

AGRICULTURE — LABOUR

1990.

## Pesticides training for farmworkers

More than 1 200 farm labourers all over South Africa will be intensively trained in the application of pesticides this year.

The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Association of SA (Avcasa) and the Boskop Training Centre near Potchefstroom are collaborating on the five-day course.

The syllabus, agreed upon by Avcasa and the SA Agricultural Union, includes the correct application of pesticides, emergency action, correct handling and transportation, and protection from poisoning.

The course will be registered with the Department of Manpower.

Two trainers from Boskop will be equipped with vehicles and the necessary training aids, and will visit farms predetermined by Avcasa.

The organisation's member companies will contact farmers to arrange venues and dates for the trainees' visits.

Participants must pass an exam at the end of the course to receive a certificate. — Staff Reporter.

staff 4/11/90



## Labourer shot dead

A Robertson farmer shot dead a labourer who allegedly attacked him and broke 14 windows with a knobkerrie. (L)

Police said the farmer was chased around his house by the labourer, Mr Sarel Rossouw (30) while the farmer's wife, his 65-year-old mother and three children sat terrified inside.

Police liaison officer Captain Hendrik Opperman said after the labourer had broken the windows with a knobkerrie, the farmer fired a shot that killed the man. The labourer had apparently also assaulted another labourer with the kerrie.

It is believed that Rossouw had a history of mental illness and a fit on Wednesday sparked his violence. - Sapa

Somehow 5/1/90

# Preparing for a white homeland

Soweto  
25/1/90

FOCUS  
4

IN the rich soil of the heartland, a few whites plough their fields and run their shops without black labour. As the apartheid system crumbles elsewhere in the nation, they still seek to perfect racial separation.

The small group of Afrikaners, calling themselves the Society of Orange Workers, have retreated to the tiny, eastern village of Morgenzon where they hope to plant the seed for a white homeland.

The Orange Workers claim about 3 000 members nationwide, including several members of Parliament. About 200 members live in and around Morgenzon, 160 kilometres south-east of Johannesburg.

But even in Morgenzon, which existed for decades before the Orange Workers arrived, blacks outnumber whites by about 2 000 to 1 200.

## No servants

At the Orange Workers' headquarters, a white man serves tea to visitors. At home, white women do all the washing, cooking and cleaning - virtually unheard of in South Africa. At the Ladida clothing and fabric store, black workers and customers - the foundation of the South African economy - are barred.

"We don't want to dominate blacks or anyone else," said Hendrik Verwoerd Jr., director of the Orange Workers. "We want a territory exclusively for the Afrikaners where we can lead our own way of life."

However, the Afrikaner way of life always has involved large numbers of black labourers, who have worked the farms and the gold mines and made the country comfortably wealthy for whites.

The Orange Workers believe white dependence on black workers is partly responsible for the unravelling of apartheid, and say that unless Dutch-descended Afrikaners become more self-

Just 160 kilometres from Johannesburg, the son of ex-prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd heads an exclusive Afrikaner settlement. Ironically, whereas his father master-minded the black homeland system, he wants to establish one for whites. GREG MYRE reports.

sufficient they will be an impotent minority of three million dominated by the country's 28 million blacks.

"If you accept blacks as labourers, you must accept them as part of the community," said Verwoerd. "We want to prove you can build a community free of black labour."

Verwoerd's goal of establishing a white homeland is laced with irony. His father, Hendrik Verwoerd, the prime minister from 1958-66, was the architect of "grand apartheid", which established 10 black homelands on 13 percent of South Africa's territory and reserved the remaining 87 percent for whites.

Verwoerd, assassinated in 1966, was so confident of his plan that he predicted the majority of blacks would be living in the poor, rural homelands by 1978 and South Africa's racial conflict would largely be resolved.

## Independence

But, by 1978 blacks had permanently settled in urban areas in such large numbers that some conservative whites began to look for their own homeland and to speak about the inevitability of black rule.

The younger Verwoerd, now 49, spent 10 years working as a missionary in the black homeland of Lebowa. He said he believed the blacks there lived happily because "they had their own customs and values and no one imposed on them".

But anti-apartheid activists sharply disagree, saying the homelands are an attempt to keep blacks on isolated, undeveloped

reserves and deprive them of political rights in South Africa.

Today the largest homeland, Transkei, is considering giving up its nominal independence and returning to South Africa, while the Orange Workers and several other conservative Afrikaner groups are becoming increasingly vocal in demanding a white territory.

Verwoerd has achieved limited success since the 1980 founding of the Orange Workers, who draw their name from William of Orange, a 16th century Dutchman revered by Afrikaners for ending the Spanish domination of his people.

## Partition

Most whites in Morgenzon are conservative and share the Orange Workers' belief in rigid apartheid, but believe they also need black workers and customers.

"We'd be out of business overnight if we didn't have black shoppers," said one white storeowner, who asked to remain anonymous. The same storeowner, who said he didn't care for the Orange Workers, has two doors to his shop. The front one is used by whites, the back one by blacks.

Peter Dlamini, a black resident, said blacks felt discriminated against by the Orange Workers as well as whites who don't belong to the group.

"The youths are unhappy with the situation and they are planning to protest," said Dlamini. "We want to see things change."

Verwoerd would like an Afrikaner homeland that includes a large patch of Transvaal Province in the north-east, as well as the central Orange Free State Pro-

FOCUS

vince and a corridor to the southern coastal city of Mossel Bay.

Other Afrikaner groups, who maintain ties with the Orange Workers, seek even larger chunks of territory. The extreme-right Conservative Party, which captured 31 percent of the white vote in elections last year, wants to partition South Africa into more than 10 separate states.

At the moment, all such prospects appear dim.

President F W de Klerk, who has pledged to remove all discriminatory laws, has met with several right-wing Afrikaner leaders and told them plans for a white homeland are unrealistic.

Verwoerd says he is not deterred and wants to work more closely with the other Afrikaner groups who share a similar vision. - Sapa-AP.

## Media Council

THE South African Media Council is an independent body established to deal with various matters affecting media reporting and comment.

One of the council's functions is to receive and act upon complaints from members of the public who have not been able to get satisfaction by approaching a newspaper or other news media directly.

Complaints must relate to published editorial matter and should be lodged within 10 days of publication. But late complaints may be accepted if good reasons can be advanced.

The address is: The Council-ator/Registrar, SA Media Council, PO Box 5222, Cape Town 8000. Telephone: (012) 461-7117. Inquiries are welcomed.

still underway.  
his delegation remained  
support of the SA Rail-

when he was hacked with a panga by a  
mob who attacked the bus and set it  
alight at Mobeni, Durban yesterday.

SUSAN RUSSELL reports from the  
Rand Supreme Court that an urgent ap-  
plication brought against the SAP by

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# Summit to debate open schools

Bl Day 12/11/90  
CHARLENE SMITH

THE Alexandra education summit on Sunday is to consider a call for an "all schools for all people" campaign to press for the integration of schools.

The summit is being held to investigate reasons for the poor matric results, overcrowding, lack of discipline and a breakdown of education in townships.

The campaign would call for the abolition of the 18 education departments and for education to be placed under a single department.

The call has come from the Alexandra Student Congress (ASC) in line with moves among educators and students in other townships.

The summit follows a meeting in Soweto last Sunday of teachers,

parents and pupils at which the Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee was set up to investigate reasons for the poor matric results, to pressure for all children to be allowed back to school and to seek solutions to the black education crisis.

An ASC student leader said the township was surrounded by suburbs that had many schools.

He said the adjacent Indian suburb of Marlboro did not have full occupancy at its schools and neither did some white schools in Rosebank and Sandton.

"If they admitted students from Alexandra this would alleviate

some of the pressure here.

Schools in Alexandra are grossly overcrowded with teacher:pupil ratios ranging from 1:60 to 1:80, according to teachers. Alexandra High School — called Walter Sisulu High by pupils — had a student population of 1 200 last year, and this year has 1 600 pupils.

Although schools were admitting failed matriculants in line with DET recommendations, they were in some instances turning away new pupils in lower grades.

Uriah Motepe, 13, a Standard 6 pupil, was refused admittance to Alexandra High. Teachers refused to comment and the DET said it could not accept responsibility for individual schools.

# Call to upgrade farm worker conditions

PRETORIA — The large number of black and coloured workers leaving the employ of farmers can only be stemmed if agricultural working conditions are normalised, says a report published by the Department of Agriculture's directorate of marketing.

The report says the ongoing urbanisation of agricultural workers places greater pressure on the shortage of jobs in cities and towns.

Figures released by the Central

Statistical Service in Pretoria showed that the number of economically active people had risen from 4,6-million in 1951 to 8,7-million in 1985.

During the same period in the agricultural sector, the number shrank from 32% to close on 14%.

The Afrikaans farming publication Landbouuus says the deteriorating economic climate and droughts have driven a number of farmers to the wall or forced them to extend horizontally.

These factors have also caused greater numbers of whites to become economically active to make ends meet.

A recent survey by the Human Sciences Research Council showed that the standard of living enjoyed by farm workers was not good.

However, the study also showed that in summer rainfall areas more than 91% of farmers said they had no labour relations difficulties. — Sapa.

# Orange Workers keep their white redoubt (4) as apartheid crumbles

Star 27/1/90

GREG MYRE

MORGENZON — In the rich soil of the heartland, a few whites plough their fields and run their shops without black labour. As the apartheid system crumbles elsewhere in the nation, they still seek to perfect racial separation.

The small group of Afrikaners, calling themselves the Society of Orange Workers, have retreated to the tiny, eastern village of Morgenzon where they hope to plant the seed for a white homeland.

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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON: Hendrik Verwoerd jr continues the tradition of his father.

## Mainly black

But even in Morgenzon, which existed for decades before the Orange Workers arrived, blacks outnumber whites by about 2 000 blacks to 1 200 whites.

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## Historical facts

However, the Afrikaner way of life always has involved large numbers of black labourers, who have worked the farms and the gold mines and made the country comfortably wealthy for whites.

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3 million dominated by the country's 28 million blacks.

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But anti-apartheid activists sharply disagree, saying the homelands are an attempt to keep blacks on isolated, undeveloped reserves and deprive them of political rights in South Africa.

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blacks feel discriminated against by the Orange Workers, as do whites who don't belong to the group.

## Own homeland

Because the town is so small, the Orange Workers can avoid blacks only in their own homes and shops.

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President F W de Klerk, who has pledged to remove all discriminatory laws, has met several right-wing Afrikaner leaders and told them plans for a white homeland are unrealistic.

"Afrikaners grow up believing the whole world is like South Africa, that there is always a huge supply of black labour," said Peter Bruwer, a 12th generation African who heads the publications department for the Orange Workers. "Psychologically, we are still trying to adjust to doing the work ourselves." — Associated Press.

ENOUGH time has elapsed for tempers to cool since the October launch of the controversial Winelands Commitment on labour relations.

In the emotional flare-up at the time the principles and aims of the commitment escaped the attention they merit when incensed KWV officials boycotted a ceremony to honour Tim Hamilton-Russell's Diners Club award-winning wine maker, Peter Finlayson.

The KWV objected to a report in London's Daily Telegraph in which Hamilton-Russell said many current

practices in the South African wine industry "are morally indefensible... a master-servant relationship, much too paternalistic".

The article, quoting other sources too, also implied the KWV itself was unenlightened, dominated by vineyard owners "still practising archaic systems of labour relations" and gratuitously dismissed the Rural Foundation activities as "window dressing".

**Unamused**

The KWV's own labour conditions at Laborie and La Concorde are perfectly satisfactory and naturally officials were unamused; in any event the organisation cannot be held directly liable for conditions on the individual farms of its 5 000 members.

But nowhere since have I heard or read calm public debate of the content and specifics of the commitment itself.

As a signatory, I believe the Winelands Commitment can be promoted — and defended — with pride, as a landmark document in Cape viticulture, though so far signed by only four growers and only two of them large, well-known producers: Hamilton-Russell and Simon Barlow of Rustenberg, Peter Youngusband of Haute Provence and I also signed.

**Lost markets**

The commitment's objectives are straightforward. For far too long, a stereotyped view of conditions on Cape wine farms has prevailed abroad and to a lesser extent at home too. Poor wages, miserable housing, the dop system (liquor partly in lieu of wages) prison labour, rough treatment; that has been the image and for some it hasn't improved the taste of Cape wine which of course has also been stigmatised by the relentless, blanket condemnatory anti-apartheid campaigns.

We've lost important export markets; where we've continued to sell it's sometimes had to be unofficially through the back door, as to Zambia where Cape wine features at the tables of ANC notables in Lusaka!

**Awareness**

As a close chronicler of the Cape wine scene over the past decade I can vouch for a changing, significantly improving picture on Cape wine farms. Many farmers are now justifiably proud of their worker relations, of their wages, their housing, their arbi-

# Improving conditions on Cape wine farms

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**LABOURERS ON A WINE FARM** . . . For far too long, a stereotyped view of conditions on Cape wine farms has prevailed abroad and to a lesser extent at home too.

tration machinery; even some profit participation schemes.

But good news is not always news and public awareness has not kept pace with these improvements.

Part of the motivation for the commitment was to draw attention to the strides made in Cape viticulture. However, its publication inevitably also spotlights and pressures the laggards among Cape producers to sharpen up their operations.

The commitment, open to all on an ongoing basis, voluntarily binds signatories to pay a basic minimum package with good accommodation, water and electricity laid on, to provide medical assistance; to acknowledge the right of workers to unionise; to support the unconditional right of all races to own agricultural land.

This is hardly revolutionary stuff in present-day South Africa — though we did begin our discussions nearly two years before President De Klerk himself lamented (at an agricultural congress) the mi-

gration of farm workers to the cities and appealed for more attractive labour conditions to stem the flow. Our call for an end to the Group Areas Act and apartheid is not a subversive activity either and of course goes to the heart of the matter.

**Consensus**

More specifically, we accepted the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (1983) from which, incredibly, farm workers and domestics are excluded and which covers such basic matters as leave and overtime pay, working hours, dismissal etc. Exclusion from the act makes this a very unjust law indeed for farm workers.

Predictably, it quickly became apparent that industry-wide consensus was impossible. There is an ingrained fear of union activity and power — as if this can be contained by ignoring it. Others saw it as embarrassing the government at a sensitive time and did not accept that it was itself a supportive reform initiative. Yet

others said the requirement for better wages and upgraded housing would bankrupt some growers one of the oldest arguments in the book. Should some special dispensation ever license wine farmers, any farmers, to pay below par wages?

Many farmers doubtless believed the commitment was mixing wine with politics. Some such apolitical farmers, who may also have other good reasons for not wanting to go public, in fact operate commendably sound labour relations, pay good wages and generally contribute to the improving scene. I wish I could name the dozens who do, but the list would be incomplete and therefore invidious.

**Uneven picture**

Some farmers support the very laudable aims of the Rural Foundation and this helps to build a healthier social environment in the Cape too. Those whose criticism of the commitment hinged on the perception that it impugns the efforts of the Rural Foundation

have not read or understood its contents. The emphases may differ — we feel there is a need to be specific about actual wages and conditions — but the motives are complementary, and neither can claim a monopoly on morality.

Nonetheless, the wine-lands still present an uneven picture. The dop system is being phased out, but not quickly enough in some areas. Wages and housing on some farms are still a disgrace.

