor J Bothma, chairman of the Qwaqwa Tourism and Nature Corporation, declined to comment and referred inquiries to the ACLA.

A spokesman for the ACLA said a recommendation would be made to President FW de Klerk on completion of its investigations.

STRIDING through the long, tawny-coloured grass, Mr Andries Radebe flung his right arm out to indicate where his home once stood.

The 81-year-old man pointed to the land he had ploughed for crops, where the cattle grazed, where the children played. "That was the school, the Wesleyan church was over there. I planted these trees myself," he said, gesturing rapidly.

For the first time since 1977, Mr Radebe was walking on the soil he inherited from his father in Cremin, 30km from Natal's Ladysmith.

Now, with the help of the Legal Resources Centre, he is launching a court battle to regain the land taken by the government 15 years ago as part of its policy of removing "black spots".

Mr Radebe, his family, and the families of 99 other

CATHY STAGG accompanies an old man on an emotional journey back to the land which apartheid took away from him

title holders were forcibly removed to the township of Ezakheni, which falls under Kwazulu.

Mr Radebe, born in 1911, has two sons and three daughters. They did not accompany him this week as he walked over the land, reliving memories of the past. They did not see him weep over the unmarked

graves of their brother and sister.

Under a bluegum tree, Mr Radebe bent down, his face suddenly contorted with grief. "Two of my children lie buried here.

"My wife had triplets in 1963. The little girl died the same day. It was a Friday. The next Friday we buried her brother.

Uprooted by apartheid, but a grim battle looms

"But the remaining triplet is alive today. He matriculated and became a policeman."

The diminutive old man speaks English fluently, although he uses Zulu for greetings and thanks.

He describes the life-style once enjoyed by the community in Cremin prior to the forced removal and talks of raising such crops as pumpkins, beans and mealies.

The fruit trees are gone now, but the grove of trees he planted for shade

around his home still stands. Apart from these trees, the only trace of Mr Radebe's family history are the huge stones which marked-out his kraals.

Mr Radebe was proud of his herd of cattle, which represented his life's savings. But because there was no grazing in the township, he had to sell them at a pittance to the white farmers who took over.

"Up there, that's where the cattle grazed," he said, his arm tracing an arc towards the horizon.

For 11 years after the expropriation, the land lay fallow. Then it was sold to the late Mr Derek Dreyer.

Mr Radebe tried on a number of occasions to regain the land.

He went in person to the Native Commissioner's office several times. He gave up when he was told to stop making a nuisance of himself and that his file was closed. He felt so humiliated by the clerk's attitude that he wept.

The determined old man went to attorneys for advice. They charged him R200 to tell him there was nothing that could be done.

During the state of

emergency, he thought it best to keep quiet. But he never stopped hoping that one day he and his family would reoccupy the land.

Then the Legal Resources Centre in Durban took up his case.

Papers have been filed with the Maritzburg Supreme Court alleging that, for several reasons, correct procedures were not followed and as a result, the government never got title to the land.

The government intends opposing the application and the answering affidavit is due to be lodged on September 30.

Executors of Mr Dreyer's estate, his sons, Andre and Leon of Dundee, and Mr RW Lee of Ladysmith, have not opposed the application so far.

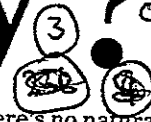
The progress of Mr Radebe's case will be watched with interest by the 99 other dispossessed families. They regard it as a test case. The land which could be involved is 623 hectares.

● The Land Commission will hold a public meeting in the Ladysmith town hall at 10am on Tuesday to hear from other Ezakheni township residents.

STimes 16/8/92

3m refugees to flood PWV?

CT 17/8/92



Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Drought in the Northern Transvaal could force between one and three million people to move to the PWV area this year, according to the Development Bank of SA (DBSA).

The homelands of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda are already under pressure from jobless labourers and from thousands of refugees pouring in from drought-ravaged Mozambique.

Farmers with no crops to harvest are dismissing workers. Most farmers are seeking alternative incomes and many have already put their farms up for sale.

DBSA senior project leader Mr Hannes Sauermann said 1,2m people from the far Northern Transvaal were expected to move to the PWV this winter.

Up to 3m people could arrive in the PWV if no rain fell in the homelands by November.

More than a third of the workforce on farms in the far Northern Transvaal — about 70 000 people — have been dismissed and sent to nearby homelands.

About 200 000 refugees have fled Mozambique and poured into Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda in search of food and water, said Mr Sauermann.

The area, the Development

Drought pushing thousands off farms

Bank's region G, could be categorised as a major disaster area, rural development experts said at the weekend.

A confidential report by a development agency in the area said 90% of farmers surveyed had reported harvests of 5% or less.

Rural Foundation Northern Transvaal regional manager Ms Santa Bossert said farmers had been left with no choice but to fire all seasonal and part-time workers following a disastrous fruit farming season.

The development agency report said all development initiatives in the area had been halted.

An expected maize harvest of 2m tons had only yielded 252 000 tons, while only 10 000 tons of an expected 65 000-ton wheat harvest had materialised, she said.

Fruit orchards were dying and could take seven years to revive.

"There's no natural water whatsoever and farmers have only had a three percent success rate in drilling for fresh water," she said.

Seven thousand villagers in north-eastern Venda are surviving on less than two litres of water a day. Some 600 000 people have been classified as having severe water problems in Lebowa, the reports said.

The internationally accepted amount of water needed for health and hygiene is 15 litres a person a day.

At least 300 villages in the affected homelands are now totally dependent on tankers for water.

The homeland reports also said:

- Almost 100% of the dry-land crops planted in Venda and Gazankulu this season had failed;

- A quarter of the total population in Venda was destitute and depended on food begged from friends and neighbours;

- Some 90 000 cattle — three quarters of the total for the area — were expected to die in Venda due to the drought, while those that did survive would not be in a good enough condition to be sold, and

- Nutritional diseases have increased by 337% in Gazankulu since June 1991.

The DBSA is working to minimise the damage in the area, including implementing drought relief projects and feeding schemes, Mr Sauermann said.

Africa needs 2m tons of food ^{CF 17/8/92} ③

WINDHOEK. — Eighteen million people in Southern Africa need a further two million tons of food aid to survive the region's worst drought this century, a development official said yesterday.

Mr Charles Hove, chief economist of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), said in an interview that the requirement could escalate before a meeting later this month to assess the region's needs.

Figures presented to a conference of SADCC

ministers here showed that the region had been able to provide about half its food needs this year.

An SADCC task force was set up in April to procure and distribute drought aid to 18 million people in immediate need.

Donors promised food worth \$600 (about R1 680m) at a pledging conference in Geneva in June to meet an assessed need in the region, excluding South Africa, of seven million tons. — Sapa-Reuter

'Millions will flee to PWV area'

Bank warns of drought's huge exodus

B/DAY 17/8/92

3 Gen

RAY HARTLEY

DROUGHT in the northern Transvaal could force between 1-million and 3-million people to move to the PWV area this year, according to the Development Bank of SA (DBSA).

The homelands of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda are already under pressure from jobless labourers and from thousands of refugees pouring in from drought-ravaged Mozambique.

Farmers with no crops to harvest are dismissing workers. Most farmers are seeking alternative income and many have already put their farms up for sale.

DBSA senior project leader Hannes Sauermann said 1,2-million people from the far northern Transvaal were expected to move to the PWV this winter.

Between 2,5-million and 3-million people could desert the homelands for the PWV if no rain fell there by November this year, leading to serious overcrowding in the urban areas and the mushrooming of squatter camps, he said.

More than a third of the workforce on farms in the far Northern Transvaal — about 70 000 people — have been dismissed and sent to nearby homelands as a result of the drought.

About 200 000 refugees have fled drought-devastated Mozambique and poured into Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda in search of food and water, said Sauermann.

The area, the Development Bank's region G, could be categorised as a major disaster area, rural development experts

said at the weekend.

A confidential report by a development agency working in the area said 90% of farmers surveyed had reported harvests of 5% or less.

About 10% of farmers had left the area and 80% were making a living by alternative means.

The 270 000 jobless people are putting great pressure on the Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa homelands, which have already been declared drought disaster areas.

Crop failure and the sudden population shifts have brought widespread malnutrition to the homelands.

Rural Foundation northern Transvaal regional manager Santa Bossert said farmers had been left with no choice but to fire all seasonal and part-time workers, as well as many permanent employees, following a disastrous fruit farming season.

Most of the remaining farm workers were working half-days, she said.

The development agency report said: "The last eight dry years have placed farmers in a position from which they cannot recover."

"The northern Transvaal's total development initiative has come to a halt as a result of the drought and its economic consequences," the report said.

"All existing development projects have come to a halt and will take at least two

□ To Page 2

Drought 17/8/92

years to restart if the economy recovers." An expected maize harvest of 2-million tons had only yielded 252 000 tons while only 10 000 tons of an expected 65 000-ton wheat harvest had materialised.

Fruit orchards were drying and could take up to seven years to revive. They were being maintained by substantially reduced staff who were working half-days in many cases, Bossert said.

"There's no natural water whatsoever and farmers have only had a 3% success rate in drilling for fresh water," she said. She added that she knew of some farmers who had spent as much as R80 000 in the search for new water sources.

Visiting British engineer Ian Johnson described the situation in some areas of Venda as worse than Iraq and Somalia, where he had worked on drought relief programmes.

Johnson is a field worker for the British relief agency Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief (Red R) which has sent four volunteers to assist with emergency water provision.

At least 300 villages in the affected homelands are now totally dependent on water tankers for water, according to official homeland drought committee reports to the Development Bank.

"The homeland reports also said: □ Almost 100% of the dry-land crops plant-

ed in Venda and Gazankulu this season had failed.

□ A quarter of the total population in Venda was destitute and depended on food begged from friends and neighbours.

□ Eleven percent of the children under the age of five in Venda were malnourished.

□ Some 90 000 cattle — three quarters of the total for the area — were expected to die in Venda due to the drought, while those that did survive would not be fit for commercial sale.

□ Nutritional diseases had increased by 337% in Gazankulu since June 1991.

The DBSA was taking several steps in an effort to minimise the damage caused by the disaster, including feeding schemes and speeding up the implementation of several drought relief projects, Sauermann said.

An emergency pipeline to the Vondodam which supplies large areas of Venda was being built and soft loans were being given to homeland governments for the recruitment of technical expertise needed to deal with the drought, he said.

A joint financial adjustment committee was looking into the total budget of the homelands with a view to shifting funds into emergency drought relief. Consultants were being employed to develop strategies to cope with the drought, he said.

3 Gen Front Page 1

Farmers fear future govt will appropriate funds

81 DAY 18/8/92
THERE is growing concern among farmers that a new government might appropriate control boards' stabilisation funds, built up mainly from producer levies.

The Wheat Board's stabilisation fund is about R100m. However agricultural authorities say that, in a country with a fast growing population and finite food production capacity, it would be a foolish government that unrealistically depressed producer prices. If prices were reduced to too low a level, production would tumble and food shortages would follow, as has happened in Zimbabwe.

Farmers are also concerned about a new government's attitude to primary producers.

Co-ordinating Committee of Marketing Boards chairman Fanie van Rensburg said last week the Marketing Act could be a dangerous instrument in the hands of a

GERALD REILLY (3) *Sen*

government unsympathetic to producers.

Agriculture authorities say the Act allows the Agriculture Minister to veto a national marketing council recommendation. A Minister unsympathetic to producers could favour consumers and reject recommendations for price increases.

A National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) source confirms that many farmers are anxious and uncertain about the possible consequences of a new government. They are concerned about land expropriation and control boards' stabilisation funds.

An SA Agricultural Union spokesman says the SAAU has not had direct talks with the ANC. But there has been contact through organisations such as the IDC's forum on drought relief.

ANC to put the consumer before the farmer

ANC agricultural affairs spokesman Derek Hanekom said yesterday any special treatment enjoyed by farmers which prejudiced the consumer would have to be abolished.

A new government would have to be more consumer friendly, as had not been the case until now, he said. Subsidies, too, would not be granted at the expense of the consumer.

On land redistribution, Hanekom said in specific cases land rights would have to be restored to original owners. A special court would also be established to settle competing claims for land.

He said the fate of the reserve and

BIDAY 19/8/92 (3) Gen
GERALD REILLY

stabilisation funds of the marketing boards was also an issue to be considered. However, the ANC acknowledged the boards had a function in the overall agricultural economy.

Meanwhile, the Free State Agricultural Union has invited political groups, including the ANC, to present their agricultural policies at its annual congress in Bloemfontein today, Sapa reports.

The ANC, Inkatha, the CP and the NP will present their policies after a motion opposing this was defeated yesterday.

Free State Agricultural Union president Pieter Gous said farmers had become a valuable commodity in countries which had realised the value of the white commercial farmer and which had had their "flirtation" with socialism.

He warned political groupings to be careful how they handled the just demands and viewpoints of farmers if they did not want serious problems and did not want to "walk the present Zimbabwe agricultural road".

He said it had cost countries like Zambia dearly to learn that farmers, who produced food, had to be kept on their land.

EC will give R2,6-m for ³ ~~2~~ ^{Car} drought relief

The European Community has agreed to contribute R2,6 million to support emergency programmes designed to provide drought-affected rural communities in South Africa with access to safe and adequate water supplies.

The Commission of the EC said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday the agreement was in response to a request from the Kagiso Trust, on behalf of the Consultative Forum on Drought. *STAR 19/8/92.*

It said the programmes were being co-ordinated by the forum's Water Task Force.

The Consultative Forum on Drought, which was convened by the Independent Development Trust and Kagiso Trust, involves community organisations, Government departments and non-governmental organisations. — Sapa.

Farmers could quit their land - warning

BLOEMFONTEIN — Free State farmers were not quitters, but if they were deprived of their land, and their lives deteriorated while the political role-players allowed this to continue, there could be a big shock for political groupings, according to Dr Pieter Gous.

Dr Gous, who is president of the Free State Agricultural Union, was speaking at the union's annual congress in Bloemfontein yesterday.

He said farmers had become a valuable commodity in countries

STAR 19/8/92.
③ Gen

which had realised the value of white commercial farmers and which had had their "flirtation" with socialism.

He said groups of these farmers had already visited several of those countries and similar visits were being finalised.

Dr Gous warned political groupings to be careful how they handled the just demands and viewpoints of farmers if they did not seek serious problems and did not want to "walk the present Zimbabwe agricultural road".

He said it had cost countries like Zambia

dearly to learn that farmers, who produced food, must be kept happy on their land.

Dr Gous emphasised that the Free State Agricultural Union regarded private ownership as non-negotiable. It rejected central decision-making and regarded the profit motive as the greatest driving force in economic/financial decision-making.

Dr Gous said if the present Government accepted a market-oriented policy and abolished protection, control and subsidies, there was no justification for retaining

exchange control.

Lifting of exchange control would allow farmers, who wished to avoid the foreseen socialistic system after a democratic election in South Africa and find refuge as food producers in other countries, to take their hard-earned assets such as tractors, lorries and implements with them, without any financial objection.

Despite farm-watch patrols, attacks on white farmers continued and most of the white population apparently merely noted this state of affairs. Sapa.

Africa can avert the lunar landscape

SO 4TH 15/8-19/8/92
By Lynda Loxton

TO FLY across much of southern Africa is to fly across the face of the moon.

With these stark words, SOUTH Associate Editor and UWC academic Professor Peter Vale describes the ghastly phenomenon we here in the wet Western Cape have perhaps lost sight of — the drought that is ravaging the land, the people and animals of Africa.

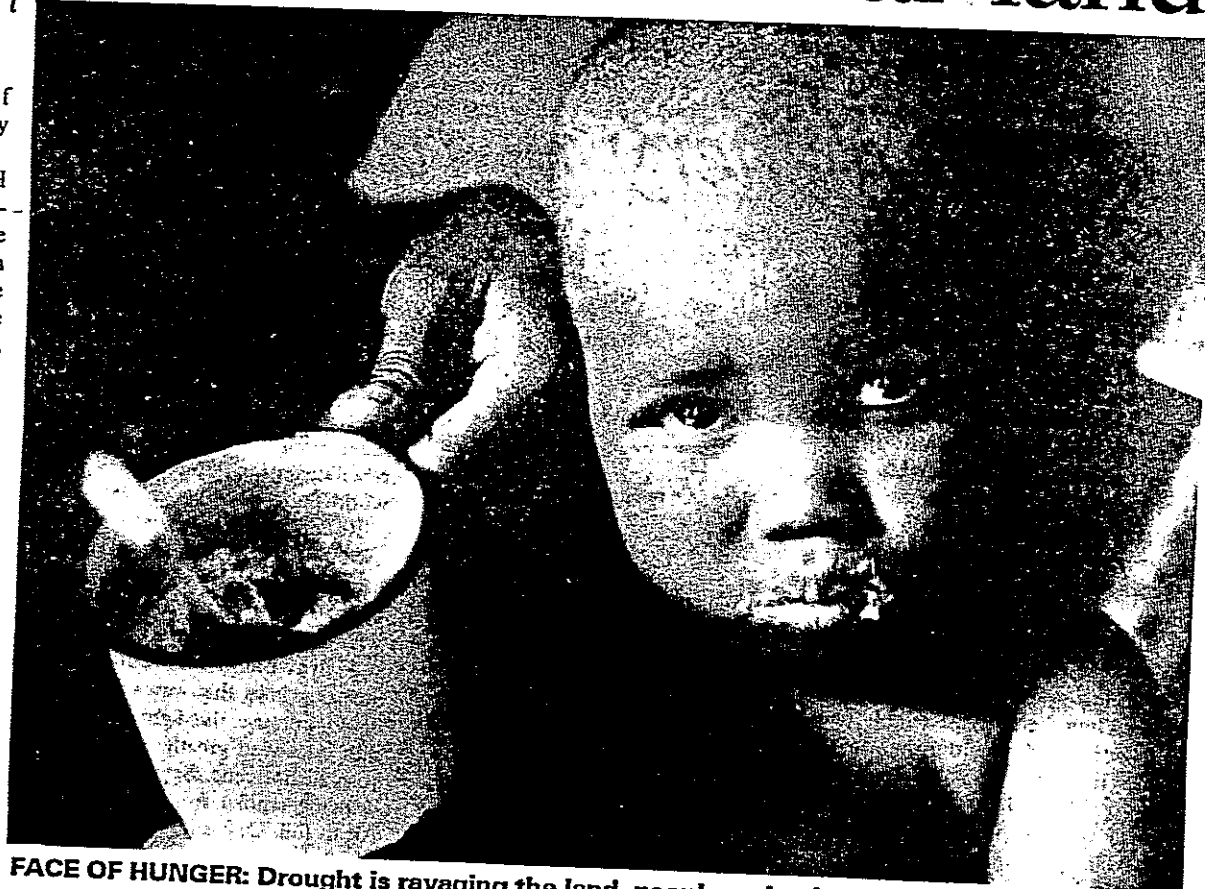
In a recent review of publications dealing with similar experiences in other parts of the world, Vale chronicles the social and economic stresses drought is causing in Africa.

He says no country on its own — and particularly South Africa — can come up with a long-term and viable solution.

"In many ways, political change in South Africa has brought the spectre of famine closer. The ending of apartheid has made the region's borders more porous. Countless pairs of feet are criss-crossing southern Africa — most of these people have no doubt of their final destination — South Africa.

"This has aggravated the serious food situation within the country: Operation Hunger estimates that it will feed two million people this year. As the drought pushes more and more feet across the borders, this figure is destined to increase," Vale says.

South Africa's bureaucrats have not been very good at dealing with this issue and Vale fears that, if left



FACE OF HUNGER: Drought is ravaging the land, people and animals of Africa

alone; they will continue to deal with it in their usual way: "Fob off questions, keep the public in the dark, shuffle decisions between government departments and hope that the problem will go away."

This, he believes, will be a grave mistake.

"If anything, the calamity we now face should be the beginning of new

pathways to understanding our unique African predicament.

"To achieve this, we will need to learn what we can from the international experience of both drought and famine.

"But more than this, we will need to accept that the horror of what is happening to southern Africa can only be assuaged by deepening the

accord between the states and peoples of the region."

In particular, African countries, including South Africa, have to work together more closely to deal with four priority areas.

- Regional transport and distribution networks have to be improved to ensure that emergency food supplies reach the people



who need them — quickly.

- Agricultural skills should be pooled, especially in subsistence agriculture. Governments must ensure that small-scale farmers have confidence in grain as a profitable crop. This means that producer prices must be attractive enough to encourage farmers to plant grain, else it will not be planted as is happening now.
- The region also needs to share information. South African scientists, for example, should dovetail their efforts at developing an adequate early warning system with the one now in use in the neighbouring countries.
- A regional grain reserve should be built up. It was "a disaster for the sub-continent that the South African government in the face of calls from organised agriculture, was not prepared to move in this direction", says Vale.

"But India has shown that prudent rotation of its 20 million ton grain stocks can keep its people fed and keep farmers on the land.

"This drought has brought South Africa face-to-face with its acute geographic vulnerability. It has heightened a popular belief that in an undeniable way, South Africa has been dragged to the very edge of the mess which manifests itself elsewhere on the continent: the curse of the three D's - Debt, Drought, Drift."

Vale believes that with greater co-operation, those three D's can be averted.

Angolan govt slated for 'soldier-police'³

LISBON. — Angola's former rebel movement Unita accused the government yesterday of transferring nearly 28 000 soldiers to the police force to avoid demobilising them under a peace agreement.

"Since August 1991 there has been a flagrant violation (of the peace accord signed last year) by the government with the illegal transfer of large numbers of Fapla (government) troops to the police," Unita said in a communique issued here.

The United States yesterday also expressed concern about rising tensions in Angola and said the govern-

ment in Luanda must take steps to guarantee the neutrality of the police.

Unita accused the ruling MPLA of setting up a special squad of riot police, trained by Spanish, German and Cuban instructors, which targeted Unita members and sympathisers.

The former rebel movement, which signed a peace accord with the government in May 1991, accused the government of planning to use the riot police to intimidate voters in Unita strongholds in Angola's first free elections on September 29 and 30. — Sapa-Reuter

Drought victims receive EC aid

31 DAY 19/8/92. (3) Gen (5/6) (5/6)

THE EC yesterday donated R2.6m to the Water Supply Task Force to keep emergency water supplies going to drought-stricken communities in the far northern Transvaal.

The task force is a joint effort by government and non-governmental organisations to take water to parts of the far northern Transvaal.

The donation was significant because it was the first to an agency involving government in many years, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

EC spokesman in Pretoria Tim Sheehy said: "We recognise that the current drought is having a devastating impact in some parts of SA. Many rural communities which comprise some of the poorest people in the country are suffering badly from the effects of the drought.

"We understand there are real dangers that this may precipitate major movements of population."

The money will be used to buy water pumps, drilling equipment and other capital items, task force convenor Len Abrams said.

Abrams said it was ironic that international aid had to be used while SA drought relief money remained inaccessible to the task force. "It points to the absurdity of bringing in foreign capital while SA can cope with the drought better than other countries in the sub-region."

But Loots said government was helping extensively by providing drilling rigs, tankers and engineers.

RAY HARTLEY

Government was reluctant to give taxpayers' money to non-governmental agencies because it would lose control over how the money was spent. "There may be some red tape involved in getting money to these agencies. Some of them are not interested in giving the government information on their books."

GERALD REILLY reports that a Nampo spokesman said yesterday that tens of thousands of farmworkers were being housed and fed on farms for humanitarian reasons and in the hope of good summer rains. This had reduced significantly the drift of unemployed workers to platteland towns and into major urban areas.

Financially strapped farmers had made agreements with workers to allow them to remain on farms without pay until preparatory planting work for new crops could begin.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has said drought in the northern Transvaal could force between 1-million and 2-million people to move to the PWV area this year.

Nampo supported an appeal to farmers by SA Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie to speed up the "sluggish flow" of applications for aid. Fourie warned that applications received after August 31 deadline would not be considered. The Nampo spokesman said planting time was approaching and if serious bottlenecks in the process were to be avoided, farmers would have to "hustle".