One does not have to be an unpatriotic, sanctimonious pinko to want no want no part of this — and it is disturbing that there are those who appear to want to deny others the right to speak out in this vein. We who occasionally travel are simply sick and tired of having to explain that not all Cape wine farmers are sjambok-wielding racist supporters of apartheid dispensing cheap liquor to overworked and underpaid staff kept in squalor. We can now point to the commitment, which, also incidentally, puts us ahead of the farm worker remuneration in neighbouring black ruled states by as much as three and four times, all things considered, such as relative purchasing power.

**Sympathetic**

We're also tired of being the unmentionables in many overseas wine markets and publications. We're already seeing the first fruits of the commitment; in Decanter the wine world's leading magazine published in London, the commitment receives favourable mention in the latest January issue where managing director Colin Parnell says the commit-

ment signatories "need our support".

Why are some so loath therefore to endorse an initiative which can only improve the Cape's reputation at home and abroad? And why the future?

In our deliberations leading up to its publication, we found many growers privately sympathetic, even enthusiastic and have some interesting letters on file. Among the large corporations, more impervious to peer pressure unlike many an individual grower, there was no response from SFW and Anglo American (Boschendal) though supportive during the drafting stages was disappointingly absent among the initial signatories. At the time Anglo was taking full page ads in London's Economist to declare: "We continue to urge the abolition of all legislation which denies a man's right to a lifestyle he can afford, and we are meeting our challenge of putting non-racialism into practice".

The drafts of the commitment were forwarded to the KWV prior to publication, with the suggestion, if it saw fit, to recommend its wider acceptance. The organisation, also obviously well-disposed in principle, said it went along with "about 80%" of the commitment and I shouldn't be surprised if it soon announces its own recommended code of practice, with suggested wage scales, a move which, if it went far enough to make the commitment redundant, would deserve and receive our enthusiastic support.

*(John Platter, a former journalist, is a wine farmer and signatory to the Winelands Commitment.)*

**LETTERS**

**In support of Vaalie drivers**

From MW WILLIAMS (Meadowridge):

GIVE me a Transvaal driver any day! I quite agree with R Cood (Milnerton) and J Olivier (Plettenberg Bay) (Cape Times, January 25), regarding the Cape Town drivers. They are rude, inconsiderate and selfish. An indicator seems to be an "optional extra" on Cape Town cars or else the drivers don't know how to use it. Yield signs mean stop and stop signs mean nothing.

At least Transvaal drivers are alert. Next time a "Vaalie" passes you and gives you a filthy look, ask yourself why.

**Historic house threatened by road**

From DAVID BAKER (Brooklyn):

I FOUND the views of your correspondents Dr Wollheim ("Stop this high rise vandalism", Letters, January 11), Mr Veitch and Mrs Lindsay of vital interest.

Not only has our historic house — with over 250 years' direct association with the sea — been cut off from Table Bay, but it is also directly under severe threat from a proposed road widening scheme.

From our loft one has the remnants of a once stunning view.

To the far left is Rhodes Memorial and then a sweep across the face of the mountain to the Milnerton lighthouse

and into the hills of Tygerberg and beyond.

The major element lacking from this beautiful panorama is the sight of Table Bay just 500 m away.

It is true that a 3° angle of blue can be seen through a gap between the visual blight of an unpainted warehouse and a vast container depot.

That glimpse of the sea is only by courtesy of the town planners, for it has been proposed to widen the road in front of our house.

The road would be extended across the historic wetlands of Paarden Eiland to join the Marine Drive through that gap.

The widening line of this road actually cuts through our

home, which was declared a national monument in 1971.

To allow our house to survive the road is to be narrowed for about 48 metres, where it will shave past a mere two metres from our voorkamer wall.

Klein Zoar is a unique house built from koffieklip mined on site and stones collected from the shore.

Clay from the vleis forms the mortar and the whole is plastered with lime burnt from shells brought from the beach. Despite the massive walls, it is a fragile structure.

The physical impact of grading and compacting a new road will damage — if not destroy — the fabric of our home.

The flow of container traffic

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*Monday 5/11/78*  
**Farm workers are offered training**

*(4)*  
**BENJAMIN COCKRAM**

ABOUT 1 200 SA farm labourers will be given the opportunity to take an intensive training course in the application of pesticides this year.

The five-day course has been devised by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Association of SA (Avcasa) in conjunction with Boskop Training Centre, Avcasa executive director Gerry Maritz said in a statement yesterday.

The course will cover handling, transportation, storage and application of farm chemicals, protection from poisoning, emergency action and destruction of empty containers.

A South African Agricultural Union certificate will be presented to those who pass a practical examination at the end of the course.

Maritz said Avcasa would contact selected farmers to arrange venues and dates for trainers' visits.

Farmers would select trainees.

The course will be registered with the Department of Manpower and costs therefore qualify for tax concessions.

2176 Times 15/2/90  
287 (2) (4)

# Sociologist warns on problems of liquor

Staff Reporter

THE liquor industry should take a long look at their social responsibility, a UWC sociologist told a congress on development in the Western Cape yesterday.

Addressing the two-day conference on social problems in the hinterland, Mr Wynand Louw said alcohol abuse was taking on "disastrous proportions" in rural area.

Urgent action was needed in rural areas in the Western Cape where instances of child neglect had been reported due to "uncontrolled drinking by mothers".

"Up to 40% of households in rural towns were living on government grants, he said, adding that the average wage for farm labourers was from R70 to R120 a month. "Why work in the hot Karoo sun for R120 when you can have a baby and get R250 (from the government)?" he asked.

In giving the keynote address at the conference, UCT economics department head Professor Francis Wilson said political power must be given to poor people in order to solve South Africa's poverty problems.

CHE 7/15 10/12/90  
**LP move to help farmworkers**

Political Staff (4) (10/12/90)  
**THE Labour Party is to block all agricultural and manpower legislation until the government agrees to introduce legal protection for South Africa's farmworkers similar to that of industrial workers.**  
**Five bills, due to be discussed in Parliament, will be immediately affected by the move.**

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# JUST ONE OF THE CROWD

w/k ARGUS 10/2/90

**Lone white pupil  
doesn't feel  
out of place  
at farm school**

By CAROLYN MCGIBBON  
Weekend Argus Correspondent

SHE is the only girl with freckles on her nose and a long ginger plait, but this doesn't mean Euleia Rabie is any different from her classmates at Gonnakraal Primary School.

She is the only white child at the farm school run mainly for the children of farm labourers and, like the rest of the boys and girls, is happy to run around barefoot and without a uniform.

"She goes there to learn the three Rs — without the fourth R that so many children learn: racism.

"It doesn't feel funny to be the only white pupil. These are my friends," Euleia says.

"I've known Maria since I was three," she says, turning to her best friend next to her on the bench and dissolving into giggles.

## Raised eyebrows

Euleia is oblivious to the raised eyebrows in the deeply conservative plateau town of Viljoenshof, down the coast from Hermanus. It doesn't enter her nine-year-old head that there should be anything strange about going to the school closest to home.

To Euleia's dad, Hendrik Rabie (who is related to the Afrikaans writer, Jan Rabie) it is only sensible.

"The school she was at last year ran out of children and closed down. She would have had to go to boarding school if she hadn't gone here."

Euleia's previous school, in Viljoenshof, stands empty. Last year there were six children at the school and the Cape Education Department says a school must have at least seven pupils to stay open.

It would have been a solution to have opened the school to all races, but the conservative community did not consider this an answer.

Mr Rabie said he had known the headmistress of the coloured school for some time and had heard good reports about her.



Mrs Bati Apollis, above, has made Gonnakraal Primary School a pleasant place for the children of farm labourers and fisherfolk. Her only white pupil, Euleia Rabie, right, shares a joke outside the

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Mr Rabie said he had known the headmistress of the coloured school for some time and had heard good reports about her.

He asked her if Euleia could be admitted and the House of Representatives education department decided none of its schools should be restricted to race. This is in contrast to government schools that fall under the white Department of Education and Culture which enforces a whites-only policy.

Mr Rabie, a potter, said: "I've had no problems in sending Euleia to the farm school. I haven't lost any friends through this. I don't know many people who would oppose it. I've made many friends by sending her there."

He praised the high standard of education given by the principal, Mrs Bati Apollis.

Although Mrs Apollis teaches three standards in one classroom, she has attentive pupils who hang on her every word. She is that rare species, the born teacher who will go to no end of trouble for her pupils.

She regards Euleia as an asset to the class, but pays her neither more nor less attention than any of the other children.

#### Poor homes

Most of the children are from poor homes. Their parents are farmworkers and fisherfolk and they are always hungry. Mrs Apollis cooks mealie meal from Operation Hunger for them every day. For variety, she colours it pink or yellow or brown.

It is clear Mrs Apollis loves the children. The prefab building that passes for a schoolroom has a concrete floor, but she has found old carpeting to make it cosy. From remnants she has made cushions for the children to sit on and she has covered the desks with shelf-wrap.

"Most of the children have so little at home. I like to make school a nice place to come to," she says.

Euleia says she is "very happy" at the school, particularly as she has many more schoolmates than before.

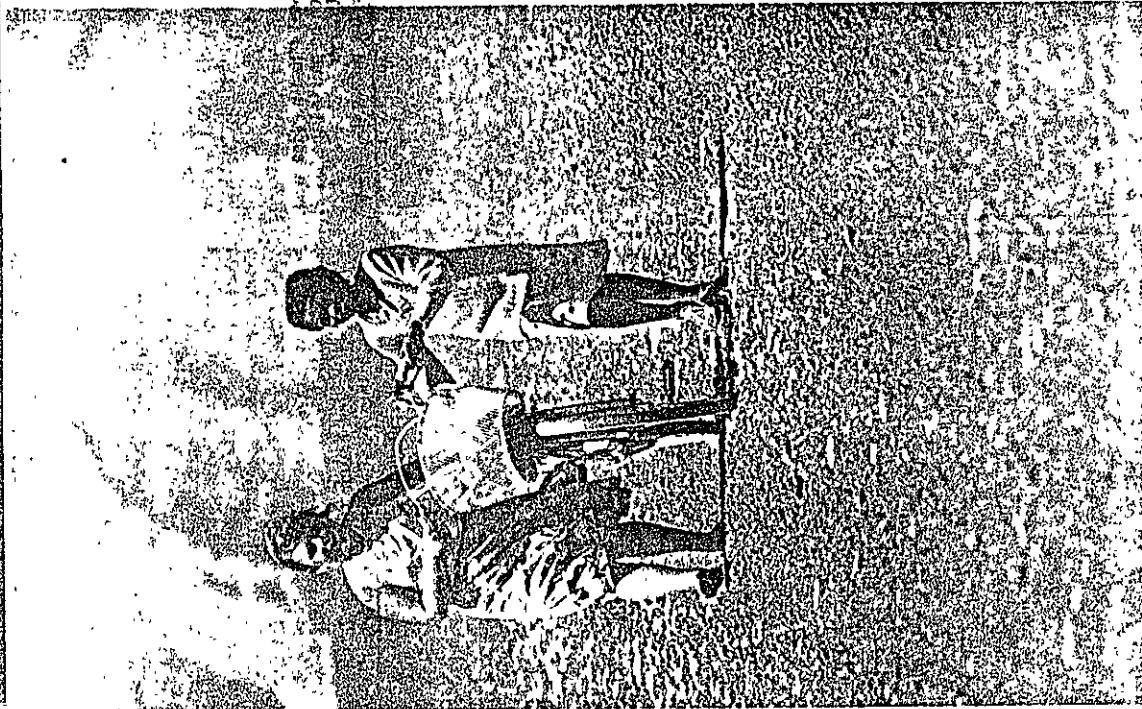
She is aware that she is more privileged than the others — she is the only one who comes to school on a bicycle and the only one who brings books to school from home.

Although she is being educated for the new South Africa, she knows that when she leaves the farm school she will enter standard five at boarding school.

For most of her schoolmates, however, that is where their education will stop as most will leave at the end of standard four and go out to work.



Mrs Bati Apollis, above, has made Gonnakraal Primary School a pleasant place for the children of farm labourers and fisherfolk. Her only white pupil, Euleia Rabie, right, shares a joke outside the schoolhouse with her best friend, Maria Anta. Pictures: LEON MULLER, Weekend Argus.



Euleia Rabie, above, is the only pupil who rides a bicycle to the Gonnakraal Primary School — but she shares it with her best friend, Maria Anta, whom she has known since she was three. Euleia has been at the farm school since the white school in Viljoenshof was closed because of its dwindling pupil numbers.

If service can be rendered, we do not elevate it above the principle of own education.

I am pleased that at least once he has deviated from that. However, in terms of what statutory provision have these children been admitted? That is what we would like to know.

*Hansard 13/2/90*  
In general terms, we wish to request once again that the hon the Minister do the sensible thing and allow schools that wish to do so to admit children of all races. I want to mention just some of the good reasons. Firstly, it prepares children for the new South Africa; secondly, it is in accordance with their own party's new policy of freedom of association; thirdly, it is symbolically important for Black education—that is, putting education before apartheid and reducing some pressures and frustration. Fourthly, economically we cannot afford duplication and underutilisation and finally, it is going to happen anyway. Why then does the hon Minister not do it now, like the hon the State President who has had some courage? Do it now, and then the hon the Minister will get the credit. [Time expired.]

\*The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Speaker, let me assure the hon member for Brits at once that no member of the Government has dragged me in a specific direction in the past year.

For the past five years I have been responsible for the education of the White community on the basis of the Constitution and on the basis of specific policies of the Government. I carry this out according to my convictions, in the interests not only of the education of the Whites, but in my opinion and that of this side of the House, in the interests of the education of everyone in this country. Let us therefore have no illusions about this.

The hon member has now referred to specific decisions and specific publications. I can add to this that the hon member must take a look at the five-point plan in terms of which we fought the election. In that five-point plan which I assume the hon member and other hon members studied carefully, it is stated very clearly that the Government still insists on own education. There is no doubt about that. It is stated in several different places.

The hon member is entitled to ask me what is going to happen in the future. Let me tell the hon member at once that in the future, as is apparent

from the present, we will still be convinced that this is the best basis. *Hansard 13/2/90*

I want to refer to the hon member to a statement which I made in the House of Assembly on Friday. In it I said that we were neither deaf nor blind to specific problems in respect of the provision of education, and we are engaged, particularly in respect of parental choice in order to bring it into line with other policies, in investigating the admission of children of colour to schools. [Time expired.]

\*Mr A GERBER: Mr Speaker, I get the impression that the hon the Minister has not yet fully grasped the direction in which the hon the State President is moving with White education in the new South Africa. He is hoping that by making a minor adjustment here and there, by admitting a few Blacks here and there, he will still be able to maintain group-specific and culturally-orientated education.

With all due respect I want to tell the hon the Minister that if this is what he is trying to hoodwink his department and the White parent communities in South Africa into believing he is either not being honest with himself and with them—I would not like to believe this of the hon the Minister—or he does not yet realise what the implications of the NP's new South Africa are for White education. Did the hon the Minister not take cognisance of what the hon the Minister of National Education, who determines the education policy, said last week in connection with the Population Registration Act? [Interjections.] He said that in a new constitutional dispensation that Act would have to be abolished. Does the hon the Minister realise what that means?

\*Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Piet does not know yet!