ANC 'won't nationalise land'

③ CF 2018/92

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The ANC's policy was not to nationalise land, but redistribution to address the problem of "maldistribution", ANC agricultural spokesman Mr Derek Hanekom told the annual congress of the Free State Agricultural Union here yesterday.

He said the challenge faced by

the ANC was the unequal access to land, productivity and efficient production to ensure sustainable food production.

A big problem was the prevention of people buying or leasing land, Mr Hanekom said.

Mr Paul Farrell, National Party MP for Bethlehem, said the NP and the government regarded or-

ganised agriculture as the mouthpiece of the farmer. It was accepted that groups other than white would have a voice.

Mr Dries Bruwer, Conservative Party MP for Lydenburg and CP spokesman for agriculture, told the congress the CP believed in private land ownership and commercial farming. — Sapa.

ANC: no nationalised land

STAR 20/8/92

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was not ANC policy to nationalise land, but there would have to be redistribution, ANC agricultural spokesman Derek Hanekom told the annual congress of the Free State Agricultural Union in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land.

The greatest source of income in rural areas had been remittances from migrant la-

bourers, but as more people lost their jobs those on the land became more dependent on subsistence farming.

Mr Hanekom said the ANC proposed a land claims court to deal with people who had been forcibly removed.

He said the ANC land reform programme was not a socialist system.

He suggested a land tax on those not using land productively. — Sapa.

Meat to get new marking

PRETORIA — A meat marking system which will identify all carcasses and meat fit for human consumption was announced yesterday by Agriculture Department meat hygiene director Jan Coetzee.

He said the step had been taken to help the public and local health authorities.

The public assumed meat products bought in shops originated from approved sources but this was not necessarily the case because of illegal slaughtering, he said.

The directorate, Coetzee stressed, was responsible only for health and hygiene control within an abattoir. Outside abattoirs, this became the responsibility of the National Health Department and local authorities.



Perez Olindo of Kenya, who was recently appointed Bophuthatswana National Parks Board chairman, at a news briefing yesterday.

Redistribution of land is on the cards, says ANC

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was not ANC policy to nationalise land, but "maldistribution" of land would have to be addressed and there would have to be redistribution, ANC agricultural spokesman Derek Hanekom told the Free State Agricultural Union annual congress yesterday.

The challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land, productivity and efficient production to ensure sustainable food production.

Hanekom said a bigger problem than the forced removal of blacks from farm land was the prevention of people buying or leasing land.

The greatest source of income in rural areas had been remittances from migrant labourers, but as more people lost their jobs, those on the

land became more dependent on subsistence farming.

Hanekom said the ANC proposed a land claims court to deal with people who had been forcibly removed.

He said the ANC land reform programme was not a socialist system, and gave Taiwan as an example of successful land reform.

He suggested a land tax could lead to the release of land by those who were not using it productively.

The ANC did not have a comprehensive agricultural policy, he said.

MP Paul Farrell (NP Bethlehem) said the NP and government regarded organised agriculture as the mouthpiece of the farmer. It was accepted that groups other than whites would have a voice.

Agricultural finance would depend on the repayment capacity of land.

Surpluses were a bigger problem than shortages and quality would become increasingly important.

MP Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg), who is the CP's agriculture spokesman, said that Western economies would recover only if agriculture recovered. The CP believed a government which did not care for farmers, or did not recognise them as a special sector, was a stupid government.

The CP believed in private land ownership and commercial farming based on private initiative. It rejected any form of state interference that would lead to artificial redistribution of agricultural land, collective land ownership, and socialistic agricultural economic systems.

Land courts were not part of CP policy because a healthy legal system could deal with land claims. — Sapa.

Urgent need to plan for water shortage

PRETORIA — SA's limited water resources would force the country into a supply crisis unless co-ordinated planning and management techniques in the southern African region were developed swiftly.

This was stressed at the water week conference at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research which ended yesterday.

Speakers said water scarcity intensified by mismanagement, degradation or underdevelopment of the region's water resources would hobble economic growth. Water Affairs engineer P H van Niekerk said the undervaluation of water would lead to shortages and low economic growth throughout southern Africa.

GERALD REILLY

If the price of water was to reflect its scarcity, other options such as regional transfers and desalination would become viable, speakers said.

Correct pricing would control demand, encourage careful use and provide the finance to ensure a co-ordinated water resources development.

Water Affairs Commission executive director Piet Odendall said water demand from SA's growing population would outstrip supply by the second decade of the new century.

Speakers warned conflict among water users was escalating as growing needs outstripped the natural geographic availability of water.

Water Affairs engineer A H Conley said with the increasing scarcity of water and the reduction of suitable sites for new projects, the costs of supply schemes were rising rapidly.

For water provision to be sustained, the concept of users paying an economic price would have to be accepted, he said.

Speakers stressed SA's water supply sector remained highly fragmented. Institutions involved included homeland governments, local authorities and water boards.

Planners were confronted by alarming policy and strategy deficiencies that prevented comprehensive programmes being initiated in developing communities.

Drought devastates wildlife

THE drought is having a devastating effect on SA's wildlife and animal populations that had taken years to reach optimal size, African Wildlife Foundation senior associate Perez Olindo said yesterday.

Olindo, a Kenyan who was appointed chairman of the Bophuthatswana Parks Board recently, said game parks were undecided on whether to cull the animals and sell them before they died naturally because of the drought.

He said SA and Kenya employed very different game management methods.

While Kenyan game parks were seldom fenced and game interacted naturally, SA parks were highly managed and some species were actively protected against predators.

"SA's parks are heavily influenced by human decisions. Once you fence in, you naturally block off the traditional migration of animals and the management aspect intensifies," he said.

He said SA tourism could be improved

Blom 20/8/92 (3) Gen

RAY HARTLEY

by increasing the number of high quality game viewing opportunities and charging higher fees for them.

The education of children on the value of game was an essential part of game management, and programmes to allow children into parks would be developed by the Bophuthatswana Parks Board, he said.

Olindo, who has acted as a consultant on game policy in 38 African countries, will spend a week talking to top game officials about the future of SA's game parks.

He is responsible for co-ordinating the African Wildlife Foundation's African elephant conservation programme and policy.

Olindo became deputy director of the Kenya National Parks Board in 1965, later serving as director until 1976. He was appointed vice-chairman of the East African Wildlife Society in 1978 and became director of conservation and management for Kenya's Wildlife Department in 1987.

Kaunda at convention

THEO RAWANA

FORMER Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda and SA Deputy Finance Minister Theo Alant will share the platform at the seventh annual convention of the Association of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (Abasa) next month.

The conference, with the theme "accountability within the SA economic structures", will also feature Auditor-General Peter Wronsley, Weekly Mail editor Anton Harber, Vrye Weekblad editor Max du Preez, and SADCC executive secretary Simba Makoni from Zimbabwe.

The three-day conference starts on September 6 in Sandton.

Blom 20/8/92

August retail sales likely to drop, economists say

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The expected total retail sales value in August will reflect the continuing downward spiral and growing distress in the sector, economists say.

The Central Statistical Service says August's expected figure is down by 1,5% to R6,744bn compared with July.

The projection is based on information from 100 major retailers.

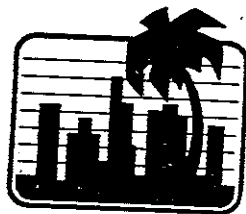
After seasonal adjustment, only a slight increase of 1,3% is expected.

CSS says total real retail trade sales for the first eight months show a decrease of 5,2% compared with January to August last year.

Stellenbosch University's Bureau for Economic Research expects the trend to continue at least until the year-end, with some hope of a recovery in the first quarter of next year.

Other economists say most sectors of the economy will remain "bogged down and shackled" until real and measurable political progress is made.

CSS says that in the three months to end-August retail sales at current prices increased by 7,2% to R21,104bn, but at constant 1990 prices they declined by 6,7% compared with July-August last year.



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Govt details funding of drought aid scheme

GOVERNMENT had spent at least R1,3m on emergency water provision, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

Responding to allegations by Water Supply Task Force co-convenor Len Abrams that state drought aid was inaccessible, Loots said government had provided the task force with machinery and expertise.

The task force is a joint government and non-government initiative to supply emergency water to drought-stricken areas of the far northern Transvaal.

This week the EC donated R2,6m for drought relief operations in the region.

Loots said R128 000 was being spent every week on activities which assisted the task force.

A further R370 000 had been spent by the SADF on water transportation, and Water Affairs had spent R50 000 on drilling boreholes in Venda and Lebowa.

A sum of R434 000 had previously been spent on emergency water provision in the eastern Cape, Loots said.

"Apart from supplying accom-

modation to engineers ... in offices, homes and caravans, the Department of Water Affairs has its own team of nine engineers and geo-hydrologists in the field to assist with the actions," he said.

Other aid included the provision of water tankers, computers and communication equipment.

Loots said R130m had been given to homeland governments and further aid was being considered for the TBVC states. Some of this money would probably go towards emergency water supplies.

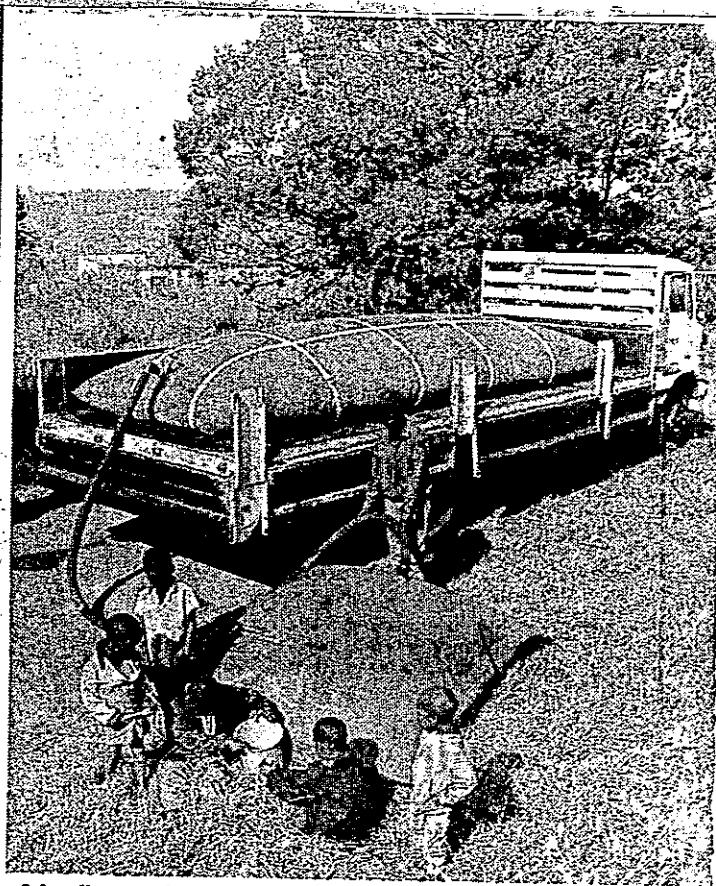
The SADF was also involved in transporting water in Natal and the Transkei.

He said more details on the funding of emergency drought relief would be released shortly.

In another development, Deputy Water Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk yesterday opened a new water scheme for farmers in the Kalahari.

The scheme, which will be subsidised by government, will supply water to 270 farmers in a 1,5-million hectare area.

RAY HARTLEY



A locally manufactured Sarmcol flexitank supplying residents of Ngom in KwaZulu with emergency water.

SA doctor presents

Rubber tanks carry water

'Let our children return to our land'

W/Mail 21/8 - 27/8/92

~~STP~~ (3) Gen

SOME other schools were only closed, but everything was destroyed at St Hilda's. Old as we are, we are eager for our children to return to Roosboom. I pray every day that the children will be able to return to the land of their forefathers."

The poignant words were those of 75-year-old former teacher Ethel Hlatshwayo, speaking this week at one of the first hearings of the government-appointed Advisory Commission on Land Allocation in Natal, and the first involving communities forcibly removed by the state from land they legally owned. The areas in question are Roosboom, a small town south-west of Lady-smith, and Charlestown, near Volksrust.