\*Mr A GERBER: It means that own affairs will have to fall away. It also means that own schools will have to fall away. It will no longer be possible to differentiate between White education on the one hand and education for the other population groups on the other. It is as simple as that. If the State no longer differentiates officially on the basis of race or nationality, own schools will no longer be feasible. [Interjections.] I am asking again whether the hon the Minister understands that. Do hon members of the NP understand it when it is announced that all remnants of apartheid are going to be abol-

*Continues*

ished? The admission of a few Black pupils to White schools is not going to satisfy the holists in the new South Africa. The existence of an own White education department will be a thing of the past. There will be no work for the hon the Minister of Education and Culture in the new dispensation. His ministerial post will fall away. [Interjections.] I do not care about that, but I am seriously concerned about the fact that his department will also fall away and that the good, justifiable educational principles of cultural-orientated and group-specific education will also fall away.

The hon the Minister has now admitted a few Blacks to White state schools. I submit today that this is a prelude to the handing over of the Afrikaaner and the White to total integration in education. The Government must realise that this is one matter which stirs up emotions among our people. If they tamper with education, they are looking for serious trouble.

\*The MINISTER OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION: Mr Speaker, I do not want to ask the hon member whether he understands. He understands absolutely nothing about the entire matter. [Interjections.] It is not the hon the State President who is leading us to integration. The hon member must simply catch up. We have had a typical example of the hon member chasing up a number of hares in connection with his interferences. Usually these are incorrect inferences in connection with what we have said and what has been written in documents. He then starts attacking us on the strength of these. The irony is that this attack, which is based on incorrect inferences, is proclaimed as the truth to the public at large. I have frequently asked hon members to refrain from doing this.

I want to come back to the question the hon member for Cape Town Gardens put. I think it is only fair for the hon member to ask me on what basis we took this decision. We would like to handle education and the needs of White education in the light of specific circumstances. It is true that this is the first time we have had a deviation. Because I considered the merits of these specific circumstances, it was decided to admit the Chirwa children in this specific case. This is true, but the fact of the matter is that I did so on the basis of the service principle contained in paragraph 14 of the Schedule, and the Minister surely has specific discretionary powers. I think it was in the interests of education and of

those children. When the entire set-up and the circumstances concerned are reviewed, and also in the light of the fact that we are engaged in specific investigations . . . [Time expired.] Debate concluded. *Hansard 13/2/90*

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply: *Hansard 13/2/90*

Own Affairs: **(4)**

Groot Constantia Estate: services contract

\*1. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

(1) Whether a proposed contract of employment, a copy of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has been submitted for signature to farm workers at Groot Constantia Estate; if so,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the proposals contained in this document? B10E

†The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (for the Minister of Agricultural Development):

(1) No

(2) A provisional contract which was not prepared by the Department or the Groot Constantia Control Board, was distributed to all farm workers during November 1989 to serve as a draft document for discussion. The farm workers were given the opportunity to discuss any uncertainties or proposed changes with their democratically elected farm committee.

The document concerned is in many respects not acceptable to me or the Groot Constantia Control Board. It is presently being reviewed and adapted on completion of which it will be presented to the Control Board for approval.

White schoolchildren: expenditure

\*2. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Culture: *Hansard 13/2/90*

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Hansard 16/2/90

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Standard 10 examination: results

41. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education:

How many pupils at schools falling under the control of the Department of Education and Training (a) wrote, (b) obtained (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D, and (v) E symbols in, and (c) failed, their 1989 Standard 10 examinations in respect of (aa) Mathematics (Higher Grade), (bb) Mathematics (Standard Grade), (cc) Physical Science (Higher Grade) and (dd) Physical Science (Standard Grade)?

B45E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(aa) Mathematics HG

(a) 5 652

(b) (i) 12 (ii) 34 (iii) 129 (iv) 252 (v) 459

(c) 4 766

(bb) Mathematics SG

(a) 8 672

(b) (i) 5 (ii) 17 (iii) 82 (iv) 194 (v) 360

(c) 7 162

(cc) Physical Science HG

(a) 5 048

(b) (i) 0 (ii) 2 (iii) 38 (iv) 136 (v) 375

(c) 4 497

(dd) Physical Science SG

(a) 4 432

(b) (i) 0 (ii) 2 (iii) 25 (iv) 124 (v) 433

(c) 2 807

Wichahn Report

44. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture: 4

(1) Whether the Wichahn Report on conditions pertaining to farm labour has been made available to him; if so, on what date; *Hansard 16/2/90*

(2) whether he intends tabling this report; if so, when; if not, why not?

B58E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) and (2) As far as I could establish, no such Wichahn Report exists.

## INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

De Jager, Adv C D—  
General Affairs:  
Justice, 1

Gerber, Mr A—  
Own Affairs:  
Education and Culture, 32

Ellis, Mr M J—  
General Affairs:  
National Health and Population Development, 7

Rajab, Mr M—  
Own Affairs:  
Housing, 43



# R1000

That's  
the  
fine  
for  
farmers  
after  
man  
dies

Sowetan  
20/2/90

By THEMBA MOLEFE

A PIET Retief farmer has been fined R100 for the brutal assault of a paralysed farmworker who died on a farm last year.

Mr Ekathi Xaba (37) died on Wilhelm Herman Rabe's farm last August 18, the morning after he had assaulted him for staying away from work.

Piet Retief regional magistrate Mr J D Jacquire found Rabe guilty of common assault but acquitted him of causing Xaba's death.

Xaba died of subdural haemorrhage of the brain and a ruptured spleen a day after the assault.

The case, which had been pending for six months, was finalised on February 12, the only day the court sat.

The magistrate accepted the evidence of Rabe's two black employees who said the farmer assaulted him with an electric cord.

## Blows

The magistrate ruled that Rabe had given him only a few blows which could not have caused the haemorrhage and ruptured spleen.

He said medical evidence also showed the "few blows" were not caused by the assault as Xaba had died the next day.

He dismissed evidence that Xaba was thrown to the ground several times and trampled upon.

Xaba's eldest daughter Lizeth, who was present during the assault, was not called as a witness.

● To page 2



FLASHBACK: Mrs Dorcas Xaba forlorn on Rabe's farm the day after her husband died. Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

R100  
fine

Sowetan  
20/2/90

● From page 1

Xaba, his wife Dorcas and six children were staying on the farm where Xaba was employed as a wood sorter.

He was not paid because he and his family lived free of charge on Rabe's farm.

Xaba was paralysed a few years earlier after a tractor had run him over on his previous employer's farm.



Xaba's daughter Lizeth

Mrs Xaba, a former domestic worker in Piet Retief, had to leave Rabe's farm after her husband's death.

Now unemployed and kicked off the farm, she lives in a shack with her children, the youngest being nine months old.

She survives on hand-outs from the Piet Retief church community.

Her husband did not receive any compensation after he had been injured by the tractor.

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# Fishermen drown in <sup>4</sup> stormy sea

*CAH Times 2/2/90*

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

TWO fishermen drowned when their boat sank in heavy seas about a kilometre off Still Bay yesterday.

A rescue helicopter from Mossel Bay dropped a lifeline, but two of the men were too exhausted to hold on. They were Mr Ben Kiewiet, 47, the skipper of the boat, and Mr John Kleinhans, 43, both of Still Bay. The men had struggled in the sea for about three hours before the helicopter arrived.

The three other men on the boat, Tsisamanzi, were washed ashore in a "very weakened state", according to Mr Piet Lourens, who watched the drama from the shore.

They were taken to Riversdal Hospital and were all "satisfactory" last night, according to a hospital spokesman.

Mr Lourens said the boat put to sea early yesterday morning with a fleet of other fishing boats.

A gale-force south-easter came up about 11.30am causing "mountainous swells". The other boats headed for Still Bay harbour but the Tsisamanzi developed engine trouble, began shipping water while it lay at anchor, and started to sink.

## Rain causes



# FW ad meet

*Sowetan 23/2/90*

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk has agreed to meet a delegation from the African National Congress, clearing the way for the first formal talks between the South African Government and the ANC.

He announced yesterday that he welcomed last Friday's decision by the ANC's National Executive to send a delegation to meet him.

The ANC said then the aim of the talks would be

Still wearing traditional mourning clothes widow, Mrs Dorcas Xaba holds her last-born child, Precious, outside her shack this week.

Pic: MOFFAT ZUNGU

# Farm death row

*4 Sowetan 23/2/90*

**DP to tackle Govt over case**

DEMOCRATIC Party MP for Hillbrow Mr Lester Fuchs is to challenge the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, in Parliament on the case

By THEMBA MOLEFE

in which a Piet Retief farmer was fined R100 for assaulting his employee who later died.

Yesterday, *Sowetan* established that two key witnesses in the trial of Mr Wilhelm Herman Rabe were still waiting to be subpoenaed to give evidence in

• To page 2

P.T.O.

## 'Rope' murderer loses his appeal

Pretoria Correspondent

The Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday dismissed an appeal against the conviction of a Boksburg farmer who had prayed after murdering a suspected chicken thief.

In the Witbank Circuit Court last year, John Augustine Perreira (59) was sentenced to 15 years' jail for murdering Mr Molefe Nzima by tying a rope around his neck and dragging him behind his bakkie for 2 km.

In mitigation of sentence, the circuit court found that Perreira had intended to take Mr Nzima to the police and had "prayed for Mr Nzima's life after he realised what he had done".

Mr Justice Curlewis, Mr Justice Kirk-Cohen and Mr Justice Strydom dismissed the appeal with costs.

Star 1/3/90



(4)



Coronation Hospital.

Case 71415 24/2/90

## Farm worker killed

A STELLENBOSCH farm labourer died after he fell from a tractor and the wheels of a trailer crushed his head on Thursday. A police spokesman said Mr Hans Snyman, 36, of the farm Watergang, was delivering a load of grapes when the accident occurred.

# Domestic and farm workers need protection in future

FARM and domestic workers and State employees will have to be included in a future Labour Relations Act, according to a South African labour law expert.

Such workers are excluded from the present Act.

Mr Clive Thompson, director of the Labour Law Unit at the University of Cape Town and member of the Legislative Committee of the National Manpower Commission (NMC), was speaking on the future of Labour Relations in South Africa.

He was one of four panelists at a Current Labour Law seminar held at the Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town on Wednesday. The event was part of a nation-wide seminar on Labour Law, being organised by a major publishing house in the coming week.

## Own Correspondent

"In a changing society we must be looking towards an encompassing statute ... one which includes state employees, domestic servants, farm workers ... the lot," he said.

Employees presently dealt with by specialised statutes such as Armscor employees and railway workers needed to be brought together under one Labour Relations Act, he said.

## Essential services

"There may still be differential treatment ... some people will be regarded as essential services and treated as such in terms of the Act's provisions."

He said that although trade unionism of domestic servants

was difficult because of problems organising them, at least such workers would receive the "fundamental protection" of such legislation.

Thompson also predicted a move "away from a concentration on the unfair labour practice legislation with all its negative implications" towards what he termed a "more rights-based system".

"A new Labour Relations Act would emphasise a charter of rights for employers and one for unions and individual employees, that may not be abrogated," he said. In terms of such legislation, the concept of 'unfair labour practice' would become a residual one in that it would be invoked where the charter of rights was lacking.

"It's more a change of style but I think it's an important one,"

he said.

"Instead of having to go and claim some violation, and prove a negative, you would be asserting a positive right as one would do in respect of many constitutions."

Other changes Thompson felt were needed were to bring "private processes", whereby parties contracted out of the Act, under its provisions as well as the decriminalisation of strikes and the greater use of collective bargaining.

Prof Adolph Landman of the University of South Africa also addressed the seminar. He is chairman of the Legislative Committee of the National Manpower Commission (NMC), which has been given the task of evaluating and making recommendations on the redrafting of the LRA.

\* See more on page 18.

# New Labour Act 'should include all workers'

ARCUL  
23/2/90  
4

By DAVID YUTAR  
Labour Reporter

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He was one of four panelists at a seminar at the Mount Nelson Hotel this week forming part of a nationwide seminar on labour law, organised by Juta publishers.

## Arm Scor

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bour Relations Act, Mr Thompson said.

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"A new Labour Relations Act would emphasise a charter of rights for employers and a charter of rights for unions and individual employees, that may not be abrogated."

## Change of style

In terms of such legislation, the concept of "unfair labour practice" would become a residual one in that it would be invoked where the charter of rights was lacking.

"It's more a change of style but I think it's an important

one," he said. "Instead of having to go and claim some violation, and prove a negative, you would be asserting a positive right as one would do in respect of many constitutions."

He said he felt the change would lend legitimacy to the new system of rights in a new Labour Relations Act.

Other changes Mr Thompson felt were needed were to bring "private processes" whereby parties contracted out of the Act, under its provisions as well as the decriminalisation of strikes and the greater use of collective bargaining.

Other speakers at the seminar were Professor Halton Cheadle, Assistant Director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and Professors Adolph Landman and P A K le Roux, both Professors of Mercantile Law at the University of South Africa.

Professor Landman is chairman of the legislative committee of the National Manpower Commission (NMC), which has been given the task of evaluating and making recommendations on the redrafting of the LRA.

# Farmworker's relative tells of fatal beating

13/90 By Montshiwa Moroke

A 21-year-old farmworker died on a farm in the Heidelberg district after he was allegedly beaten up by a group of people, including the farmer.

In a related incident, a 15-year-old farmhand, the deceased's friend, was allegedly assaulted.

The incident in which Mr Thomas Mavimbela Thikitha died took place at about midnight on February 13 but was brought to the attention of lawyers only yesterday. A post-mortem on Mr Thikitha, whose body is still in the Government mortuary, was performed by a State pathologist. The results have not yet been released to the family.

However, a firm of lawyers acting for Mr Thikitha's family is to appoint a private pathologist to perform a second autopsy as soon as possible as the family want to bury him at the weekend.

A family spokesman said the death was reported to the Heidelberg police last Friday.

The farmer allegedly called the police after he had reported his TV set, video recorder and tape-recorder had been stolen.

According to a relative of the dead man, the farmer and a group of men arrived at the four-roomed



Miss Thandi Thikitha and Mrs Lydia Thikitha, the mother of the dead farmhand, Mr Thomas Mavimbela Thikitha.

corrugated iron house in which Mr Thikitha stayed with his grandmother at midnight on February 13.

A relative said: "They knocked on the door and when my grandmother (Mrs Martha Thikitha) opened the door, they all walked in past her and headed straight for the room where Thomas was sleeping."

"Shortly thereafter we heard sounds against the corrugated iron walls and what sounded like thudding and objects falling inside."

"This went on for some time and after it stopped, the group emerged with Thomas who had blood coming out of his mouth and nostrils."

The relative said the 15-year-old youth was then also assaulted inside Thomas's room.

The mother of the dead man, Ms Lydia Thikitha, said she was informed by police the day after her son's death. "The police asked whether I wanted to appoint my doctor or whether their doctor should conduct the post-mortem. I told them to appoint their doctor," Ms Thikitha said in Johannesburg yesterday.

# LRA provisions irk farmers

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry's opposition to being included in the controversial Labour Relations Act (LRA) was stressed at the annual conference of the SA Agricultural Union yesterday.

Western Cape Agricultural Union president Chris du Toit warned that farmers were not prepared to be integrated into a formal labour relations framework yet. Neither were farm workers ready for such a sophisticated system of bargaining.

It was clear the proposal to include farm workers in the legislation was rooted in pressure from certain sources, apparently with political motivation, he said.

There were serious reservations about whether a system of industrial councils and industrial courts where every farmer and his workers could bargain on service conditions could ever work in practice.

Du Toit said unemployment was SA's greatest problem — not negotiations or constitutional reforms or any other problem politicians liked to talk about.

All factors, including legislation that

could work against the creation of employment, had to be handled with kid gloves. The farmer's production process was dependent on a reliable work force.

They had no other choice "but to do the right thing at the right time" because of weather and growth cycles, Du Toit said.

The wage legislation collided with all the principles of a free economic system. "And I cannot see how imposing it on agriculture can be considered."

Du Toit said the LRA was clearly tailored for the needs of the industrial and commercial sectors.

It had little relevance against a background of the complexities and different needs of the primary agricultural sector.

Massive stayaway actions and unrealistic wage demands had taken on political dimensions. What trade unions failed to appreciate was that employers were also fighting for survival.

## Agriculture 'stymied by interest rates'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Sustained high interest rates are among the major stumbling blocks preventing a significant recovery in the agricultural industry.

This point was made yesterday at the SA Agricultural Union conference.

Free State Agricultural Union president Izak Cronje said the industry was worried about government planners' reliance on interest rate mechanisms in the fight against inflation.

Cronje said the interest rate policy should form part of a comprehensive strategy with a balanced fiscal and monetary policy package in which interest rates did

not play a dominant and distorting role.

He stressed a purposeful fiscal policy should include a shrinking of government's demand on scarce capital and manpower resources and a reduction in government's part in the economy.

Speakers complained about the widening gap between producer and consumer prices.

In the previous 12 months, it was stated, production costs rose by nearly 18% against producer price rises of 5.4%.

B/10/25/10/190

B/10/25/10/190

# Duduza tycoon dies

BY MZIKAYISE EDOM  
A PROMINENT East Rand businessman was

found shot dead in his bedroom with his firearm lying next to his body.

He was Mr. Jabulani Elias Tshabalala (39) of 5277 Namane Street in Duduza. He died instantly.

He owned the Zenzele Funeral Undertakers. The incident occurred at about 11pm on Wednesday.

His brother-in-law, Mr Skopi Makhubu, said Tshabalala was sitting with friends in the dining-room when he went into his bedroom.

"A few minutes later, a shot was heard. He was taken to hospital but was certified dead on arrival."

# Cops probe fatal assault of worker

By MATHEJIBE MFOLOE

POLICE are investigating the death of a farmworker who was allegedly assaulted by a group of policemen in Panfontein near Grootvlei on the East Rand.

According to police, a

He allegedly resisted arrest and force had to be used to arrest him.

Property, allegedly stolen during the house-breaking, was found in his possession. Thikitha was taken to Heidelberg hospital where he died in the morning.

Asleep

However, a spokesman for Thikitha's family said a group of policemen arrived at their shack at about 9pm that night. They (police) flashed torches, knocked at the shack and demanded to

see Thomas.

According to his sister Thandi Selina Thikitha (20), there were five black policemen and four whites, some in uniform. They came with one of Thomas' friends, known only as Fanie, and made their way into the bedroom where Thomas was asleep.

Thandi, who said she "witnessed" part of the incident, claimed police assaulted her brother. She said they kicked and punched him, and she saw Thomas' blood-covered face.

4 Sowefer 2/3/90

Zathabha

# Farmworker dies <sup>4</sup> after beating-up <sup>ARGUS 2/3/80</sup>

**The Argus Correspondent**  
JOHANNESBURG. A 21-year-old farm worker died on a farm near Heidelberg, Transvaal, after he was allegedly beaten up by a farmer, his brother, friends and several policemen.

A 15-year-old farmhand who was apparently the deceased's friend was also allegedly assaulted.

The incident in which Mr Thomas Mavimbela Thikitha died happened on February 13 and was only brought to the attention of lawyers and the press this week.

## SECOND AUTOPSY

A postmortem examination on Mr Thikitha was done by a State pathologist.

However lawyers acting for Mr Thikitha's family are to appoint a private pathologist to perform a second autopsy.

The farm, it is believed, belongs to Mr Eric le Roux, who it is alleged called police after he had reported his TV set, video recorder and tape recorder stolen.

According to a relative of the dead man, the farmer, his

brother, friends and about nine policemen arrived at the four-roomed corrugated iron house in which Mr Thikitha lived.

The relative said he heard thuds and banging from Mr Thikitha's room.

Mr Thikitha was then brought outside bleeding from his nose and mouth with his hands handcuffed behind his back.

Later he was taken back inside and there were more thuds and banging.

"I saw the men come out carrying Thomas's body in a blanket.

"When everything was over, we went inside and found blood all over the walls of the room where Thomas had been sleeping," the relative said.

The mother of the dead man, Mrs Lydia Thikhita, said she was fetched from her workplace by police a day after her son's death.

"They said that my son was dead and when I asked them what had happened, they said they had gone to arrest my son and he had resisted."

Police were not available for comment.

# Employee denies child labour charge

4  
Sowetan  
5/3/90.

BOYS and girls - some of them aged 14 - working on a Krugersdorp farm owned by an Italian family were "an exception, not the rule", a labour consultant on the farm says.

Mr Louis Khumalo, labour advisor of the farm owner, Mr Vito Rugani, was reacting to a claim by three Northern Cape women that the farm's workforce included young boys and girls.

The three are Miss Monica Lebetla (24) Miss Susan Tumelo (22) and Miss Stephina Monchwe - all of whom travelled 600 kilometres from Kuruman to look for jobs on the Reef. They were recruited by an "agent" of the Rugani family, a Mr Jimmy Manner, who allegedly promised them jobs "in a newly opened factory" in the Transvaal.

"We do not deny that Manner could have told the three women that they were being recruited for factory jobs," Khumalo said.

## Recruited

Labourers on the farm were recruited from such poverty-stricken areas as the Transkei, Sekhukhuniland, Bophuthatswana and Natal.

The three claim they escaped from the farm on February 12, two days after their arrival on the farm. They told *Sowetan* that they were appalled at the sight of young boys and girls toiling on the farm; poor accommodation; low pay and hard labour.

Khumalo said: "The boys and girls who work on the farm do menial jobs such as weeding. I must stress that their presence on the farm is an exception -

By LEN MASEKO

not a rule. They usually come with their relatives or friends, and it is difficult to turn them away."

Khumalo, who says he is a prominent member of the Pretoria branch of UDF, showed a *Sowetan* team a modern hostel complex in which more than 150 labourers were housed, four to a room.

He admitted that the three women were housed in a dinghy shed the first day they arrived on the farm. The shed was used as "transit accommodation" before the newly recruited labourers were moved to the hostel - "a day or two later."

## Social workers

One girl, aged 14, said she was recruited from Sekhukhuniland with a friend and other girls. She earned R200 a month.

Khumalo said wages - from R85 a month to R1 000 a month - were better than those paid by other farmers in the area. The family also offered its labourers free lodging, free meals (three times a day), paid half of their medical bills and allowed social workers to visit the farm once a week.

But the three women have refuted Khumalo's claim that meals are provided free of charge on the farm.

"No free meals were provided in the three days that we spent on the farm - we had to buy food from a tuckshop owned by the family," the trio said.

The three women, who are presently living with a Kagiso family, intend to take the Rugani family to court.



One of the boys working on the Rugani farm. He said he worked from 6am to 6pm.



# Lawyers start new probe into death on farm

By DAVE LOURENS

THE case of a farmer who was fined R100 for assaulting a farmworker who later died is being re-investigated.

Lawyers for Human Rights have begun an investigation into instituting a civil action against Mr Wilhelm Rabe on behalf of farmworker Mr Ekati Xaba's wife and six children.

Magistrate JD Jacquire found Mr Xaba's death from

a ruptured spleen and a subdural haemorrhage of the brain could not have been caused by the assault.

Prosecutor Erwin Jonker did not call Mr Xaba's daughter, Lisbet, 16, who claimed to have witnessed the assault.

Mr Rabe rejected allegations made out of court by Miss Xaba.

"Of course she wasn't called as a witness — she wasn't anywhere near at the time of the incident.

"The farm on which the Xabas were staying had been sold and was in the process of changing hands," said Mr Rabe.

"While the transfer was taking place I allowed the labourers to remain on the farm free for a period of about two months.

## Happy

"When I went to check up, the other workers complained to me about Mr Xaba. They said he was always drunk and refused to do any work.

"The court found me innocent and I am happy in my own mind that hitting him five blows with an electric cord could not possibly have killed him."

Lawyers for Human Rights spokesman Mr Ahmed Motala said the organisation was "investigating the matter".

"At this stage we definitely intend to institute a civil action, but obviously it depends on the findings of our investigation."



A taxi owner, who refused to be identified, stands next to a burnt-out taxi in Kaitliphong on the East Rand. Since the taxi "war" between two rival taxi organisations started at the weekend, six people have been killed and scores of others injured. Several taxis and private cars have been damaged. Story on page 2.

Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

# Three flee 'hell-hole'

THREE Northern Cape women claim they "escaped" from a West Rand farm where young boys and girls allegedly work 12 hours a day.

BY LEN MASEKO

The farm, described as a "hell-hole," is owned by a wealthy Italian businessman, Mr. Vito Rugani, and his family. It is situated in the outback of Krugersdorp, about 50 km from Johannesburg.

The three are Miss Monica Lebeta (24), Miss Susan Tunelo (22) and Miss Stephina Monchwe - all of whom travelled 600km from Kuruman to look for jobs on the Reef.

They were recruited by an agent of the Rugani family, a Mr Jimmy Manner, who allegedly promised the girls jobs in a newly-opened factory in the Transvaal.

The three, who worked on the Rugani's Toscana farm for about two hours, said they were appalled at the sight of young boys and girls toiling on the farm for 12 hours a day.

They claim they were promised salaries of R200 a month, but were later told by a member of the

P.T.D.

● To page 2

*Sovetan 1/2/90*  
 4

only deals with the stabilization of agriculture. The proclamation of the Designated Area does not replace existing development and stabilisation initiatives which have been implemented since 1975. It is rather a temporary, timely and supporting measure to attain wider regional development goals.

Black city councillors: unauthorised loans

2. Dr F H PAUW asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:†

- (1) Whether any Black city councillors in the Orange Free State were granted unauthorised loans in the 1984-85 financial year; if so, what action has since been taken to recover the amounts owing;
- (2) whether the loans concerned were granted by an official; if not, who granted them; if so,
- (3) whether this official is still in the employ of the Provincial Administration; Orange Free State; if so, (a) why and (b) what action was taken against him?

B249E

†THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes, one loan of R5 000,00. In the process of collecting debts from debtors during June 1989, it was found that this particular loan had been granted to a councillor in the Orange Free State. The case was handed over to the attorneys during January 1990 for further steps.
- (2) Yes. An officer of the former Orange-Vaal Development Board and confirmed by resolution of the said board.
- (3) No.
  - (a) Falls away.
  - (b) Falls away.

Comoros: money spent on tourism

\*3. Adv C H PIENNAAR asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:†  
Whether his Department spent any amounts of money in the 1988-89 and 1989-90 financial years, respectively, to promote tourism to the Comoros; if so, what are the relevant details?

B322E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

†THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (for the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism): ~~Handscd 6/3/90~~

No. 6/3/90

Note: The South African Tourism Board promotes tourism to the RSA and not from the RSA to other countries.

Pietermaritzburg: additional police stations

\*4. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether it is the intention to establish any additional police stations in the Greater Pietermaritzburg area; if so, (a) where and (b) when; if not, why not?  
~~Handscd 6/3/90~~

B325E

†THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) and (b) Police stations are being planned for Imbali, Taylor's Halt and Mpopment. However, no indication can be given when these police stations will be taken into use, because various factors, inter alia the availability of funds, influence the planning.

Mr M A TARR: Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, could he give this House the assurance that in view of the very serious unrest situation in the area, the construction of these police stations will get the highest possible priority?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the answer is yes.

Drakensberg: cableway

\*5. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: ~~Handscd 6/3/90~~

- (1) Whether his Department has been informed of a proposal to build a cableway in the Amphitheatre of the Drakensberg; if so,
- (2) whether his Department is in any way involved in the matter; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B326E

†THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: ~~Handscd 6/3/90~~

- (1) No
- (2) Falls away
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National Manpower Commission: report

\*6. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether the National Manpower Commission's report on conditions pertaining to farm labour has been made available to him; if so, on what date;
- (2) whether he intends tabling this report; if so, when; if not, why not?

B327E

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(1) No. An advice on the possible statutory measures for the regulation of the conditions of employment of farm and domestic workers was submitted to the previous Minister of Manpower in 1984.

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Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising from the answer of the hon the Minister, does he or his department intend to take any action on the report that has been lying in the hands of the Government for six years now?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, that report was asked for by my predecessor to advise him, and he decided six years ago not to publish it. Hon members will understand that the information contained in that report is probably six or seven years old. The Manpower Commission is at present on my instruction busy looking at different aspects of the Labour Relations Act. Naturally this aspect will also be under review in that re-examination. To now Table a report whereof the information is seven years old—the hon member will well understand that labour relations and the laws connected therewith have changed considerably, especially since 1984—would not be appropriate as it would be a completely obsolete information document.

Humewood, PE: site occupied by SADF

\*7. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence: ~~Handscd 6/3/90~~

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 15 on 14 February 1989, the site occupied by the South African Defence Force in Humewood, Port Elizabeth, is still available to the City Council of Port Elizabeth; if not, why not; if so, when is it anticipated that a final decision will be made in this regard;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? ~~Handscd 6/3/90~~ B328E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes. In 1989 negotiations between the City Council of Port Elizabeth, the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs and the SA Defence Force took place during which it was decided that a land exchange transaction would be acceptable to all parties. The SA Defence Force, after having completed its recent rationalisation programme, is at present busy finalizing its requirements in accordance with which the City Council is to develop the replacement property. Availability of funds by the City Council will ultimately determine when the SA Defence Force can occupy the new site and vacate the existing one.
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Margo Commission: report completed

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- (2) whether the Government has received any interim report from the Commission; if so, to what effect;
- (3) whether, independent of the Margo inquiry, any practical steps have been taken in the light of the Helderberg disaster to prevent any recurrence of the accident; if so, what steps;
- (4) whether all liabilities arising from the accident have been settled; if not, why not?

B330E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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B330E

its land for this purpose. national parks but had set aside only 6% of

### Farm-worker report 'out of date' (4)

*B10cm 713196*  
THE National Manpower Commission report on SA's least protected workers — farm and domestic workers — which was completed six years ago, is unlikely to be published as it is out of

Political Staff

date, Manpower Minister Eli Louw said yesterday. Since it was completed, the government has refused to publish the report.

# SA farmworkers still lack legal protection

*Capt Tint's 12/3/90 (4) 150*

**Labour Reporter**

THE lack of legal protection for farmworkers has once again been highlighted following ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela's condemnation of the exploitation of farmworkers.

Speaking in Bloemfontein on Sunday, February 25, Mr Mandela said: "The country recoils in horror at the repeated reports of farm workers being beaten to death by racist farmers."

He was referring to a finding by a Piet Retief magistrate that a farmer was guilty of assault following the death of woodcutter Mr Ekhati Xaba on August 24 last year. The farmer was fined R100.

The Democratic Party and Lawyers for Human Rights have called for full details of the case and Transvaal attorney-general Mr Don Brunette has asked for a copy of the record and will be calling the prosecutor for an explanation.

Farmworkers are not protected by labour laws with the exception of

some clauses in the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

"They are excluded from all other legislation," UCT's Labour Law Unit director Mr Clive Thompson said last week.

A spokesman for the Stellenbosch Advice Office says most of the cases they deal with concern farmworkers being evicted from their homes after being fired by farmers.