The Roosboom claim has its roots in two land purchases 100 years ago — of 244 acres by Charles Sitholi and 722 acres by John Khumalo and nine others. When Joseph Khumalo secured an option to buy 1 500 acres, he formed a syndi-

Their forefathers bought the land 100 years ago but the community was evicted in the 1970s. Now they want it back. But the land commission does not have the power to guarantee this.

By VICKY QUINLAN

cate with 48 families to buy. They thought their futures, and those of their children, were secure.

In 1976 and 1977, the minister of agriculture expropriated the Roosboom land and forced them out to Ezakheni in kwaZulu.

The people of Charlestown, which was reduced to a ghost town by removals in the 1960s and 1970s, have committed themselves to returning to their land and have tried to negotiate with government officials on numerous occasions, to no avail.

Heartrending as it was, the evidence of Hlatshwayo and others before the commission may not lead to the restitution of their land. The commission, they stress, is a flawed body which merely advises State President FW de Klerk and has no independent powers. Communities were asked to nominate representatives to it, but none of the nominees was appointed.

Set up in terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures of 1991, its brief is to make recommendations on the identification of state land, planning and development within the state's financial means, and land allocation.

The Roosboom and Charlestown people want an independent body with decision-making powers. Says Joanne Yawitch of the National Land Committee: "A judicial process is needed that can fairly adjudicate on disputed land claims."

Also under fire is the commission's terms of reference: "Two things are at issue," Yawitch

says. "The first is that the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts disadvantaged specific groups of people and a process is needed to address this. The second is development and the need for land for the landless. A separate process is needed to address this."

"A case in point is land at Impendle, Natal. At a commission hearing, the debate centred on the development of the land and various bodies presented ideas. No communities were represented.

"Moreover, the issues addressed there are completely different from those in the cases of Roosboom and Charlestown."

Yawitch also points out that plans to transfer more than a million hectares to the homelands has major ramifications, over which there may be dispute. "How does the government know if there are claims on this land? In its White Paper on land released last year, the government indicated that the incorporation of trust land should be stopped. A moratorium on contested land is needed."

Outcry at state plan to hand control of land to homelands

SUNDAY TIMES 23/8/92

By EDYTH BULBRING: Political Correspondent

THE government has come under mounting pressure to drop its plans to transfer administrative control of more than one million hectares of land to the homelands.

The Democratic Party, the SA Council of Churches, the Association for Rural Advancement and the National Land Committee have joined the ANC in denouncing the proposed move.

Land Affairs deputy minister Johan Scheepers told the Sunday Times last week he would propose to the cabinet at the end of the month that more than

one million hectares of former Trust land be administered by the six homelands.

The proposal was slammed by the ANC which accused the government of attempting to go back to grand apartheid. The transfer of administrative control would have the same negative affect on people's lives as the incorporation of the land into the homelands, the ANC said.

DP spokesman on land affairs Peter Soal said yesterday Mr Scheepers had

requested a meeting with him after the DP had also rejected the proposal.

At the meeting on Thursday, Mr Scheepers had said he had come under pressure to transfer the land to the homelands. His proposal for administrative control was an alternative to this move.

He had asked Mr Soal for an alternative that could be put to the cabinet this Wednesday.

Choice

Mr Soal said the DP's first choice would be for the government to continue administering the land and starting to settle black farmers.

Alternatively, the land should be administered jointly by the government and the homelands with the aim of settling black far-

mers, Mr Soal said.

This would prevent the total relinquishing of administrative control, Mr Soal said.

Meanwhile, the National Land Committee, an organisation which acts on behalf of dispossessed communities, has called for a moratorium on the further disposal or transfer of state land pending the establishment of a legitimate process to deal with land allocation issues.

National Land Committee spokesman Joanne Yawitch said none of the communities with whom the organisation worked, and who could be affected by any change, had been consulted by the government.

"True to old-style apartheid, crucial and far reaching decisions about people's lives are being taken, without their participation," she said.

Row brews over plan to auction Govt land

By Jo-Anne Collinge

STAR 24/8/92
(3) Ben

The Government's proposed auction of 53 parcels of prime urban land in the PWV area hangs in the balance as opposition mounts to the authorities' repeated moves to dispose of State-owned land in advance of the installation of an interim government.

When the urban land auction was announced a fortnight ago, the ANC gave notice that it would pull out all stops to prevent the sale going ahead.

The Star is reliably informed that the ANC has been joined by other parties, including business interests, in pressing for a suspension of the auction.

The ANC was stinging in its criticism of the Government's intention to "offer this land to speculators and developers" when an enormous land and housing crisis existed in the PWV.

Earlier this month, an auction of agricultural land in the Tarkastad and Queenstown areas was halted after development organisations and the ANC Border region raised protests.

Some of the land in question is being claimed by communities who were subjected to forced removal and whose cases for reparation are being considered by the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation.

The community of Majeng in the northern Cape was less fortunate. Though it had made known its intention to reclaim the land from which it was moved, the farm was sold by the State to a white farmer earlier this year.

In addition to privatisation of land, the proposal by Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers that six self-governing homelands might gain ownership or powers of administration over another 1 million ha of land has raised a storm of protest from the National Land Committee (NLC), SA Council of Churches and, it is understood, the Patriotic Front.

After the initial report, Mr Scheepers made it clear that the transfer to the homelands was only one of several options being considered. Other options included the sale of the land to individuals, communities or tribes, or joint control by the SA and homeland governments.

The minister's clarification does not get around criticisms of the ad hoc and unilateral nature of the action.

"We believe that this step by the State is a move calculated to pre-empt the possibility of a new government implementing a coherent and carefully planned process of allocating State land. It will also bolster the homelands in the days before they are dismantled," said the NLC.

Govt suspected of plotting land move

GOVERNMENT was considering handing over 1-million hectares of trust land to the homelands to avoid taking a decision on giving it to black farmers, DP spokesman Wessel Nel said at the weekend.

And development agencies called on the government to observe undertakings made at Codesa not to cede land to the homelands while negotiations on their future continued.

Nel said that government might hand over administration, but not ownership, of the land because the fate of white farmers who presently leased part of the land could become a thorny political issue.

Other sources said they believed government would transfer trust land to homeland control despite undertaking not to.

Nel said the land was ideally placed to be handed over to black farmers, but if this was not possible, government should consider renewing the leases for short periods.

"Government appears to have adopted a general strategy of running away from all the hard choices and dilemmas of its own making by passing the buck as quickly as possible," Nel said.

The trust land was bought by government from white farmers for homeland consolidation. Much of it has been leased out to whites, while other tracts have lain dormant for years.

Most of the land now in limbo adjoins

RAY HARTLEY

Lebowa and KwaZulu.

National Land Committee (NLC) spokesman Joanne Yawitch said she feared homeland bureaucrats would end up with the land if control was ceded to them.

Homeland administrations were already struggling to supply water to many drought-affected communities and the additional budgetary responsibility would make things worse.

"This step by the state is a move calculated to pre-empt the possibility of a new government implementing a coherent and carefully planned process of allocating state land," said Yawitch.

Such damaging action could only be taken as a determination to carry grand apartheid policy to its logical conclusion.

Government was not divulging exactly which areas would be transferred because it feared an ANC-inspired "land occupation campaign". The NLC was mapping areas likely to be affected by using Deeds Office documents, said Yawitch.

A government source yesterday confirmed that no decision had been taken on what to do with the land.

The Natal-based Association for Rural Advancement called on the government to observe undertakings made at Codesa that there would be a moratorium on land transfers to the homelands.

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Monday 24/8/92

(3) Gen

Land hand-over 'very damaging'

3 Gen

STAR 25/8/92

By Jo-Anne Collinge

If the Government pursues its plan to hand over control of more than one million hectares of land to self-governing homelands, it could do severe harm to communities on this land in terms of their access to pensions, health and social services and land, the National Land Committee (NLC) warns.

The intention of the Government to transfer the administration of this former South African Development Trust (SADT) land to various homelands was disclosed recently by the Ministry of Land Affairs.

It is the latest of a series of controversial moves to unilaterally dispose of land under central government control in the face of claims for restoration of land or reparation by communities which suffered under racial land policies.

"Such a step will not only have severe and detrimental consequences for the communities concerned, but will pre-

empt the possibilities of establishing a coherent land and development policy in the future," an NLC statement reads.

The NLC noted that in the '80s the forced incorporation of communities such as Braklaagte, Moutse and Botshabelo plunged these areas into upheaval and bloodshed. "Now, the Government seems intent on replicating this experience."

The NLC, an umbrella organisation embracing a number of regional land rights and rural development groups, charges that "true to old-style apartheid crucial and far-reaching decisions about people's lives are being taken without their participation".

The land give-away to the homelands was out of step with moves toward an interim government.

"We believe that this step by the State is a move calculated to pre-empt the possibility of a new government implementing a coherent and carefully planned process of allocating State land. It will also bolster the homelands in the days before they are dismantled."

Rural whites get lion's share

THE average income of whites in rural areas last year was more than five times higher than that of blacks, according to an incomes and expenditure study by Unisa's Bureau for Market Research.

The study results, released yesterday, show the average income for white households was R63 844 and for blacks R10 785.

It was found young whites tended to leave the rural areas after the age of about 19 but many returned after the age of 30-34.

The pattern was different for blacks. Food accounted for 36,8% of black households' spending compared with only 11,9% for white households.

The biggest chunk of whites' budgets went to housing and electricity (20,8%) income tax (14,2%) and transport (13%). Blacks spent 9,6% on housing and electricity, 9% on clothing and footwear and

8,6% on furniture and household equipment.

In metropolitan areas, black households spent 38,6% on food and whites 22,8%.

White households spent 19,6% and blacks 5,2% on housing and electricity but on fuel and lights blacks spent far more than whites — 5,7% of total expenditure compared with 0,4%.

There were also big differences in spending on clothing, footwear and accessories (9,6% for blacks and 5,3% for whites) and furniture and household equipment (11,2% and 4%).

In 1990 black metropolitan households spent 26,7% of their budgets on food compared with 38,4% by rural blacks in 1991. Cash expenditure on housing was 25,5% of whites' budgets in metropolitan areas and 15,4% in rural towns.

GERALD REILLY

Move to chart AIDS strategy

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — A steering committee aimed at establishing a National AIDS convention to formulate a strategy to combat the disease has been set up.

It is estimated that every day 400 people in SA are infected by the HIV virus.

The establishment of a national AIDS convention was critical in formulating actions to combat the spread of the disease, the committee said.

On the committee are the Department of Health, the ANC, Cosatu, Nactu, Nafcoc, the SA Council of Churches, Saccola and the SA National Civics Association.

Shady developers fleece home buyers

ADRIAN HADLAND

LOW-INCOME home buyers were losing millions of rands every year to unscrupulous and fraudulent property developers, Housing Rights Unit (HRU) director Brian Leveson said yesterday.

"There is a major rip-off going on in the industry. For every person who manages to get a house through one of these low-deposit schemes, nine people are losing out," said Leveson.

Much of the money was being lent to employees by companies, with pension fund monies as security. When the so-called developers did not deliver on promised housing or disappeared overnight, the prospective buyers were left owing several thousand rands, he said.

An HRU spokesman said summonses had been issued to more than 50 development company officials in the past two years while the Harmful Business Practices Committee was investigating a further 40 cases.

Leveson said the HRU, started by a group of attorneys in 1990 and now part of the Lawyers for Human Rights organisation, was receiving about 25 complaints a day from people who had lost their deposits to fraudulent development companies.

"There is actually very little township development going on at the moment, which makes the number of complaints all

the more surprising," he said.

The HRU had more than 4 000 people on its books who had been taken for a ride by "fly-by-night developers" promising cheap housing. "These companies make use of door-to-door salesmen, who also go around factories to dupe low-income workers. More often than not, even the land availability for the proposed site has not been cleared with the authorities."

Leveson said there recently had been an alarming increase in swindle claims.