The average wage in the area was between R20 and R40 a week and some farmworkers on some wine estates were paid up to R70 a week.

However, some farmers also provided free housing and in some cases rations for their workers, the advice office spokesman said.

On some Elgin apple farms, workers were being paid about R20 a week and received "very poor" rations.

Farmworkers' conditions of employment have long been a thorny issue.

Snr 12/3/90 (4)

# Red tape threatens farm dwellers

By Therese Anders,  
Highveld Bureau  
Eastern Transvaal businessman Mr Michael Saltino says he is prepared to go to jail rather than give in to Government authorities who are trying to make him evict black workers and residents from his farm.

## Mr Saltino says:

"Some of the families on my farm near Leslie have been here for 45 years, yet the Local Government Affairs Council has given me a month to get them off my property or pay a fine. "Most of the families have no place to go because this is their home," said an angry Mr Saltino.

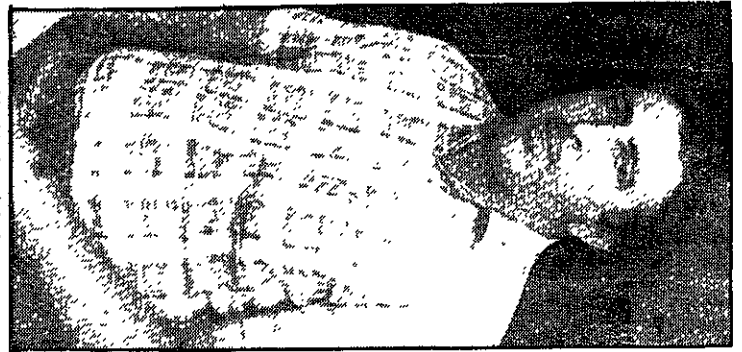
He said he was even more upset about the second summons issued to him by the Local Government Affairs Council.

This involves a panelbeater, Mr Frans Ditsego, who is operating his business from a building on Mr Saltino's farm.

The summons instructs Mr Saltino to evict Mr Ditsego before today or face a fine of R5 000, a year's imprisonment or both.

"Frans is a highly talented panelbeater who has built his business up so well over the past five years that he now employs four men.

"I'm renting him part of my workshop for R80 a month. "Yet the Peri Urban come along and want me to throw him out on the street. Would they rather people be out of work and resort to stealing to overcome their poverty, or do the



Mr Michael Saltino.

authorities want to encourage small businessmen like Frans?

"I'm going to ask these questions in court when I appear on March 26."

Mr Saltino has owned Brakfontein farm, 2 km out of Leslie on the Delmas road, for the past 10 years.

On the 260 ha farm he has a Sasol garage, a small cafe and 16 aging caravans which he hires out or allows his employees to live in rent free.

Also on the farm are 19 zinc shacks where pensioners and his own employees stay rent free and five outside families pay an average rent of R10 a month. In all he has about 300 people



Mr Frans Ditsego operates a panelbeating business from a building on Mr Saltino's farm.

living on the farm.

He has built several abutment blocks and says he prides himself that the farm is kept clean and orderly. "We are an example for South Africa here. We are whites, blacks and Coloureds all living together in a peaceful, happy way.

"I am disgusted that the authorities can try to do such a thing at this time in our country's history."

Mr Saltino said he would rather be locked up than tell his workers and tenants to go and intended to fight the charges when he appears in court later this month. "If the people have to leave I won't lose much finan-

cially, but they will lose the roof over their heads."

## A Government Affairs Council spokesman says:

"Mr Katz was first given a warning to improve the condition of the dwellings on his property. As he did not comply with our request, he was then summoned to appear in court on charges of contravening the National Building Regulations Act.

"Only Mr Katz's employees are entitled to live on the property. By allowing non-employees to stay on his land he is

also contravening the Squatting Act, although he has not been charged under that Act.

"As regards the panel-beating business, the farm is zoned for agricultural purposes and Mr Katz has not applied or been granted permission for the right for someone else to operate a business on his land.

"Mr Katz has to comply with the regulations which are made by Government.

"Mr Katz was very rude to our officials who served him with the summonses, and he has never contacted us to inquire about getting an extension period to improve his dwellings. "The matter is now in the hands of the courts."

Defiant employer:  
charges dropped

①② ~~13/3/90~~ 13/3/90 ④  
The State yesterday dropped charges against Eastern Transvaal businessman Michael Saltino who had said he was prepared to go to jail rather than evict the 300 black workers and residents on his farm.

Mr Saltino had been summonsed by the Local Government Affairs Council, for contravening the National Building Regulations Act.



# Farmer pays up after man's death in tank

CAF 7141  
16/3/80

4

PRETORIA. — The widow of a man who was locked in a metal tank for more than 24 hours has received R15 000 in damages.

Mr Modise Seven Phuti, 30, died after he was locked in the tank by a Thabazimbi farmer who suspected Mr Phuti of stealing cattle.

The incident took place on December 13, 1982.

The claim by Mrs Pulane Tsheole, 39, was settled in the Supreme Court on Thursday. The couple were from Botswana.

In terms of the settlement, made an order of court by Mr Justice van Zyl, Mr Christiaan Wynand Johannes Pretorius agreed to pay R15 000 to Mrs Tsheole, of Gaborone, in her capacity as mother and guardian of two minor daughters. Mrs Tsheole had claimed R28 000.

Mrs Tsheole said in papers her husband died after being imprisoned in a mental tank from sunset on December 12, 1982, to about 6pm the next day.

The only opening of the tank was welded shut with iron bars. — Sapa

Sowetan 16/3/90

## Widow wins case

A CLAIM for damages by a Botswana widow, whose husband died after being locked in a metal tank for more than 24 hours by a Transvaal farmer who suspected him of stock theft, was settled yesterday in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

In terms of the settlement, made an order of court by Mr Justice van Zyl, Christiaan Pretorius, of the farm Vissersrus in the Thabazimbi district, agreed to pay R15 000 to Mrs Pulane Tsheole, 39, of Mochudi village in Botswana, in her capacity as mother and guardian of two minor daughters.

Tsheole had claimed R28 000 from Pretorius after the death of her husband, Mr Modise Phuti, 30, to whom she was married according to Botswana customary law on December 13, 1982.

Tsheole said in papers her husband died after being imprisoned in a metal tank from sunset on December 12, 1982, to about 6 pm the next day.

Pretorius denied any negligence, saying he had arrested Phuti on suspicion of stealing six cows and six calves.

After Phuti's arrest, he was detained in an empty metal petrol tank, pending him being handed to the police.

## Parliament in brief

### LP firm on farm workers

THE Labour Party decided yesterday that it would extend its refusal to pass any manpower and agricultural legislation until labour laws are extended to cover farm workers. The LP caucus said it would continue this strategy despite an appeal earlier this week by the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, to end it.

CP 5 41/11/15 23/3/90

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158

CAPL 23/3/90  
11/15 (4)

## Farmers to be paid for housing labourers

A NEW incentive scheme for farmers to build houses for their workers, involving one-off payments of between R4 000 and R7 000, was announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Assembly. Dr Kraai van Niekerk.

Dr Van Niekerk said that by housing labourers and their families, farmers helped to prevent a further influx to the urban areas and contributed to the creation of a happier rural population.

He said the Department of Agricultural Development had contributed more than R66 million over the years and granted about 3 000 loans for farm labourer housing.

The department, in collaboration with the South African Agricultural Union, made an urgent investigation into the problem of labourer housing on farms and the principle of government funding of the scheme was revised.

The existing low-interest loan scheme was to be replaced with new measures involving a one-off amount paid to the farmer after completion of housing for farm labourers, he said.

CAPL 7/1/90 23/3/90 (4) P

## 'Farm villages' urged

FARM workers needed to own their own homes and rural villages should be created for this purpose, the Labour Party said last night.

It regretted that the low-interest scheme was to be replaced by a one-off payment after farmers had built homes for their workers.

This would encourage farmers to build houses from their own funds and then to demand repayment from the Department of Agriculture, a party statement said.

Copy Trans 13/4/90 (4) ~~2~~

# Farmers seek Aids tests for workers

Staff Reporter

LAINGSBURG farmers have asked the Western Province Agricultural Union to arrange for migrant sheap shearers to undergo Aids tests.

Mr Gert Bosch, agricultural union general manager, said yesterday that the request had been made at a meeting with the Laingsburg Farmers' Association on Wednesday night.

He said their request would be discussed at the next executive meeting of the union later this month.

He said the workers came from different regions, including Transkei, Ciskei and Lesotho.

Mr Christo Van Zyl, secretary of the Farmers' Association, said "Aids is a very big threat" and the workers "sheared sheep for two weeks on one farm and then went to the next".

He said the farmers were chiefly concerned about the disease spread-

ing to their own farm workers.

But yesterday the Planned Parenthood Association expressed reservations about the request.

Mrs Erica Greathead, regional director, said the whole idea was "pretty evasive".

"Testing is not going to prove anything except that some people are infected and then what?" she asked.

"Where are those people who are tested positive then going to work and live?"

"The whole idea is a fear reaction and it's going to achieve very little for the amount of money and resources spent. One must remember that a person who is tested negative today can be HIV positive in the future.

"If they want to bring in something that's constructive, then they should spend the same amount of money on an education programme that promotes safer sex."



# Kalk Bay's fishing community 'entrenched into next century'

11/24/90 25/4/90 (4)

By MICHAEL DOMAN  
False Bay Bureau

THE steering committee for development plans for Kalk Bay would ensure that the fishing community would remain entrenched into the next century and hopefully in perpetuity, the annual meeting of the Kalk Bay, St James and Clovelly Residents' Association heard last night.

City planner Mr Neville Riley, explaining the guidelines for the development prompted by a R1 million gift by the Kaplan Kushlick Trust, told an audience of more than 200 that a survey of residents had shown that 93,7 percent were in favour of upgrading, but had insisted that the village character be maintained.

Mr Riley said: "In Kalk Bay we find a way of life which exists nowhere else in Cape Town and it is created largely by the fishing community".

In response to a question by a Kalk Bay fishing-boat owner who said he was suspicious of someone giving R1 million without expecting a return, Mr Riley said none of the donors had ulterior motives.

The R1 million grant by the Kaplan Kushlick Trust

for the upgrading was made on condition that Cape Town City Council and private enterprise both put up equal amounts for the project.

Mr Riley said this condition appeared to have been satisfied.

## Hout Bay

Mr Mike Stowe, who said he represented several Kalk Bay fishermen, said they asked themselves if the major development at Hout Bay harbour had put a single cent in the fishermen's pockets or improved their status.

The answer had to be "No", he added. "Hout Bay fishermen have seen new restaurants and yachts arriving, but it is only those with wealth who have benefited".

In reply Mr Riley said a proposal was being considered that the 240 registered fishermen and four auctioneers run the fish market or a restaurant as a co-operative.

"We believe this is one way of ensuring that the commercial fishermen have a continuous life."

Mr Riley also said there had been tremendous interest from big business, including the mining houses, in the development of Kalk Bay.

"But we must be sure that whatever happens we safeguard the character of the area."

# Breakthrough for LP

AKLW 27/4/90 (4)

Political Correspondent

BOYCOTTING legislation in parliament has earned the Labour Party a significant breakthrough, with the government agreeing for the first time to include farmworkers in certain labour legislation.

The Labour Party agreed today to suspend its boycott of all manpower and agricultural legislation, a move which has effectively prevented debate on these Bills in parliament so far this session, after reaching an agreement with the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw.

The LP demand was that the country's scores of unprotected farmworkers be covered by existing labour legislation.

B/Du 4/4/90

# Labour law set for significant changes

SIGNIFICANT changes to the Labour Relations Act (LRA) were proposed by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) technical committee in a 16-page document released yesterday.

A significant proposal is to widen the ambit of the Act to include domestic and farm-workers, state employees, academics and oil rig employees within the limits of SA territorial waters. These workers have never enjoyed protection in terms of the Act.

The proposals encompass major aspects of the Act including its scope of application, registration of trade unions, industrial councils and courts, strikes and unfair labour practices, but does not reflect suggestions on technical aspects of the Act.

Although not part of its mandate, the committee proposed that labour legislation in SA, the self-governing territories and the TBVC countries be "harmonised".

Among others, the goals of the proposed labour legislation should promote industrial peace, foster collective bargaining, protect freedom of association, simplify procedures and address the duty to bargain, the NMC said.

The NMC, commissioned by Manpower Minister Eli Louw to investigate a revision of the Act, has invited comment and public debate on the proposals and has suggested that May 21 to 23 be set aside for oral representations.

The proposals are independent of the draft agreement reached between employers' body Saccola, and two major black trade union federations, Cosatu and Nactu.

It was suggested certain sectors such as farm workers and domestic workers be included in principle but provision could be made in the Act to include them by proclamation.

Different parties should be allowed to agree on their own dispute resolution procedures. They should be able to choose independent mediation or private dispute resolution procedures.

Strikes should be decriminalised but regulated in terms of the unfair labour practice (ULP) definitions. Strikes on

ADELE BALETA

rights disputes including ULP disputes should be outlawed and strikers who complied with procedures should be protected.

Secondary industrial action should not be declared illegal. Instead of a cooling off period of 30 days before the start of a strike, the NMC has proposed this be changed to 24 days. Employers' right to interdict strikes should be restricted.

The Act should impose a duty on the employer, if requested to do so, to bargain on appropriate matters with a union which is sufficiently representative.

The NMC committee was divided on the question of trade union registration.

One proposal was to retain the existing system but to make it compulsory and the other suggested "representivity" was relevant when a union sought to bargain, but not at the level of registration.

## Agreement

A simplified certification process should replace complicated registration requirements — representation, gazetting and the noting of objections. Any union denied certification would have the right of appeal to the Industrial Court.

On the issue of Industrial Council agreements the NMC suggests provision be made in law for the Manpower Minister to consider the position of smaller businesses before signing an agreement.

The existing Conciliation Boards (CB) time limits should be abolished, but a dispute should still be referred within 180 days, a period which could be extended. The CB would have 30 days in which to attempt to settle the dispute.

There should be a single labour appeal court with no further appeal to the Appellate Division and trade unions should be allowed to affiliate to political movements.

It was recommended the NMC be reconstituted as the National Labour Council — a bipartisan body with state representatives enjoying observer status.



Star 3/5/90 - (S) (S)

# Forget apartheid and think of fairness, says Player

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By Winnie Graham

The new school on Gary Player's farm at Lanseria, north of Johannesburg, was opened yesterday to the sound of gumboot dancing and song.

Pupils left their classrooms to entertain the guests who included a delegation of American educators led by Mrs Rose Elder, Mr Job Schoeman of the Department of Education and Training and Professor David Freer, dean of the faculty of education at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In his keynote address, Mr Player called on South Africans to build a new South Africa "to hell with black power, to hell with white power," he said. "Let us build this great country together - they don't come any better than this. Let's forget apartheid and think of fairness."

The opening of the Blair Atholl Farm School, Mr Player said, had come at a watershed in our history. "The decade of the 90s would see South Africa entering the most challenging and exciting phase of our development. Old structures were being replaced by new, and old attitudes were being cast aside in favour of the belief that consensus had to be reached if all South Africans were to walk together on the road to a new future."

"There are major hurdles on the way and I share with many the belief that education represents possibly the most important challenge of the day," he said. "If the children are to take full advantage of the opportunities that will emerge in a new South Africa, then solutions must be found to the education crisis."