Leveson said the HRU encouraged prospective home buyers to discuss potential deals with the unit before paying deposits or signing documents. The organisation has also introduced seminars to alert personnel managers to dangers lurking in the property development field.

"Many employers grant housing loans, or housing subsidies, but experience has shown that most employees also require further practical education," he said.

He said several agencies including the Urban Foundation, trade unions, the Estate Agents Board and the Harmful Business Practices Committee, had called for more information to be communicated to the public about the problem.

"We are convinced that an active education campaign is essential to deal with what is becoming of crucial concern."

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NEWS 'Agreements reached at Code

State accused in land transfer to homelands

(3) Gen
Sowetan *25/8/97*

■ Government buying support in negotiation process:

THE Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) has called on the Government to stop its planned transfer of 1,2 million hectares of land - 600 000ha of it in Natal - to the homelands.

Afra said in a statement that the Government refused to reveal the exact location of the land and it had fallen to the association and other organisations working on land issues to try to do this.

"The planned transfer contradicts

statements the Government made in its White Paper where it undertook not to pursue consolidation of the homelands," Afra said.

"It also contradicts agreements reached in Codesa (Convention for a Democratic South Africa)."

Afra could only conclude the Government was using the issue of land as a bargaining chip to buy support from homeland leaders in negotiations.

Inquiry into land claims sent to FW

STAR 25/8/92 (3) Jan

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Advisory Commission on Land Allocation has completed its investigations of the first few land claims lodged by communities uprooted under apartheid laws, and its recommendations are now before the State President, according to commission chairman Mr Justice T H van Reenen.

In some cases, where vacant State land was not available to resolve the problems caused by removal, the commission had recommended that the Government acquire land for the purpose.

Some communities are arguing that they should be restored to the very land from which they were removed; others are seeking compensatory land, he said.

Mr Justice van Reenen said that, in hearing cases from land claimants and other parties, the greatest problem had not been deciding who had a right to the land "but whether we, as a commission, are entitled to deal with the land in question".

In terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, the commission was empowered to make recommendations only in respect of non-utilised Government-owned land.

In some cases the land

from which people were removed was no longer in State hands, but had been sold to private parties. In other cases, the land had been expropriated by measures other than those laid down in the Act.

"We have already made suggestions which involve property which does not fall in that category (which the Act empowers the commission to deal with) but which we consider could be used to solve a particular problem. We believe the Government should buy property in some cases."

Numerous other claims are waiting to be heard. The commission's one-year term ends in October, but it is likely to be extended.

I spied on inmates, probe told

STAR 25/8/92

Pretoria Correspondent

A police reward for information on people with unlicensed firearms prompted a Nancefield hostel resident to spy on other inmates.

"Mr 01" yesterday told a Goldstone Commission committee he went to the police in 1990. He also approached the police with information after he learnt that the Sowetan newspaper was offering a reward for information on people who killed train commuters in October last year.

His contact was Detective Warrant-Officer Sjula Sithebe, of the

Firearms Unit, who introduced him to a Captain Kruger.

Acting on Mr 01's information, police raided the hostel, found firearms, and arrested two men.

Mr 01 said he was paid for the tip-off, and Captain Kruger told him to continue supplying information.

Mr 01 said hostel residents who were Inkatha members were encouraged to attack ANC supporters.

Among Inkatha leaders who addressed hostel meetings were Themba Khoza, Musa Myeni and Humphrey Ndlovu.

Mr 01 said he was at a meeting at which plans to attack train passengers were outlined. Armed with a panga, as he could not afford a firearm, he joined the other hostel members the next day at 6 am.

At Kliptown station he suggested that he should turn back, as the sight of a panga might frighten commuters.

Mr 01 told the committee that he later informed the police about the incident. This led to the arrest of a number of people at the hostel whom he identified as the organisers of the train attack.

White Paper 'not last word'

STAR 26/8/92
By Jo-Anne Collinge

The addition of large tracts of former South African Development Trust (SADT) land to the six self-governing homelands would run sharply contrary to the Government's White Paper, on the land question, says Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers.

Reacting yesterday to a storm of protest which followed press reports that the Government planned to augment the homelands by about 1 million hectares of former SADT land, Mr Scheepers stressed it was "untrue" that these territories would gain ownership or administrative control of this land.

No decision on the

matter had yet been taken, he said. But his department was continuing to consult the homelands and other parties and would shortly make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The department's view was that it might be necessary to depart somewhat from the White Paper to relieve land pressure in the self-governing homelands. But this should not extend to incorporating SADT land into the homelands or placing it under their sole administrative control, Mr Scheepers said.

"We see the main issue as landless people; people in need of the land adjacent to self-governing territories. When we talk to these territories,

they say: 'Our people need more land.' We are not shifting aside the White Paper; it is still a working document. But when you investigate possibilities, you go beyond the White Paper."

Mr Scheepers made it clear that, having consulted various parties, the Government would make its own decision. "We are still the Government and we must govern" was his answer to accusations that the move constituted unilateral action ill-suited to the phase of political transition.

He said he believed it would be impossible to take a decision that would satisfy everybody. But he appealed for parties to be "balanced".

Flexible aviation policy is possible

SA's proposed new aviation policy was based on selected deregulation rather than a complete "open skies" approach, Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA) commissioner Japie Smit said yesterday.

Addressing delegates at a Transport Department conference on civil aviation policy in SA held at Midrand, Smit said an "open skies" policy would mean foreign airlines could fly into SA even if other governments denied SA carriers a fair chance to compete on an equal basis.

The necessary legislation giving effect to the new policy would be submitted to Parliament next year. It was hoped to implement it not later than July 1, he said.

"The SA approach, having already taken some progressive steps, is to move with circumspection — even if it means being criticised for the protection of vested interests.

"The reason is the desire to develop and expand an aviation environment which is above all stable. The course to follow is to steer clear of the pitfalls of regulatory protectionism on the one side and destructive competition on the other," Smit said.

The new policy had already stimulated foreign countries to the extent that since November the Transport Department had been involved in 28 bilateral meetings and a further 15 were scheduled for this year.

The proposed policy would be flexible enough to allow government to pursue its national objectives in an integrated international environment within a bilateral regulatory framework. The SA economy, and more specifically trade and tourism,

Botha 26/8/92

STEPHANE BOTHMA

the consumer and the aviation industry, would all gain substantially from the greater competition, Smit said.

The implementation of the new policy included the ratification of certain existing international aviation conventions.

Also speaking at the conference, Lexetran MD Victor Prins said the basic objective of the new policy was to continue the development of a network of regular scheduled international air transport services to and from SA within a well-defined regulatory framework — including some economic regulation.

Prins said the new regulatory framework consisted of a new International Air Services Act providing for a new licencing system, and a council to administer the system and new bilateral agreements based on a set of new principles.

For instance, he said, no cabotage rights — allowing foreign airlines to operate domestic routes in SA — would be granted.

SA Tourism Board chairman Piet van Hoven predicted that in contrast to 1992, where 28 foreign airlines served SA, 37 foreign carriers would fly to SA in 1994, offering 10 035 services and 2 465 608 seats.

Van Hoven believed that soon carriers from India, Egypt, the Middle East, Canada, Argentina and Japan would enter the SA market. This year income from tourism could be higher than that from agriculture, but the opportunity for tourism to grow depended on the marketing of SA as a destination, he said.



Civil aviation commissioner Japie Smit at yesterday's Transport Department civil aviation policy conference in Midrand.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Drought, recession and debt sink Superlink

SUSAN RUSSELL

NATIONAL supermarket supplier Superlink Stores (Pty) Ltd was liquidated in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday with debts of R4,2m. Superlink had brought the urgent application for its own winding up, which was granted by Judge P Bleiden.

MD Johannes Jacobus Lombard said in court papers that Superlink had assets of R3 163 070 (including trade debtors of R1,7m) against liabilities of R4 257 130. This amounted to a shortfall of about R1 094 059.

Lombard said Superlink had started trading when there was already a down-

turn in business. "This problem has been exacerbated by the general recession and political turmoil throughout SA."

Superlink also had been severely affected by the drought, which had placed its largest members and their customers in severe financial difficulties.

In addition, one of Superlink's major competitors recently tightened up its credit arrangements with customers, many of whom were also customers of Superlink and were now unable to pay their debts.

26/8/92

3 Gen

Govt blamed for agriculture crisis

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry, and particularly the maize industry, is being pushed into an unprecedented crisis by government's failed economic policies and debt of up to R20bn, Nampo says.

The policy and its consequences have destroyed profitability in the industry, says Nampo's journal *Mielies-Maize*, and maize production has become a high-risk industry.

The journal said production in the summer grain area had been dealt a near-death blow by the drought.

The poor agricultural year was dramatically reflected in the economic growth rate, while forex losses were being suffered because of the need to import basic foods.

The journal said against this back-

ground it could have been expected that politicians, state departments and business would show concern.

"However, judging from the fierce attacks on agriculture and farmers from public platforms the opposite seems to be true." *3 Gen*

An example was the recent "unscientific and rash" recommendations of the Board on Tariffs and Trade report on food price inflation, one of which was the termination of control boards' statutory powers.

Government economic policy and its effect on the price spiral, as well as the cost squeeze because of uncontrolled state spending, were not properly addressed in the report, Nampo claimed.

SIDAM 2/8/87

BIOPAC 26/8/92
3/Gen
**Irate farmer
livened up staid
proceedings**

GRETA STEYN

AN IRATE farmer livened up the staid proceedings at the Reserve Bank AGM yesterday with an attack on Governor Chris Stals's tight monetary policy.

Bothaville farmer Crawford von Abo blamed the Reserve Bank for the farmers' woes in a speech aimed at getting him elected to the Bank's board of directors as the representative for agriculture. In a change from the usual Bank AGM, the position was contested, and the election took place with a secret ballot. Von Abo suffered a resounding defeat by Johannes Fourie.

Von Abo told Stals: "You will have to see that agriculture just does not have the capacity to absorb so-called market-related interest rates while the authorities do not allow farmers to pass on their cost increases to consumers." He said interest rates accounted for 47% of farmers' debt burden.

Stals responded that the Bank was not insensitive to farmers' problems, but monetary policy had not caused the drought. The Bank could not set different interest rates for different sectors of the economy.

First National Bank MD Barry Swart told Stals the banks applauded his single-mindedness.

Farmers slam Reserve Bank for economic

ROY COKAYNE (1) (2) (3) 1/29/92
PRETORIA. — Farmers mounted an attack on the Reserve Bank, blaming it for most of their financial woes, at the bank's annual meeting.

They also tried to unseat Mr Johannes Fourie, representing agriculture on the board and put forward their own candidate, former Maize Board chairman and current chairman of the Free State Wheat Producers' Association, Crawford von Abo.

But Mr Fourie, who had to stand for re-election in terms of the Reserve Bank Act, was re-elected after the first ballot in 61 years to elect a director.

Mr Von Abo appealed to the Reserve Bank for relief for farmers.

He said the aims of official agricultural policy were the development of agriculture in such a way that the production factors, with related functions, were used in such a way that agriculture made a contribution to the optimal economic, constitutional and social development and stability of South Africa, and at the same time contributed to the promotion of an economically healthy farming community.

Mr Von Abo said according to the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) — and without taking into account the effects of the 1991/92 drought — at the end of the 1990/91 season 2 388 producers could not get further production credit, 48,2 percent of producers with production credit did not have the ability to repay it and 700 farmers on average were liquidated each month last year.

The Standard Bank reported mealie prices had risen by 80 percent in the past decade, but the real price had dropped by 47 percent. Corn prices had increased by 73 percent, but had dropped in real terms by 49 percent.

Total agricultural debt in 1980 was R3,2 billion, compared with R17 billion in 1990, he said.

Factors responsible for this, according to the Economic Advisory Council, were inflation, 47 percent, interest, 31 percent, and the drought, 22 percent.

"The crux of the problem in agriculture was that agriculture was being held responsible for price rises in the agricultural sector and the agricultural sector was being expected to break the inflation spiral," said Mr Von Abo.

"Agriculture is not allowed by the government of the day to pass on to the end user the cost increases of the agricultural sector and the risk factors in the industry.

"Where interest rates are used as an instrument to restrict inflation, agriculture must also get this medicine, although it has not contributed at all to the sickness of inflation. Besides, this medicine has contributed to agriculture's debt increasing by 31 percent.

"Agriculture does not have the ability to absorb market-related interest rates when the government of the day does not allow agriculture to pass on its cost increases to the end user. This makes the aims as spelt out in the White Paper on Agricultural Policy a farce," he said.

Mr von Abo asked the Reserve Bank, as a responsible institution, to make a contribution to the aims spelt out on Agricultural Policy.

Reserve Bank governor Dr Chris Stals said he had sympathy for the situation in the agricultural sector and accepted that high interest rates created many problems.

The Reserve Bank was attempting to reduce nom-

inal interest rates, but the governor stressed there was not an easy way to reduce inflation.

He said if they did not accept realistic and market related interest rates, it would lead to higher inflation and ultimately higher interest rates.

Dr Stals said this did not mean nothing could be done to aid the agricultural sector, but stressed the solution did not lie with the Reserve Bank because it could not be selective in its policies, which had to apply to all sectors.

He said the agricultural sector should look to other channels that could be selective, adding there was already a long list of aid schemes for farmers.

WOES

R250 000-a-week aid (3) *CT 28/8/92*

PRETORIA. — The Department of Water Affairs is spending R250 000 a week aiding drought-stricken rural areas through a network of task forces co-ordinated from Pietersburg.

blacks over land ownership." ~~28/8~~ (3) Gen
But the National Land Committee (NLC), which appears to follow a line similar to the ANC's on the issue, says that if government is serious about dismantling apartheid structures, it should not consider handing any control to other authorities.

The NLC's Joanne Yawitch says: "Control should be retained by the relevant government agencies. In this case, it should be managed by the Department of Agriculture."

The land in question was formerly owned and managed by the SA Development Trust, linked to the Department of Development Aid. It was scheduled to be incorporated into six homelands but the process was halted abruptly last year following publication of government's White Paper on Land Reform.

Incorporation was seen as contrary to the reform process. But government caused a storm earlier this month and was accused of trying to continue to implement grand apartheid when it admitted that the land might be placed under the administrative control of the self-governing states.

Government's problem is that a solution is needed urgently and a Cabinet decision is expected shortly. Though much of the land is occupied by communities and tribes, nearly 25% is leased to farmers — most of them white — whose tenure expires at the end of the year.

The issue is exacerbated by government being caught in the middle of two pressure groups. The liberation movements are adamant that nothing should be done to expand or enhance the standing of the homelands. Yet self-governing leaders are demanding the handover of promised land for much-needed development.

Yawitch says a political motive which contradicts the spirit of Codesa is being attributed to the moves by the Department of Land Affairs. "Clearly, handing land over to the self-governing territories strengthens a political position. It enhances the influence of those territories, increases the number of people over whom administrators of those territories have influence and strengthens the hand of those who want a federal solution for SA."

But Scheepers insists: "While I am discussing the issue with the homelands, it is not our intention to hand the land over to any self-governing territory, either by way of incorporation or administrative control. It will remain the property of central government, whatever course of action is chosen."

Though acknowledging that Scheepers is aware of the need for a workable solution, Yawitch says any form of control given away will have severe implications for the people in the area. "Every aspect of their daily lives, from pensions to health and other social services, will be affected."

It is hard to believe government can be contemplating increasing the power of the homelands in any way and even harder to accept this in respect of the highly emotional land issue. ■

LAND FM 28/8/92
Jumping the gun

(3) Gen
~~28/8~~

Government is sensitive to pressure over what must be done with more than a million hectares of land once destined for incorporation into the homelands.

Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers says he is talking to extra-parliamentary groups about the use of the land. He says he is open to suggestions and feels it offers an ideal opportunity to "try to address some of the imbalances between whites and

Minister denies claim on land for KwaZulu

3 Gen RAY HARTLEY

MORE than 600 000 ha of state land could still be transferred to KwaZulu, despite government assurances to the contrary, Association for Rural Advancement (Afra), co-ordinator Richard Clacey said yesterday.

But Land Affairs Deputy Minister Johan Scheepers reiterated his standpoint that no decision had been taken on the land. He said the area on the KwaZulu boundaries was far less than 600 000 ha. Groups like Afra were welcome to discuss with him their opinions on what should be done with the land.

Clacey said any land transfer would lead to an escalation of violence because some communities in areas likely to be transferred were openly hostile to incorporation into KwaZulu.

He had it on good authority that government was considering transferring the land for strategic political reasons — a charge denied by Scheepers, who described the land issue as non-political.

Clacey said KwaZulu was putting pressure on government for additional land.

He said government claims it was considering transferring administration — and not ownership — as one of many options were misleading.

Afra had identified three types of land likely to be transferred: land now leased by white farmers, land settled by blacks, and small areas of land around townships, he said. Some of the land leased by white farmers had been seized from people who still claimed ownership, Clacey added.

31
30
537
493
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406

NET INCOME AFTER

SOUTH Africa is again spending millions on drought relief, and some of the aid is going to farmers who are deep in debt and have no hope of recovery. Yet SA lacks a comprehensive drought policy to guide officials and farmers.

"Circumstances change so much year by year it is inevitable that drought relief should be tackled on an ad hoc basis," said an SA Agricultural Union spokesman.

The current drought is probably the worst on record, and with SA in a state of political transition, this may be a good time to establish a widely representative task force to produce a national drought policy. Such a group would find useful guidelines in the updated policy just accepted by the federal and state governments of Australia.

A striking feature of the policy is its emphasis on farmers' responsibility to prepare for drought, which is described as "just another risk of farming". There is a strong component of relief aid in "severe and extreme drought conditions", but the policy's main aim is to help farmers become efficient risk managers. Assistance with things like fodder and freight costs will be phased out.

Though Australia's current drought is not as severe as the one devastating southern Africa, New South Wales and Queensland, which together produce more than half the country's agricultural products, are in their third successive dry year.

Comparisons with SA may not be entirely valid in view of SA's special problems, among them the large peasant populations on farms and in the homelands, and the need to deal with homeland governments. Processing about 60 000 aid applications from farmers, made through 36 co-operatives, is a huge task, and there are also complications caused by the involvement of private sector relief organisations. But these are not new difficulties, and they could be eased by a cohesive drought policy.

Australia's new policy is based on

SA can learn from Australia's drought policies

B/DAY 28/8/92

(3)ben

TREVOR BISSEKER

the recommendations of a working group set up two years ago.

"The big issues are how to introduce a drought policy in a deregulated environment, and to convince farmers they must manage for risk, including drought," said committee chairman Onko Kingma in an interview in Canberra.

Agricultural income in 1991/92 was the worst for several decades, and farm indebtedness to financial institutions has grown from about R20bn in 1987 to nearly R30bn.

Yet, in sharp contrast to practices in SA where farmers' debt is expected to reach R20bn by year-end, aid in Australia is not triggered by the declaration of drought disaster areas. Central to the policy is a realisation that assistance to protect farmers is misplaced, as it could support unsustainable farming systems.

The new policy is aimed at encouraging farmers to take responsibility for their own long-term drought management. It accepts that the policy alone may not be sufficient to address all the complex issues involved. "It therefore has to be considered in a wider context and be linked to other policy areas, including taxation and farm manage-

ment," says Kingma.

Two key aspects of the policy are the rural adjustment scheme (RAS) and the income equalisation deposits (IED).

The goal of the RAS is to increase economic returns from the farm's financial, physical and human resources. It includes programmes for concessional interest rates, land purchase, training and, as a last resort, schemes to help farmers leave the land "with dignity".

The RAS is flexible so that it can cope with all contingencies "and avoid problems associated with ad hoc responses to extreme conditions". It is being revamped "to give clear focus on sustainable, long-term profitability".

Special attention is given to farmers' needs in conditions of severe downturn such as drought, but Primary Industries and Energy Minister Simon Crean pointedly stated that assistance would be given "to those with sound prospects who are temporarily in financial difficulty".

Subsidies of up to 100% of the interest on commercial loans and ex-

isting debt will be provided to farmers "whose businesses are profitable in the long term". Farmers without prospects of recovery are helped to quit the land.

In normal circumstances, farmers will be able to obtain incentives through interest subsidies or grants to improve and develop their farms, and through support activities such as training, farm appraisal and planning services.

There is also a rural action programme offering social services ("don't miss out because you live in the bush"), a rural counselling service for farm families in financial difficulties, a Landcare programme involving about 1 000 groups of 20 farmers each, and water and soil conservation programmes. All are widely promoted by government.

The IED scheme enables farmers to place earnings, untaxed, on deposit in good years, to be withdrawn and taxed in low income years. The deposits (maximum R600 000) are tax deductible in the year in which they are made, and tax is imposed in the year in which it is withdrawn.

From October 1, a system of farm management bonds will be incorporated into the IED programme.

Since the RAS inception in 1971, more than R1,5bn has been spent on aid to more than 25 000 farmers.

The imaginative programme is best illustrated by a few examples:
□ A dairy farmer in financial difficulty asked for help. The RAS provided an interest subsidy on his commercial debt, which allowed the farmer to build up herd numbers. He was able to improve stock nutrition through growing better feed, which improved production.

Over the period of assistance, the RAS provided an interest subsidy of R44 000, and farm income increased from about R100 000 to more than R400 000. The farmer no longer needs help.

□ A farming couple in a wheat area suffered from a combination of poor seasons caused by drought, high debts and low commodity prices. They had been on the farm all their lives and were reluctant to leave, but were advised by consultants to sell up. With the help of a re-establishment grant, they were able to move to a coastal tourist town, buy a small house and start a new life.

Household support, similar to unemployment benefits, is available for a year to farmers who leave the land, and may be extended. If the farmer resumes farming, the money has to be repaid - with interest.

The federal government will spend R2m a year for the next three years on drought-related research. This includes ways of improving long-term weather forecasting.

Kingma said that since abuses of drought relief were stopped in 1989 by ending links to national disaster funds, banks were taking a more positive approach to farmers' problems. "Attitudes have turned round, and instead of foreclosing the banks are now more inclined to help farmers through a crisis with carry-on capital."

Good rains in Western Australia in July have prompted hopes of an improvement in the eastern states, but if the drought persists Australia is well prepared to meet its hardships.

BLACK workers at Transkei's rustic Mkambati Reserve kidnap their bosses and lock them up in a chalet for the night.

Labourers arrive for work at a game park in Natal early one morning to find all the holes they dug the previous day filled in and their fencing poles missing.

Villagers in the eastern Transvaal send a note to the management of a new nature reserve with a polite request that their fence be taken down and all the animals sent back to the Kruger National Park.

Militant youth toyi toyi down a dusty road that runs along the southern border of the park. "Kruger you shall weep" is the refrain of their song.

These are symptoms of a silent

Barricades in the bush

W/M Oct 28/8 - 3/9/92
 Sparse grazing for cattle brought on by the drought is causing rural people to clash with nature conservationists, reports **EDDIE KOCH**

also wanted revenue from the reserve to be used for extra community services at the Holy Cross Mission.

The protesters erected barricades at the reserve's entrance, started fires in the veld and broke into the stores to steal food and alcohol. The 150-strong workforce joined in the fray to demand a wage hike.

The villagers, claiming that they had lost land when the park expanded,

This was the latest in a series of conflicts around nature conservation that have erupted as the poverty and hardship caused by drought intensifies social tensions in many rural areas.

Residents of Matsulu, a sprawling township in kaNgwane where the local youth believe Paul Kruger stole their land to create the park, earlier this year told *The Weekly Mail* how they have had pitched battles with game rangers after going into the park to poach animals and collect fuelwood.

"People feel that in hard times like this the land must be given back to the people," said civic leader Lawrence

Mooi. "When people are starving it is not right to worry about the welfare of wild animals."

People from the village of Matafin, near the Kruger Park's Numbi Gate, have expressed similar sentiments.

About two years ago the kaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC) erected a game fence around a beautiful piece of tribal land in the area after the local chief called them and said he wanted a nature reserve for his people.