The great problem, he added, lay in the shortage of teachers, adequate training facilities and the lack of classrooms. The quality of education had to be improved.

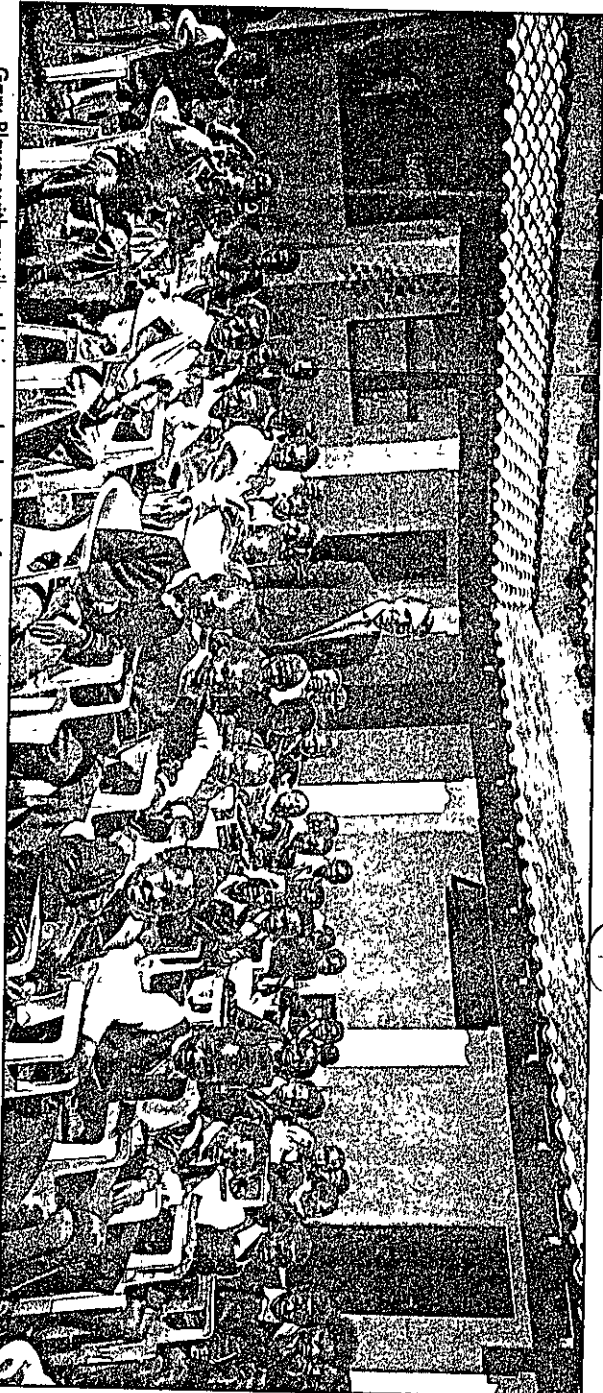
## Active support

"The task is enormous," he said. "If there is to be meaningful change, there is a need for co-operation and I believe the Government, community and private enterprise must join together and commit themselves to providing a better education for our children. The pupils themselves must be willing to learn and parents should actively support the education of their children."

Each speaker paid tribute to Mr Player for the vision he displayed in establishing the school. Mr Schoeman told the gathering there were 5 670 farm schools catering for 480 000 children in South Africa. The Blair Atholl Farm School was unique, he said, not only because it was situated in pleasant surroundings and the concrete vision of a great South African, but because the partnership concept on which it was established involved the community, the private sector, teachers and the State.

He added: "The children most in need of enrichment in education are in the rural areas. Everyone involved in the establishment of this school can be proud and privileged by their association with it." Professor Freer said that although the school was registered as a "farm school", he hoped this would not preclude any children from gaining admission.

Mrs Rose Elder, leader of the delegation of educationists visiting South Africa and a trustee of the Gary Player Foundation, described the new school as "a significant development for education in South Africa" which would serve as a model for other farm schools.



Gary Player with pupils at his farm school . . . the famous golfer called on all South Africans to build a new South Africa together.

## Gas blast death toll now 8

Star 3/5/90

## probe launched

DURBAN — The Department of Manpower has started an investigation into the death of eight people in a gas bottle explosion in Stanger on the North Coast. A department spokesman says no statements had been taken yet, and the police were helping with the investigation.

The spokesman said the legislation under the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act of 1983 laid down certain safety requirements relating to the handling and use of liquid petroleum gases.

It is commonly thought the explosion occurred when a worker struck a match during off-loading operations. The names of the three victims who died at the K K Khan in Chatsworth near Durban have been released.

They were 30-year-old Mr Raj Pillay and his 25-year-old wife Kalyani of Empanangeni in Zululand, and Mrs Gurnam Moonsamy of Stanger.

The names of five men who were killed in the disaster are to be released as soon as their next of kin have been informed. Several seriously injured people are recovering in various hospitals. — Sapa

# BIGGEST

# SWATH

# EVER

# School opens on Gary Player's farm

By STAN MHLONGO

GOLF maestro Gary Player received a thunderous applause from hundreds of black kids after a posh school was opened on his farm this week.

Blair Atholl School, north-west of Johannesburg in a little-known area called Lanseria, was inherited by Player after he bought the farm in 1984.

At the time the school was in a sorry state — 30 pupils were jampacked inside a disused garage. As the number of pupils grew, they had to be accommodated in a barn.

Player's son Mark is now the manager of the farm school.

Blair Atholl School was financed by the Gary Player Foundation in liaison with several international companies.

National Education Co-ordinating Committee general secretary Ihron Rensburg said intervention and programmes in education will lay the foundations upon which a future people's government is built.

Addressing United States educationists and dignitaries who attended the

opening function of the the school this week, Mark Player said two-thirds of South Africa's young black pupils were being educated in farm schools — not in the townships.

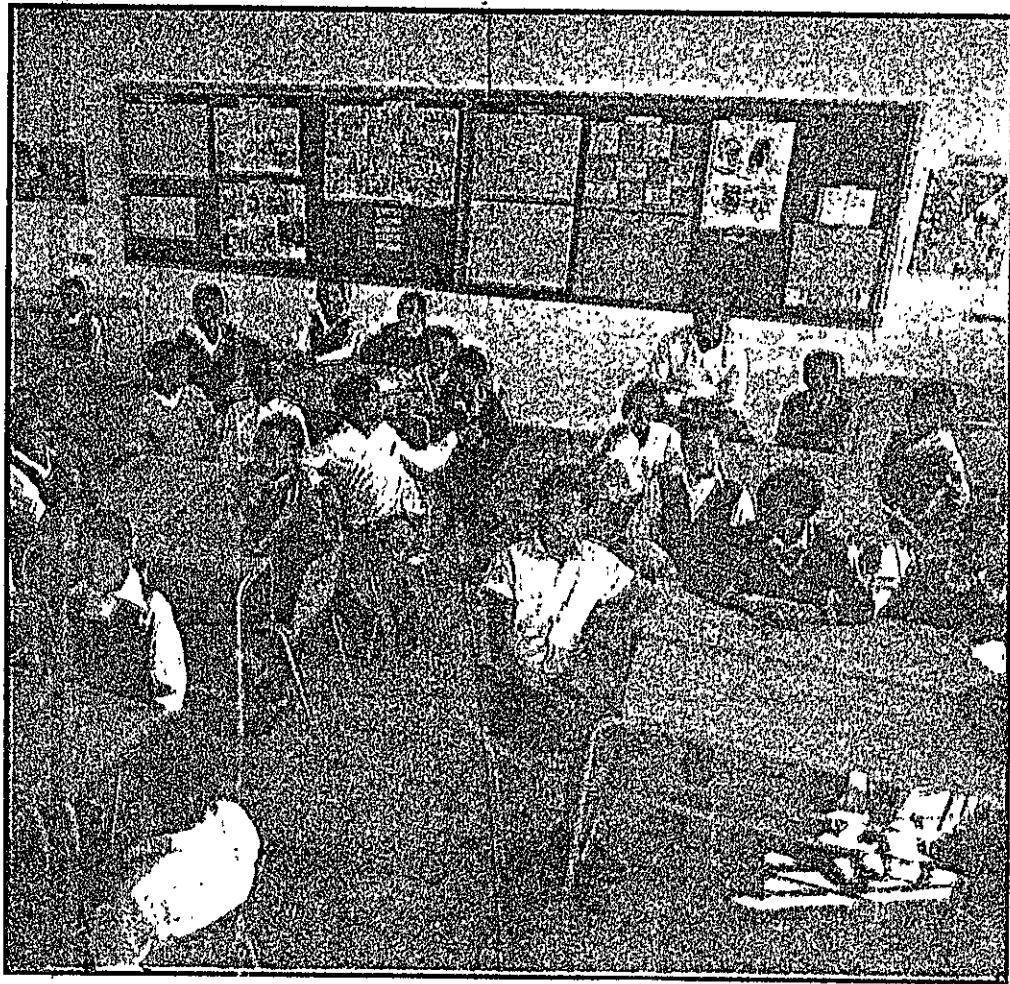
"This realisation has prompted the Gary Player Foundation to try and raise money locally and overseas to construct better farm schools," he said.

Mark thinks the Department of Education and Training — with private enterprise — should make a combined effort to improve the standard of black education.

Explaining the reasons which prompted his father to start the foundation which has built the school, Mark said the golfing legend used to receive numerous letters every week from farm employees, pleading with him to provide educational facilities on the farms.

The new Blair Atholl School accommodates 280 pupils from Grade One to Std 5. Its principal is Anna Modise, who has been toiling and fighting all the way to provide the area's farm kids with education.

The old school is being developed as pre-school centre.



# Farm death: Man in court

(4) South 10/5-16/590

By REHANA ROSSOUW

THE manager of a Stellenbosch farm is to appear in court on Friday in connection with the killing of a man with a pickaxe handle — a year after the incident occurred.

Police confirmed that the employee of the farm near Kaya-mandi is to appear on charges of manslaughter following an alleged assault on workers and their relatives with a pickaxe handle.

Mr Charlie Thompson, one of the men allegedly assaulted, died in the Tygerberg Hospital two weeks after the assault after lapsing into a coma.

According to a medical report, Thompson suffered fractures on his right and left arms, left hand, right leg and cheekbone.

## Pickaxe

He died of injuries to the brain before he reached the operating theatre.

Statements collected by workers at the Stellenbosch Advice Office detailed the incidents leading to the alleged assaults.

Workers interviewed said a large number of workers, their friends and families gathered at the labourers' houses at the farm on May 18 last year.

The workers claimed that the manager arrived and began hitting people indiscriminately with a pickaxe handle.

They alleged that people sleeping in the houses were also beaten. Others fled into the bushes to hide.

The police arrived at the farm and summoned an ambulance to take injured people to the Stellenbosch Hospital for treatment. Thompson was later transferred to the Tygerberg Hospital.

The Advice Office has details of four workers who were seriously injured.

# About-turn on farm labour

SI Times 6/5/90

THE announcement by Manpower Minister Eli Louw that farm workers will be brought under the ambit of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) is a major shift in Government labour policy.

But it falls short of union demands that these workers be covered by the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

Mr Louw says labour legislation

will be introduced next year to enable farm workers to be covered by a BCEA specifically adapted to agriculture, as well as the Unemployment Insurance Act.

The National Manpower Commission will investigate and report within 12 months on the suitability of applying the LRA and the Wage Act in agriculture.

Parties who will make submissions

will include the labour movement and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), the employer body.

The SAAU has over the years rejected the concept of inclusion in the LRA, saying that agriculture is not suited to its dispute-resolving mechanisms. It is also opposed to the implementation of the Wage

Act, arguing it would lead to a decline in employment on farms.

However, as far back as 1987 the SAAU indicated that it was not averse to provisions of the BCEA being accepted if specifically adapted to agriculture, for example, with modifications to working hours for each sub-sector, to allow for the unique nature of the operation.

F/M 11/5/90 (4)

FARM LABOUR F/M 11/5/90

**Hot potato** (4) (10)

A combination of Labour Party pressure and President F W de Klerk's new political vision is behind government's long-delayed move to bring farm workers under the protection of labour law.

Manpower Minister Eli Louw announced in parliament last month that amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act will be tabled next year.

He has asked the National Manpower Commission to investigate the Wage Act and Labour Relations Act as they affect farm workers and to report within 12 months. The commission has also been asked to investigate whether the rights of domestic workers should be protected by law.

Louw says the "unique circumstances" of domestic workers means labour legislation

can't be applied in its present form. (12) (13)  
It has taken government nearly five years to agree to extend labour law reforms to farm workers after being given a report on the matter by the commission in July 1985. The report has never been made public but it is reliably understood to have recommended the moves Louw has now announced.

Government repeatedly claimed delay in releasing the report was due to the wide-ranging nature of consultations that were necessary before any action could be taken.

The real reason was, however, apparently the unacceptability of the recommendations within the conservative farming community. But there were strong indications late last year that organised agriculture was moving towards the acceptance of a better deal for workers (*Current Affairs* October 27 1989).

Government came under pressure this year when the Labour Party refused to discuss labour or agricultural legislation in Standing Committees as a protest against government's reluctance to reform farm labour measures. In reaction to Louw's announcement, the LP has agreed to co-operate again.

The CP's Frank le Roux warned it was dangerous to extend labour laws to farm workers because it could lead to rationalisation of the labour force and increased urbanisation. He added there were about 1,5m workers on farms and another 6m people depended on their earnings. ■

# Gant fires 420 workers at farm

By MICHAEL DOMAN  
False Bay Bureau

LEADING Democratic Party member and losing candidate in Helderberg last year Mr Dave Gant said he had regretably fired about 420 workers on his family farm, Lourensford, near Somerset West after they went on strike and intimidated the farm's 2 000 employees.

The black male workers on the 4 500-hectare farm were bused home, mostly to the Transkei, from their hostels on May 2. Some live in Khayelitsha.

Mr Gant said that labour problems began on April 27 when 23 workers met the general manager to discuss issues, including wages.

## Protest march

One demand was that managing director Mr Gant, respond personally to their demands, failing which they would march in protest.

Mr Gant, chairman of the DP's national council, said he told the 420 labourers at their hostel on April 30 that he could not have a detailed meeting with such a large group.

"I said we were more than prepared to discuss various issues. If they weren't happy with the existing workers' committee, departmental elections for new representative committees could be held. I said we would also discuss wage increases, even though this is normally done in October."

Mr Gant said the workers refused to go through the election process and went on strike, with a small group preventing others from returning to work.

Mr Gant said general labour laws did not yet apply to agricultural workers, but he welcomed the fact that these would eventually be extended to farms.

He had discussed the "unfortunate incident" with the Food and Allied Workers' Union, although the union had no members on the farm.

## Labourer's death: farmer in court

A MANAGER of a Stellenbosch farm appeared in the Stellenbosch Magistrate's Court last Friday in connection with the death of a farm labourer. (C)

Mr Rudolph Rix, of Wattergang Farm, pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide. *South*  
17/5-22/5/90

The state alleges he caused the death of Mr Charlie Thompson by assaulting him with a pickaxe handle.

The case was postponed until June 22.



Mr Gqwazi shows the four gangrenous fingers that will be amputated as soon as he is moved from a Claremont private hospital to Grooto Schuur Hospital where he can afford treatment.

Picture: DANA le ROUX, Weekend Argus

## Lawyers to act for maimed SA seamen

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

LAWYERS are putting the screws on ruthless Taiwanese fishing industry bosses following 13 cases of frostbite among Cape Town labourers who packed fish on Taiwanese vessels during extended trips in the South Atlantic.