"We were very excited because it hasn't been easy to persuade rural people about the advantages of game reserves," says senior KPC ranger Arrie van Wyk. "But the next thing there were mass meetings in the village and the people were telling us that unless we took down the fence our game rangers' tents would be burnt down."

The National Parks Board, which manages the Kruger Park, is alarmed by reports that people living next to the reserve in Gazankulu have begun talking about pulling the fence down and sending their cattle into the park.

"We are really worried that the drought is forcing people to take militant action," says a conservationist who asked not to be named. "This is undermining all our efforts to preserve the biological species in the reserve and to educate people about the importance of nature conservation."

Unlike unrest in the urban areas, most of these protests have gone unnoticed by the media. But even a scanty survey shows that nature conservation is becoming a major source of conflict in many rural areas.

Which is why some conservation agencies are taking innovative measures to deal with the resentment that is smouldering around their projects.

kaNgwane's conservationists have started a pilot scheme in the Komati district which allows cattle farmers from a nearby village to graze their cattle "in a sustainable way" in one of their small reserves.

"We've agreed with the farmers that only cows, female calves and a limited number of bulls are allowed to graze in the conservation area," says KPC director Jeremy Anderson. "This has been enormously helpful in preventing hostility toward the project that may have been generated by the drought."

And on the other side of the Transvaal, the Bophuthatswana Parks Board has agreed to make alternative land available to farmers who had to remove their cattle for the creation of the new Madikwe Game Reserve near the Botswana border.

These initiatives show that it is possible to reconcile the need for conservation of rare species with the interests of rural people. But unless they are replicated on a much wider scale we are likely, in the immediate future, to see more barricades in the bush.

**HOW MANY MUST
 DIE BEFORE
 WE FIND PEACE?
 NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE
 AND DEMOCRACY.**



THIS week's skirmishes over land raised quite a bit of dust.

The attempt to auction off 53 pieces of Government land on the Reef was stopped by ANC pressure, and Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers, verbally pelted by his critics, issued persistent denials that self-governing homelands were to get giant "gifts" of land.

Between partial retreats and coded messages, it was hard to make out precisely where the battle was going.

Were these controversial Government moves, involving privatisation and homeland control of land, simply blunders due to the lack of a coherent land strategy?

Or were they purposeful, if risky, steps taken in pursuit of a land strategy intended to underpin the National Party's political, negotiating position?

Incorporation

Scheepers made it clear that, while the Government was avoiding full-blown incorporation of land into the homelands, it was not going to deny homeland governments some say over what he called their "promised land".

The land in question, totalling about a million hectares, belonged to the now-defunct South African Development Trust. It was part of the infamous "13 percent" earmarked under the old Land Acts for black settlement and eventual incorporation into the homelands.

As Scheepers refined his denials of an outright gift of this land to the homelands, it became clear that the Government would probably share administration of these areas with the homeland governments.

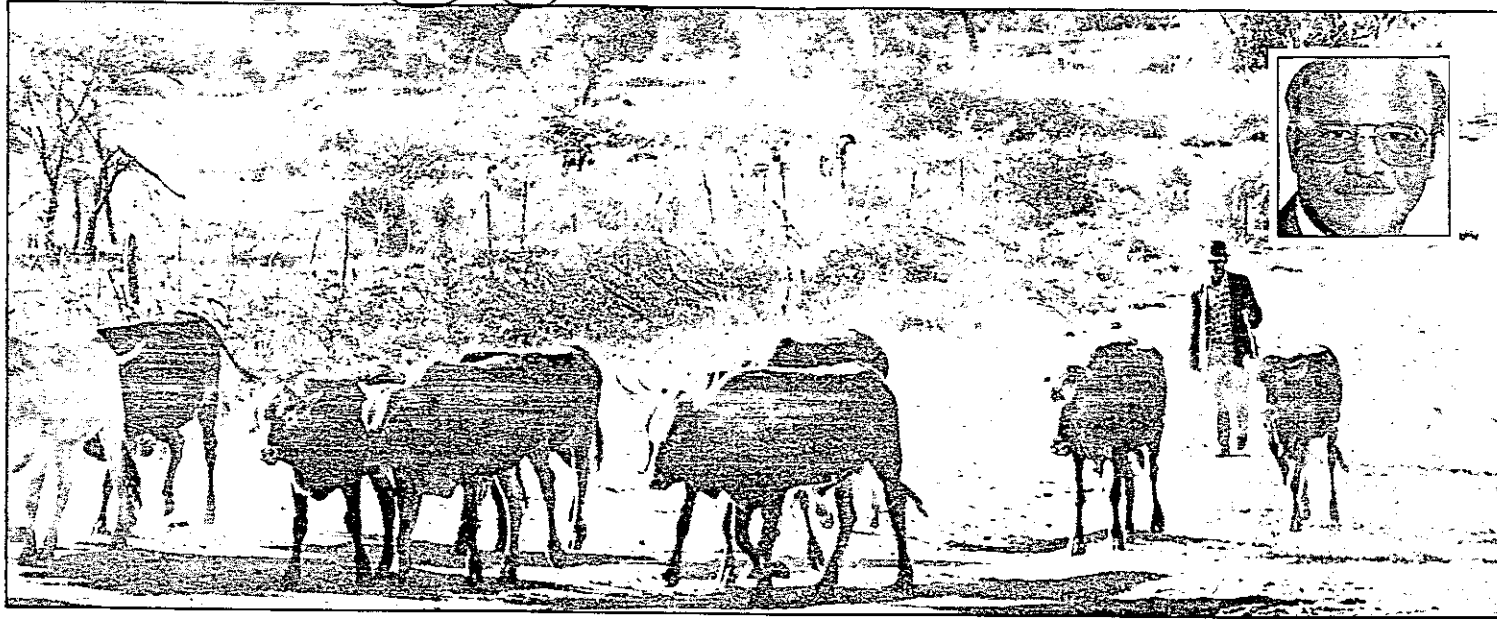
To give the homelands ownership or sole control of the land would be to flout the White Paper on Land Reform, the Deputy Minister said.

"We are not shifting aside the White Paper, it is still a work-

War over 'promised land'

(3) Jan [scribble] [scribble]

STAR 29/8/92



TUG-OF-WAR COUNTRY: A herdsman goes about his work in Leeuwfontein, one of the "incorporation hotspots". INSET: Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers.

ing document. But when you investigate possibilities, you go beyond the White Paper."

Joint administration would, in all likelihood, be accompanied by the sale of this land — effectively State land — to individuals or communities, Scheepers indicated.

Land rights groups, such as the Natal-based Association for Rural Advancement and the National Land Committee (NLC), have stated plainly that joint administration is as bad as outright homeland control, which is in turn as unacceptable as transferring ownership to the homelands.

Memories of incorporation are recent and bloody — in Moutse, Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein in the Transvaal, where resistance to the new administration gave rise to brutal vigilantism and security force repression. The Moutse land grab lit the fuse to virtual civil war in KwaNdebele in 1986.

Even the extension of homeland administration of areas beyond its borders has been resisted. For instance, the Border village of Mgwali brought a successful court action to have the arrangement declared unlawful.

The pointers from the past

THE Government found itself in a bit of hot water this week over its attempt to auction off land earmarked for black settlement. The question JO-ANNE COLLINGE asks is: what did it think it was playing at?

are unequivocal: by introducing even an element of homeland rule, the Government has chosen a path which runs a high risk of conflict. It seems strange that it should do this when political parties across the spectrum accept the imminent demise of the self-governing homelands.

The very obvious problem of landlessness and overpopulation in the homelands is the spur, says Scheepers. "We see the main issue as landless people, people in need of land adjacent to self-governing territories. When we talk to self-governing territories, they say 'Our people need more

land."

Although a considerable proportion of the 1 million hectares is already heavily populated, a fair chunk constitutes agricultural land currently being leased to white farmers, he points out.

The NLC's Joanne Yawitch asks: Why this sudden about-face? And ANC sources point out that it is entirely feasible to offer land to the landless without drawing homelands into the solution.

While squatter settlements mushroom, the Transvaal Provincial Administration, for one, has been less than adept at

finding land to give the homeless secure tenure.

Earlier this month a Transvaal Supreme Court judge attempted to nudge the TPA into securing land for the people of Welverdiend, a community left high and dry on a deproclaimed diamond digging in the western Transvaal.

Postponing a hearing which could feasibly end in eviction, Mr Justice Mynhardt ordered that a copy of his judgment be sent to the TPA to urge it to find a real answer for Welverdiend. The court heard that TPA negotiations over about a year had been fruitless.

These factors suggest that the land deal is at least as important to improving relations between the homeland governments and the NP Government as it is to relieving popular pressure. To the NP's political opponents it appears more than coincidental that homeland governments are being consulted about land just as President de Klerk's meeting with parties interested in strong regional government comes into view.

ANC sources charge the State resources are "being used quite crudely" by the NP for the party-political purpose of alliance-building. How far this will succeed remains to be seen. The six self-governing homelands are divided down the middle politically — Lebowa, KaNgwane and KwaNdebele tailing into the pro-ANC Patriotic Front camp and QwaQwa, KwaZulu and Gazankulu siding with the NP.

Pre-empting

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FINAL PUBLIC AUCTION
SMUGGLED GOODS DESTINED FOR USA
REDIRECTED TO RSA DUE TO US CUSTOMS
SEIZURE OF IRANIAN MERCHANDISE
FINAL BALES

MASSIVE LIQUIDATION — WITHOUT RESERVE AT
THE ISANDO WAREHOUSE, J H BACHMANN & CO
(PTY) LTD, CLEARING AGENTS

Resulting from deterioration in USA/Iranian relations and current embargo on Iranian goods. 23 bales of Iranian and Oriental rugs redirected to RSA on SA Waterberg, BII of Lading No 625597, to be sold by public auction to pay pending fines and penalties imposed on US importer by US customs.

Bank will not help Masterbond victims, says Stals

STAR 29/8/92

BRENDAN TEMPLETON

MASTERBOND victims cannot expect the Reserve Bank to provide them with financial relief, says Bank Governor Dr Chris Stals.

He announced during the Bank's annual meeting this week that the Bank was investigating the possibility of introducing a limited deposit insurance scheme for private investors to protect them from loss of savings.

When Saturday Star asked him whether this could include Master-

bond victims who invested through banks, the answer was a firm "no".

Banks acted as agents for Masterbond, taking millions of rands from thousands of pensioners even though this was illegal in terms of the Deposit Taking Institutions Act.

Stals said the registrar of deposit-taking institutions — who was answerable to the Bank — had paid out certain investors who suffered when some small banks were liquidated recently. This threatened to create the false impression that the Bank

was a lender of last resort.

To clarify the situation, the Bank intended to determine exactly when it would be willing to pay out private investors. The only guideline the Bank would use was whether such payouts were in the interests of the banking industry as a whole. Masterbond fell outside the Bank's ambit as it was not a registered deposit-taking institution. Stals said

Others differed with him. They believed the registrar should have forced Masterbond to register because it was taking deposits from the public.

The registrar claimed Masterbond fell outside the ambit of deposit-taking institutions legislation as it accepted deposits on behalf of property development schemes and therefore acted only as an agent.

However, Masterbond also had shares in some of the properties.

and Don MacKenzie, of the Masterbond Victims Disaster Fund believed this meant it could not claim to have been merely an agent.

Stals said he wished to end the five-year "marriage" between the registrar and the Bank.

The registrar had a regulator role to play which could benefit the Bank's proper function — the control of monetary supply.

"The registrar does not really belong in the Reserve Bank," he said.

THIS week's skirmishes over land raised quite a bit of dust.

The attempt to auction off 53 pieces of Government land on the Reef was stopped by ANC pressure, and Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers, verbally pelted by his critics, issued persistent denials that self-governing homelands were to get giant "gifts" of land.

Between partial retreats and coded messages, it was hard to make out precisely where the battle was going.

Were these controversial Government moves, involving privatisation and homeland control of land, simply blunders due to the lack of a coherent land strategy?

Or were they purposeful, if risky, steps taken in pursuit of a land strategy intended to underpin the National Party's political/negotiating position?

Incorporation

Scheepers made it clear that, while the Government was avoiding full-blown incorporation of land into the homelands, it was not going to deny homeland governments some say over what he called their "promised land".

The land in question, totalling about a million hectares, belonged to the now-defunct South African Development Trust. It was part of the infamous "13 percent" earmarked under the old Land Acts for black settlement and eventual incorporation into the homelands.

As Scheepers refined his denials of an outright gift of this land to the homelands, it became clear that the Government would probably share administration of these areas with the homeland governments.

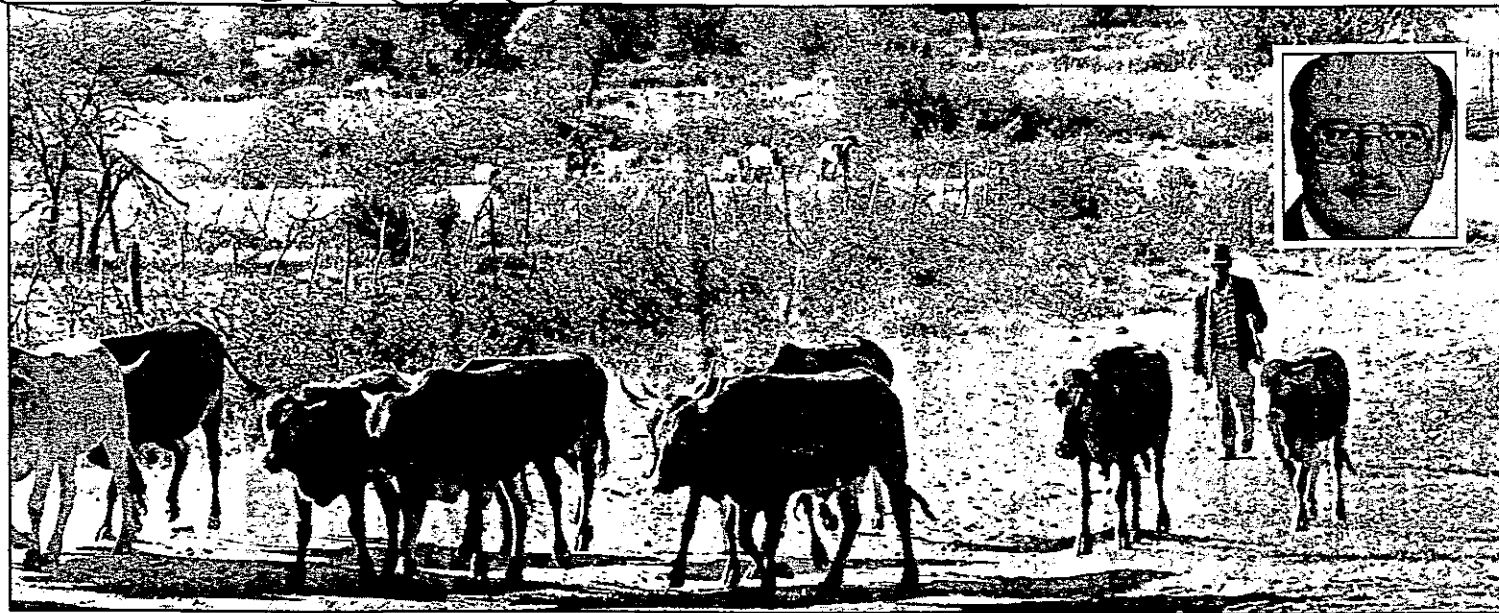
To give the homelands ownership or sole control of the land would be to flout the White Paper on Land Reform, the Deputy Minister said.

"We are not shifting aside the White Paper; it is still a work-

War over 'promised land'

3 General

STAR 29/8/92



TUG-OF-WAR COUNTRY: A herdsman goes about his work in Leeuwfontein, one of the "incorporation hotspots". INSET: Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers.

ing document. But when you investigate possibilities, you go beyond the White Paper."

Joint administration would, in all likelihood, be accompanied by the sale of this land — effectively State land — to individuals or communities, Scheepers indicated.

Land rights groups, such as the Natal-based Association for Rural Advancement and the National Land Committee (NLC), have stated plainly that joint administration is as bad as outright homeland control, which is in turn as unacceptable as transferring ownership to the homelands.

Memories of incorporation are recent and bloody — in Moutse, Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein in the Transvaal, where resistance to the new administration gave rise to brutal vigilantism and security force repression. The Moutse land grab lit the fuse to virtual civil war in KwaNdebele in 1986.

Even the extension of homeland administration of areas beyond its borders has been resisted. For instance, the Border village of Mgwali brought a successful court action to have the arrangement declared unlawful.

The pointers from the past

THE Government found itself in a bit of hot water this week over its attempt to auction off land earmarked for black settlement. The question JO-ANNE COLLINGE asks is: what did it think it was playing at?

are unequivocal: by introducing even an element of homeland rule, the Government has chosen a path which runs a high risk of conflict. It seems strange that it should do this when political parties across the spectrum accept the imminent demise of the self-governing homelands.

The very obvious problem of landlessness and overpopulation in the homelands is the spur, says Scheepers. "We see the main issue as landless people, people in need of land adjacent to self-governing territories. When we talk to self-governing territories, they say 'Our people need more

land."

Although a considerable proportion of the 1 million hectares is already heavily populated, a fair chunk constitutes agricultural land currently being leased to white farmers, he points out.

The NLC's Joanne Yawitch asks: Why this sudden about-face? And ANC sources point out that it is entirely feasible to offer land to the landless without drawing homelands into the solution.

While squatter settlements mushroom, the Transvaal Provincial Administration, for one, has been less than adept at

finding land to give the homeless secure tenure.

Earlier this month a Transvaal Supreme Court judge attempted to nudge the TPA into securing land for the people of Welverdiend, a community left high and dry on a deproclaimed diamond digging in the western Transvaal.

Postponing a hearing which could feasibly end in eviction, Mr Justice Mynhardt ordered that a copy of his judgment be sent to the TPA to urge it to find a real answer for Welverdiend. The court heard that TPA negotiations over about a year had been fruitless.

The extremely limited powers given to the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, set up to redress some of the injustices of forced removal, is regarded as a further comment on the depth of the Government's real concern with landlessness.

These factors suggest that the land deal is at least as important to improving relations between the homeland governments and the NP Government as it is to relieving population pressure. To the NP's political opponents it appears more than coincidental that homeland governments are being consulted about land just as President de Klerk's meeting with parties interested in strong regional government comes into view.

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By CHERILYN IRETON

R1bn drought aid too late for many

5 Times (BUS) 30/8/97 (3) Gen

THE Government's R1-billion parcel of agricultural drought aid may be distributed too late to stave off sequestration for many farmers.

Already only a quarter of all farmers facing imminent sequestration — and who have applied for a bail-out from the State-run agricultural credit board — can be rescued, says Mike Walters, who chairs the Government's co-ordinated drought relief programme.

Three-quarters of aid applications processed by the end of July failed.

Close

"The position of farmers is pretty desperate and indications are that a large proportion will go to the wall," says Mr Walters.

"We are trying to assess how many have been sequestered. But there is little doubt that without aid we would have faced a major disaster in the commercial farming sector."

He believes that the Government, through its aid programme, will succeed in keeping most farmers in production, thereby helping to sustain the rural economy.

Applications for drought assistance — for carryover debt and interest subsidies — close this week.

Included in the aid package is a R15-million provision to prevent sequestration

of farmers who show the ability to recover.

Many of the other allocations are also designed to keep farmers in business. They include assistance for workers, debt reconstruction, interest subsidies and money for emergency water supply.

Farmers' debt is estimated to be nearly R20-billion, but the banks are not overly concerned about bad debts.

"We are not faced with a calamity yet," says First National Bank general manager Neil Garden. "We will try to carry the farmer through by rescheduling payments where possible and assisting with cash flow. We are certainly not calling in facilities because of the drought."

The commercial banking sector's exposure to farmers is about R5-billion, representing an estimated 6% of their total book.

Former Nampo chairman Crawford von Abo told the Reserve Bank annual meeting this week that almost half of farmers with debt were unable to make any repayments. In the 1990-91 season more than 2 000 farmers

were unable to obtain further credit.

He claimed that about 700 farmers were being declared insolvent each month, a figure dismissed by bankers.

Mr Walters says aspects of government relief to the farming sector will continue even if the drought is broken.

"Our aid has longer-term implications and there will be continued input for certain schemes. Aid through support for co-operatives will continue for another three years."

Negative

The Reserve Bank has warned that agricultural production could shrink by as much as 15% this year.

It says in its annual economic report that drought in the summer rainfall areas had a negative influence on most crops. Worst hit is maize, which may fall from a peak crop of 11,5-million tons in 1989 to an estimated 3-million in 1992.

The production of sunflower seed, soya beans and dry beans was also more than

halved by the low rainfall. However, record deciduous fruit and citrus crops were harvested in the winter rainfall area.

The bank says that because of the drought real growth in gross domestic product may be about 1,8 percentage points lower.

"The drought has already caused a sharp increase in food prices and without any financial assistance it could have led to a loss of an estimated further 69 000 job opportunities and a substantial rise in the already high debt of the farmers."

"The lower agricultural employment could have caused the movement of an additional 250 000 people to urban areas with substantial financial implications for public authorities."

"The drought is not only resulting in increased government expenditure to provide assistance to the farmers, but it has a negative influence on the income of government as well as on the income of business enterprises associated with the farming community."

Crisis talks loom on 'Bantustan' land deal

STimes 30/8/92

3 Gen

LAND and Regional Affairs Deputy Minister Johan Scheepers will hold talks over the next 10 days with the six self-governing territories on the future of more than 1-million hectares of former trust land. The land was promised to these territories for homeland consolidation before old-style apartheid was scrapped. The bulk of the "promised land" was

By EDYTH BULBRING Political Correspondent

allocated to Kwazulu and Lebowa. Mr Scheepers had told the Sunday Times earlier this month he would propose to the cabinet that administrative control of the land be transferred to the "Bantustans". He had come under increasing pressure from the

six territories to fulfil the old promises of land transfer. The transfer of administrative control seemed to be a compromise, he had said.

However, the proposal was greeted with outrage by the ANC, the DP and other land-interest groups, on the grounds that the move would effectively mean incorporation.

Over the past two weeks, Mr Scheepers has held talks with the DP and the ANC over the proposals to the cabinet.

The DP suggested that joint administration of the land between the government and the self-governing territories would be a more acceptable option, as this would not mean the total relinquishment of control over the land.

Divulge

The ANC has also proposed alternatives.

Mr Scheepers said yesterday that the cabinet had discussed his recommendations last week. It was decided these should first be discussed with the self-governing territories before a decision was taken.

The response of the self-governing territories would be taken to the cabinet before the end of October for a decision.

Mr Scheepers declined to divulge the proposals he would be taking to the territories during the forthcoming talks.

However, sources in his department said some kind of joint administration between the SA government and the territories was in the offing.

Bike racer dies in Kyalami tragedy

MOTORCYCLE racer George Jeroudis was killed in a high-speed accident during the Yellow Pages Spring Challenge national championship meeting at Kyalami yesterday.

Fellow rider Freddy van Rooyen was seriously injured in the same accident.

Jeroudis was certified dead at the circuit by the track's medical officer.

Van Rooyen was stabilised and airlifted to the Johannesburg Hospital with suspected spinal and leg injuries.

The accident happened at the start of the second lap of the superbike race.

The two riders fell at the entrance to Total Curve at speeds of about 260km/h and crashed into safety barriers.

Both riders were treated on the track before being taken to the circuit hospital.

Clerk of the course Gavin Smyth said a full inquiry into the accident was already underway.

The two motorcycles were impounded for technical inspection with full statements taken from marshals and other race officials.

"The documentation will be handed to the SAP for further investigation," said Mr Smyth.

Peace force

30/8/92 Page 1

peace pro-Africa,"

the

had been totally dependent on existing security forces. He hoped the new measures would add greater credibility to future investigations.

Miss Vos said her organisation was studying Goldstone recommendations and would send it to 3 000 branches.