Yesterday a city law firm and the Legal Resources Centre announced they were planning legal action on behalf of six crewmen who have had and are having fingers amputated because of severe gangrene.

Claims for damages could run into several millions and legal costs alone will run into hundreds of thousands of rands if lawyers pursue action overseas.

### Protection

On behalf of their clients, the legal representatives will also petition the Taiwanese consulate and the Department of Manpower for the protection of South African labour from foreign fishing concerns.

South African labour legislation does not apply to vessels once they leave South African territorial waters and this exposes workers to unchecked abuses, even by nationals of one of the country's greatest trading partners.

Approached for comment, a Taiwanese consul employee said yesterday afternoon: "I'm sorry. You'll have to talk to us on Monday. We are closed."

Weekend Argus has learned that that apart from six frostbite-related cases handled by the Legal Resources Centre and the city law firm, another four frostbite victims were referred to

the Grooto Schuur Hospital hands clinic yesterday.

The remaining three of the 13 cases involve one labourer whose frostbite developed while he was working on a vessel docked in Table Bay harbour.

He is the only one who has a chance of being compensated in terms of South African labour legislation, as this protection does not apply beyond South African territorial waters.

The rest of the workers, who have been paid up to only R500 a month for their services on the Taiwanese trawlers, will have to fight costly legal battles in an industry where they have virtually no protection.

Their lawyers believe that 100 Taiwanese captains en route to South Atlantic fishing grounds, particularly around the Falkland Islands, recruited between three and 10 labourers a ship at the start of the trawling season in December.

### Frostbite

Yesterday, Weekend Argus spoke to Khayelitsha resident Mr Sandile Gqwazi, 30, who is about to have four fingers amputated due to frostbite that set in five months ago, shortly after he joined a Taiwanese crew.

Mr Gqwazi said he spent up to 13 hours a day packing fish in the ship's freezer compartments and was repeatedly refused medical attention.

Like many of his colleagues, he wore inadequate protective clothing and the hours he spent in the freezer hold exceeded those stipulated by South African law.

Mr Gqwazi said three of his colleagues on the Chieh Man No 1 also had frostbite in their hands.

For most of them, their nightmare journeys on the high seas will be their last jobs.

## 5 months of agony at sea over

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

STUCK in the cold-storage bowels of a Taiwanese fishing trawler up to 13 hours a day for five months, crewman Sandile Gqwazi watched helplessly as his hands weakened daily because of frostbite.

"Keep working. We'll get you to a doctor," Mr Gqwazi's Chinese-speaking employers belittled in broken English every time he and three fellow-labourers complained of the intense pain in their hands.

Talking about their problems and the daily return to their icy workplace to pack fish only added to the agony.

Excessive exposure to extremely low temperatures in the ship's freezer holds, with poor protection, took their toll within weeks of Mr Gqwazi and about nine other Cape Town labourers' boarding of the trawler Chieh Man No 1 in January.

Their reward — R500 a month.

Mr Gqwazi is one of 13 city labourers who have had or are having fingers amputated after working aboard Taiwanese ships.

"We worked in the freezers from 6pm to 7am every day. It was very painful at the start and then it got like this," Mr Gqwazi said, gesturing with his swollen, near-lifeless hands from which

four fingers will be cut above the second joint.

"When we asked the captain to take us to a doctor, he refused. We had to keep working," Mr Gqwazi said through an interpreter.

He was speaking from his bed at a Claremont clinic where he is receiving emergency treatment after his arrival in Cape Town on Thursday after five months of hell.

"I want to claim for this. I won't be able to work again and I need money," said Mr Gqwazi, who is unmarried and living with his parents.

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# SA worker to lose fingers

Staff Reporter  
Apr 7 1990 (4)



**GANGRENE** . . . Mr Gqwazi shows his gangrenous fingers, which will have to be amputated.

Picture: ANNE LAING

A WORKER came off a Taiwanese fishing trawler on Thursday with blackened, shrivelled fingers, which will have to be amputated.

Mr Sandile Gqwazi, 30, of Site C, Khayelitsha, said yesterday that his fingers had become frostbitten while he worked in the cold storage section on the Chieh Man No 1.

His legal representative, Ms Sandra Liebenberg, said an attempt was made to arrest the vessel, but it had left before Mr Gqwazi came to her firm.

"This is the sixth case that we have had of frostbitten fingers or hands, all of them related to fishing trawlers," said Ms Liebenberg, who had another vessel arrested recently.

"There should be some form of control to prevent abuse of South African labourers aboard foreign ships. They are not protected by South African labour legislation," she said.

Speaking through an interpreter from his hospital bed yesterday, Mr Gqwazi said he had been on night duty in the ship's freezer, working between 6pm and 7am, wearing plastic gloves.

# Six fish-packers lose fingers after ordeal

Sowetan 18/6/90



LAWYERS are putting the screws on ruthless Taiwanese fishing industry bosses following 13 cases of frostbite among Cape Town labourers who packed fish on Taiwanese vessels during extended trips in the South Atlantic.

Yesterday a city law firm and the Legal Resources Centre announced they were planning legal action on be-

half of six crewmen who have had and are having fingers amputated because of severe gangrene.

Claims for damages could run into several millions rand and legal costs alone will run into hundreds of thousands of rands if lawyers pursue action overseas.

On behalf of their clients, the legal representatives will also petition the Taiwanese consulate

and the Department of Manpower for the protection of South African labour from foreign fishing concerns.

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It was learned that that apart from six frostbite-related cases handled by the Legal Resources Centre and the city law firm, another four frostbite victims were referred to the Groote Schuur Hospital hands clinic yesterday.

The remaining three of the 13 cases involve one labourer whose frostbite developed while he was working on a vessel docked in Table Bay

# Trawler sails to escape Cape lawsuit

CAW Terts  
19/6/90

Staff Reporter

THE Taiwanese trawler attached by lawyers acting for two of her former crewman has sailed in contempt of a Cape Supreme Court holding order and yesterday a South African Air Force reconnaissance aircraft failed to spot it.

Colonel Tiny Hallowes, Senior Staff Officer (Operations) at Southern Air Command, yesterday confirmed that an Albatross aircraft on a routine flight to Port Elizabeth had been asked to "keep a look out" for the Chin Chai Ching.

He said the Cape Town-based aircraft had acted under instructions from Naval Command headquarters in Pretoria.

A spokesman for Naval Air Command, Captain Piet Potgieter, said his department was awaiting further or-

ders from "a state department" before dispatching a vessel to locate the craft.

A spokesman for the Legal Resources Centre, which is acting for former crew members Mr Joseph Haddon of Bonteheuwel and Mr Suleiman Davids of Mitchells Plain in a R510 000 damages claim, said the matter was being handled at "diplomatic level now".

The two men each lost parts of several fingers after suffering frostbite while working in the refrigeration compartment of the vessel earlier this year.

The legal attachment was made by two deputy sheriffs who became involved in a brief scuffle with crew members on Sunday night.

The vessel sailed southwards within hours of the visit to her anchorage in Table Bay.

# Frostbite

# trawler

# turns back

AR643 19/6/90

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By HENRI du PLESSIS, Shipping Reporter  
and MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent

DIPLOMATIC pressure has forced the truant Taiwanese trawler Chin Chia Ching, which is 266 miles west of Cape Town, to turn back to port.

The owners have guaranteed the R510 000 claimed by two former crew members who are to lose parts of their fingers, allegedly from frostbite, while working in the refrigeration compartment of the trawler.

This dramatic development follows a request by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs to the Taiwanese government to intervene in the matter. The request was made yesterday afternoon.

## Injured crewmen

The injured crewmen are Mr Joseph Haddon of Bonteheuwel and Mr Suleiman Davids of Mitchell's Plain.

Meanwhile the South African Navy was on standby to send a ship after the trawler.

The Chin Chia Ching sailed out of Cape Town on Sunday night after Supreme Court sheriffs and a team from the Legal Resources Centre served an attachment order on the master of the

ship

The Cape Supreme Court issued the order after an application by the Legal Resources Centre which is acting for the crewmen.

Taiwanese consul Mr Tom Chou said today that the skipper of the trawler had steamed out of Cape Town harbour on Sunday night out of fear.

He did not realise he had been served with a court order because he could not understand English.

Mr Chou said: "Neither he nor any of the crew could understand English and they did not know what the court order was. They took fright and decided to sail."

Mr Chou spoke to the skipper on the maritime radio network yesterday and explained the situation to him.

"He told me that he would return," he said.

The consul also spoke to the ship's owners in Taiwan last night and was assured that the ship would return.

The ship's owner also guaranteed to lodge a sum of R510 000 with the Supreme Court to meet the claim made by the two former crew members.

Mr Chou said: "We regret that because of a misunderstanding this incident arose, but we are glad the ship is returning."

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said in Pretoria today "The Taiwanese government got in touch with the trawler captain and he agreed to return."

The spokesman said the swift response of the Taiwanese government was evidence of South Africa's good relations with that country.

# Trawler forced back after fleeing city

CPM-7411 20/6/70

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Staff Reporter

A TAIWANESE trawler captain was ordered by Taiwan's ambassador to South Africa to sail back to Cape Town and post bonds totalling R510 000 as compensation for two former crew members who are due to have their frost-bitten fingers amputated.

This was disclosed yesterday by a foreign affairs spokesman who said diplomatic pressure was used against the captain of the Chin Chia Ching when it sailed from Cape Town on Sunday night in contravention of a Supreme Court attachment order.

The spokesman said his department was approached by

the Cape Town Legal Resources Centre on Monday, who in turn notified the Taiwanese ambassador.

"The ambassador contacted the captain by radio and ordered him to turn back and post the bonds," the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the ship was located 192km off Cape Point and is expected back in the harbour shortly.

Legal Resources Centre legal representative Ms Angela Andrews said she and clients Mr Joseph Haddon of Bonteheuwel and Mr Suleiman Davids of Mitchells Plain were happy about the outcome.

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# Frostbite trawler delay



**DAMAGED FINGERS:** Five of the eight crewmen from Taiwanese trawlers show their fingers which were damaged or which they have lost to frostbite which occurred when they worked in freezer compartments without proper protection. Two of the men have already instituted claims for damages totalling R510 000.

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Shipping Reporter

TAIWANESE trawler Chin Chia Ching, on her way back to Cape Town after a diplomatic flurry between South Africa and the Republic of China, could be held up by bad weather.

The Chin Chia Ching caused a furore on Sunday when she fled from South African waters after a court order for her attachment was served on her master by the legal representatives of two of her former crewmen.

The two South African crewmen are claiming R510 000 damages after losing parts of their fingers from frostbite while working in the ship's freezer hold.

The ship was turned back to Cape Town and the owners have guaranteed the amount of the damages after contact between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Consulate of the Republic of China.

The Chin Chia Ching was about 260 nautical miles from Cape Town when she turned back yesterday. She was expected to arrive in Cape Town some time today.

4

## Farm worker dies during questioning

By Guy Jepson

Sta  
22/6/90

A farm labourer died this week during questioning by two policemen and a farmer in Delmas.

The man, known only as Samuel, worked on the farm Wolfontein, a police spokesman said.

"He collapsed and died during the afternoon of June 18 while he was being interrogated by two detectives and the owner of the farm in connection with the theft of wheat," he said.

He was unable to disclose to which unit the policemen were attached.

Delmas police were investigating, he said, adding that the case would be referred to the Attorney-General for a decision once the investigation was complete.

# Runaway trawler <sup>Off- limits</sup> may not <sup>25/11/90</sup> return <sup>(4)</sup>

Staff Reporter

FEARS were expressed last night that the runaway Taiwanese trawler the Chin Chia Ching would not return.

There is a R510 000 civil claim pending against the owners, after two South African crewmen claimed their fingers had to be amputated because of working conditions on board.

After fleeing last week, the boat ran out of fuel about 200 nautical miles north-west of Cape Town on Wednesday.

Diplomatic pressure was brought to bear on the captain, who reportedly agreed to return.

Meanwhile, another boat was dispatched to deliver fuel to the trawler. Taiwanese consul Mr Tom Chou said the vessel was expected back yesterday, but last night there was no sign of it.

The crewmen's lawyer said she feared the trawler would not return. The Port Captain's office and the ship's agents both said yesterday they did not know where it was.



# Taiwanese trawlers: 23 amputee victims

CAT Traps  
26/6/90

(3/1/90)

(4)

By DANIEL SIMON

AT LEAST 23 South African seamen, who worked in the refrigeration holds of about 10 Taiwanese fishing trawlers are to lose, or have lost fingers, due to frost-bite.

In the latest incident, a fish packer working leaving the trawler Chieh Hsiang No 3, last Friday, was handed a cheque for R4 000 — or R800 per finger — by the owner's SA agent as compensation for five fingers which are to be amputated shortly.

## Dossiers

The casualty rate is reaching such proportions that two legal firms are voluntarily compiling dossiers to be forwarded to the Department of Foreign Affairs for diplomatic action.

A medical report submitted to one of the firms indicates that in the last 16 months 20 local seamen — many suffering multiple amputations — are reported to have undergone frostbite treatment.

In the latest incident, Mr Manjingo Bishop, 39, yesterday told how he started suffering from frostbite soon after getting a R500-a-month job as a fish packer on the Chieh Hsiang No 3 in February.

Mr Bishop said that soon after working cold storage section, he started developing frostbite symptoms. The ship's captain gave him two weeks off, together with pain-killers and hand-ointment.

"After two weeks I was back at work again in the cold storage, sometimes for 18 hours at a time when there was a lot of fish to pack."

Mr Bishop said his fingers got worse and when he was dropped off in Cape

Town Harbour last Friday, he was made to sign a document indemnifying the ship's captain or the owner from further claims resulting from the loss of five fingers. He was given his salary of R2 060 and a R4 000 cheque as compensation from the SA agent Ellerman and Bucknall.

● Meanwhile, it was reliably learnt yesterday that the squid trawler Chin Chia Ching, which defied a Supreme Court attachment order by sailing out of Cape Town on June 17, is now in international waters.

The ship's captain was ordered to return and post bonds totalling R510 000 last Wednesday after being pressured by Taiwan's diplomatic corps in SA. The amount has been demanded by two former crew members who suffered multiple cases of frost-bite as a result of working in the ship's refrigeration section.

The Taiwanese embassy's press spokesman Mr K K Lee said the matter had been taken up by the Taipei government which was doing all in its power to resolve the issue through the ship's owner, Jin Hwei Ocean Enterprise Company.

## Prosecution

"These people will not evade prosecution. There are rules and regulations governing such offences," Mr Lee said.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Mrs Elsa Dry yesterday said she could not understand how the incidents had been kept quiet for so long.

"The matter is now enjoying serious attention at a very high level between South Africa and Taiwan. We cannot let this sort of thing go on," the spokesman said.

**Farm worker  
shot dead: 9/1 Times  
Man held 28/6/90**

JOHANNESBURG. — A man has been arrested after allegedly killing a worker with a shotgun after an argument at a fruit farm on Tuesday afternoon.

The liaison officer for the Witwatersrand Police, Captain Eugene Opperman, said yesterday that the incident took place on Plot 68, Walkers Fruit Farm, at De Deur, near Heidelberg in the Transvaal.

He said the arrested man went to his house on the plot to fetch a shotgun after an argument with Mr Abraham Masoka, 40, and then allegedly shot him four times.

Mr Masoka died instantly. — Sapa

→ (4)

NEWS

# Litany of lethal abuse

ANOTHER farm-worker, this time in the Delmas region, has died under mysterious circumstances — allegedly at the hands of white men. A murder investigation has been opened.

The assault on Samuel Ngwenya has added another chapter to list of cases of abuse of Transvaal farmworkers.

## Lenient

Those accused of the crimes received "lenient" sentences when brought to court.

In one case, in February, a Piet Reibel farmer was fined R100 for what was described as "a brutal assault" on a paralysed farmworker, Mr. Ekathi Xaba. Police said Mr. Ngwenya died during question-

ing by two Delmas policemen and a civilian. They said he was being questioned in connection a theft case the policemen were investigating. According to his relatives, Mr. Ngwenya's body was found half-buried in a shallow grave on a farm in the Wolvetfontein area.

Mr. Ngwenya, a harvest machine operator, was allegedly assaulted together with four of his colleagues, one of whom, Stephan Vilakazi, escaped while the alleged beatings were going on. He is still missing.

Said the dead man's sister, Jessie Mkwayi: "When my husband saw Sam's body at the Government mortuary, his body was swollen, even in his private parts, and there was blood and soil all over the body."

Three survivors — Mhloni Kollie Mkwayi (15), Jeremiah Moreku (18)

## Farmworker's death adds to the list . . .

and his brother Daniel (16) — have made statements to the Delmas police.

## Murder charge

Lieutenant Ida van Zweel, spokesman for the East Rand police, said Mr. Ngwenya was taken for questioning by two Delmas policemen, who were investigating a theft case. Mr. Ngwenya died during questioning, conducted at a farm in the Delmas area.

Lieutenant van Zweel could not say why Mr. Ngwenya was questioned at a farm instead of a police station. She also could not confirm whether Mr. Ngwenya's body

had been buried in a shallow grave after he was killed.

## JOVIAL RANTAO

Lieutenant van Zweel said suspects in the case — two policemen and a member of the public — have not been arrested pending a decision by the Attorney-General.

Delmas police are, however, investigating a charge of murder, she added.

Mr. Ngwenya's death has deprived his epileptic brother, Solomon (35), of a much-needed custodian. When he turned 20, Samuel took over Solomon's welfare. "Sam was a lovely per-

son. He would never harm anyone, let alone steal. He was a religious person and went to church on Sundays," Mrs. Mkwayi told Saturday Star.

## Religious

She said their mother died when Samuel was only three. "Samuel grew up in front of my eyes. I have been his mother for the past 21 years. Ever since he started working for farmer Filip van der Walt as a harvest machine operator, he has never been accused of stealing," she said.

She believed Samuel had been assaulted because he had allowed one

of the younger farm workers to operate the harvest machine.

Mr. Ngwenya lived with his three brothers on a farm called Stompfontein.

Some of the other cases involving farmworkers are:

● In June 1989, an East Rand farmer was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment after being found guilty of murdering Mr. Molefe Nzima by lowering him with his bakkie for a distance of 4 km.

● In August 1989 a paralysed father of six, Mr. Ekathi Xaba, died after a white farmer allegedly beat him for staying away from work.

● Early in 1989 a northern Transvaal farmer was fined R3 000 after being found guilty of beating labourer Eric Sambo to death. ● In May 1989 two

farmers were each sentenced to fines of R600 each for killing labourer Stephen Mononye. Mr. Mononye was suspected of stealing two cows.

● In 1988, on a farm near Middelburg, a 17-year-old boy who went out to hunt birds was spotted by a farmer, who, suspecting the child of stealing maize, shot him dead with a R1 rifle.

## Homicide

● In June 1989 a 15-year-old farmer's son was charged with culpable homicide after shooting a black boy, Thabiso Mokwaledi, with his father's 9 mm pistol on a smallholding near Potchefstroom.

● In November 1989 a Tzaneen farmer was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment after beating a labourer to death and hiding the body in a ditch.

dent. Guillermo Endara.

*GM Ints 5/7/90 (4) (10) (12)*  
**Boland wine strike ends**

JOHANNESBURG. — Workers at Anglo American Farms Ltd's Groot Drakenstein Estate near Franschhoek, which includes Boschendal, have gone back to work after a two-day work stoppage.

# Fishermen accuse govt of favouritism

Cap 7147 9/7/80  
Staff Reporter

ANGRY fishermen, who have been put out of work overnight by a decision by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, to withdraw a select number of longline fishing licences, have accused the government of "favouring" a handful of independent companies.

Six independent companies have been given permission to continue longline fishing at sea until the end of the year. Eight longline fishing licences, enabling trawler operators to catch kingklip and hake, were withdrawn yesterday by Mr Kotze in a move to protect dwindling resources.

"I don't know what to do. I sit without a job now and I have a high-interest bond to pay off," said trawler skipper Mr William Pearce.

Mr Pearce has been a longline skipper for eight years. He says he stands to lose an income of R60 000 a year.

"A lot of our crew have no other fishing experience — they can do nothing else," said skipper Mr Deon Venter. More than 50 fishermen sat on board vessels yesterday, waiting to see if the government decision would be reversed.

Mr Tony Ornelas, a member of the Independent Longline Fishing Association, said he hoped that a solution would be found for the unemployed longline fishermen.

(4)

# Trawler flees at claims of frostbite

W/B  
M/G  
14/7/90

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Taiwanese trawler Chin Chia Ching, named as one of the vessels on which Cape Town labourers had frostbite, is not returning to Cape Town and is believed to be in international waters, safe from South African detection.

Lawyers acting for two frostbite victims, Taiwanese government representatives in South Africa and the South African Air Force say the errant vessel is "as good as lost".

Before the vessel docks in Taiwan — or is traced by international agencies — a number of things could wreck the chances of compensation for two former crew who are claiming R510 000 in damages.

### Lose parts of fingers

They will lose parts of their fingers, allegedly due to being frostbitten while working in the ship's refrigeration holds.

The Chin Chia Ching could be resold on the high seas, change registration, and the captain and crew could switch vessels. It could change its name at sea, making it difficult to trace.

This would complicate if not ruin the work of city lawyers who have taken statements from 32 former crewmen who say they were victims of ruthless labour practices on Taiwanese vessels in the past few months.

### Attachment order

In the past two weeks, frostbite cases reported to the Legal Resources Centre and a city law firm have increased from 20 to 32.

In the case of the Chin Chia Ching, Supreme Court sheriffs and a team from the Legal Resources Centre served an attachment order on the master to secure the vessel as a bond for the former crewmen's claim.

Defiantly, the vessel sailed from Table Bay soon after its attachment, which cost about R5 000.

### Evaded search

After the ship fled, the Department of Foreign Affairs asked the Taiwanese government to intervene.

Taiwanese officials in Cape Town persuaded the captain by radio to return to the city. He told them he would, but he steered the ship beyond detection even by two Air Force search aircraft.

After this, Taiwanese officials approached the International Court for help, but without success.



LEFT: A Rastafarian lights a ganja chalice as part of the Rastafarian "March" through the city this morning. About 300 protesters marched through the city to demand the legalisation of ganja, the Rastafarian's court buildings in Parade Street to demand the legalisation of ganja in Natal, and a ceasefire among the African National Congress, the Azanian People's Organisation, the police and the army.

RIGHT: Marchers display one of about 200 posters calling for the legalisation of ganja.

# Frostbite men

Cap Times 13/7/90

## 'assaulted for not working'

By PETER MALBIN

**SOUTH AFRICAN** workers were allegedly assaulted for refusing to work in the freezing holds of Taiwanese vessels after contracting frostbite there, according to a spokeswoman at the Legal Resources Centre.

Meanwhile, further frostbite cases involving South African seamen on Taiwanese ships are still "streaming" into the centre, bringing the number of known cases to 29, the spokeswoman added.

Since last week, the centre has had five more cases, including one from a Japanese trawler. It is acting for 10 cases in an attempt to get compensation from the Taiwanese companies involved.

"Of the five new cases, two not only have frostbite, but also complained of physical assault for objecting to working in the refrigeration holds after suffering from

frostbite," the spokeswoman said.

"This is the first time we have concrete evidence of violent assaults on South African seamen who refused to continue working in holds of Taiwanese vessels after contracting frostbite."

The spokeswoman detailed two cases.

● It is alleged that Mr Sidney Mzongwana, a Cape Town worker on the Yung Chien, was clubbed with a piece of wood by his crewmaster. He appeared at the Legal Resources Centre with what appeared to be a broken wrist.

● Another worker, Mr Patrick Nhxoki, employed on the Win Heng No 2, was allegedly threatened with assault.

Suffering from frostbite, he refused to go into the refrigerated hold. He was allegedly flung to the ground and kicked in the jaw violently several times.

Months later his jaw is still swollen. He cannot open his mouth properly and his jaw ap-

pears to be broken.

Mr Nhxoki also complained that South African crewmen had to eat rotten meat and vegetables. Their diet was confined mostly to rice for the five-month voyage.

"When they became ill from the food served to them, they were told they might as well throw themselves overboard if they did not want to work.

"A medical practitioner has advised us that poor diet is a factor which contributes adversely to victims' chances of recovery from frostbite.

"The workers also suffered daily humiliation and verbal abuse. They told us they were too shocked to go back to sea again," she said.

● A spokesman for TRT Shipping Services, agent for Yung Chien, declined to comment, and a spokesman for Transea, agent for Win Heng No 2, said he did not know about the incident on the ship.

# Farmer ordered to take worker back

Apr 7 1990  
A STELLENBOSCH farmer has been ordered by the Magistrate's Court there to allow a labourer he evicted to live on the farm — or pay him compensation.

The labourer, Mr George Dico of Groen-Oase farm, Vlottenberg, said in an affidavit that he and his wife and two children had been evicted from the farm by the owner, Mr C W van Driel.

Mr Dico said he was told to leave the farm for not working on a Sunday, and that all his possessions were locked in the room he had occupied. In addition, he had not been paid for one-and-a-half day's work, nor had he received his R40 savings, he said.

The magistrate ordered Mr Van Driel to allow Mr Dico and his family back onto the farm, or pay R500 compensation, as well as give reasons why the order should not be made permanent.

Mr Van Driel now faced a charge of contempt of court and a civil claim for damages and discomfort suffered when the family had to sleep outside, Mr Dico's attorneys said.



# Shock findings on local farm wages

CAM Times 18/7/90

4

**SHOCK** low cash wages, lower even than black social pensions, on Western Cape farms — on average R135 a month in the Hex River area and R132 a month in the Bonnievale area — have been uncovered by a Stellenbosch University study.

On "very bad" farms in the Hex River area, cash wages of R37 a month were paid when surveyed in July 1988.

It found that some farmers in the region, not always the poorest, "pay very low wages, provide ramshackle houses with pit-latrines, outside water taps and no electricity".

However, model farms existed alongside "the almost feudal" farms and cash wages in the Elgin-Vryeboom-Grabouw (Elvrygra) area, where two trade unions were active, were the highest in the country and were on average R220 a month.

When the value of free housing was added in the Elvrygra area, farmworker wages

By **BARRY STREEK**  
Political Staff

rose to R320 a month before bonuses — while apple-packers earned an average of R300 a month in cash wages.

The study, written by J F de Graaff, W Louw and M van der Merwe and published by Stellenbosch University's Research Unit for Sociology of Development, said it was not clear why the Hex River wages should lag so far behind the Elvrygra wages because similar aspects applied to both areas.

Because 70% of the Elvrygra produce went for export, its produce needed to be of the highest quality. The threat of anti-apartheid sanctions keeps farmers on their toes.

The academics said some farms in the region, "and they are by no means the wealthiest", pay above-average wages, provide decent housing and ablution

facilities, organise and encourage extra-mural and religious activities, call in the advice of the Rural Foundation or welfare workers and run worker training programmes.

Low incomes and impoverished lives meant, in some cases, poor health and malnutrition for schoolchildren and, in most cases, a lack of stimulation, encouragement or suitable study-environments.

In an appendix, it listed the average wages in a Rural Foundation survey in 1986. It found the highest wages were in Elgin (R251,73 a month), Constantia/Wynberg (R245), Tafelberg (R207,88) and the Central Koue Bokkeveld (R200).

The lowest in the Western Cape were at De Rust (R106,88) and Breerivier (R107,13), but Bethlehem (R45), Wonderfontein and Holfontein (R46,69), Ficksburg (R53,96), Lichtenburg (R56,78), Gordonia (67,96), Kiepersol (R75,26) and Upper Gamtoos (R95,70) were lower still.

Political Staff

BLACK children on Western Cape farms were not allowed to ride on school buses designated for coloured children and they had to walk to school, even though their schools were often adjacent, a Stellenbosch University study has found.

"Many African farm children in the Western Cape have Afrikaans as their home language, yet, by an administrative flaw, their medium of instruction was Xhosa, their supposed 'mother-tongue'.

"One of the lasting impressions of this project has been the absurdity of segregating African and coloured farm schools," it said.

Black children came from the same farms as their coloured counterparts but they were not allowed to ride on the buses. "Because there are no buses for African children, they have to walk the distance that coloured children are carried."

The study, 'Farm Schools in the Western

# Barred from school bus

*CMS 1008 18/7/90*

(4) (1)

Cape: A Sociological Analysis', was written by J F de Graaff, W Louw and M van der Merwe and published by the Research Unit for Sociology of Development at Stellenbosch University.

"There is no justification whatever for the counter-productive segregation of coloured and African education, both with regard to facilities and transport."

Black children were also often sent back to homelands at great cost in order to have access to high schools. "It makes eminent sense to consolidate African and coloured schools in most parts of the Western Cape farming area," the report stated.

ME-16-18 17/7/90 (4)

# Hendrickse 'yes' to black pupils

BLACK children, particularly in rural farming areas, could attend schools for so-called "coloureds" and they could use buses designated for "coloured" pupils, the chairman of the Ministers' Council of the House of Representatives, Mr Allan Hendrickse, said yesterday.

"It has been the policy of the department since the Labour Party took control of education in 1975 that African children be admitted to so-called coloured schools, particularly in farming areas.

"Africans are entitled to be admitted to these schools as long as the principal informs the department," he said in a statement.

Mr Hendrickse was reacting to the strong criticism of the racial segregation for African and coloured farm schools by three Stellenbosch University academics, Mr J F de Graaff, Mr W Louw and Mr M van der Merwe.

They described the situation as "absurd". Mr Hendrickse also said yesterday that farm worker wages, working conditions and fringe benefits on farms were to be investigated next year by a special manpower commission.

● The National Manpower Commission completed an investigation in 1982 into the position of farm and domestic workers, but it has never been published.

# Survey on valley <sup>on</sup> <sup>unit</sup> farmers <sup>20/7/90</sup> 'ignored <sup>4</sup> the good'

Political Staff

MUCH had been done in the past few years to eradicate the unfair treatment of farm employees both inside and outside the workplace, the chairman of the Hex River Valley Farmers Association, Mr Gerard de Kok, said yesterday.

The essence of a Cape Times report of a Stellenbosch University study on farms had highlighted the bad in the area in 1988 but much had improved in the past few years and this had been ignored entirely, he said.

"The efforts of the better farmers have clearly been unfairly ignored," Mr De Kok said in a statement.

He was reacting to one of the findings of the Stellenbosch survey, written by J F de Graaff, W Louw and M van der Merwe, that the average cash wage for farm workers in the valley in 1988 was R135 a month.

Mr De Kok said: "The results of a survey are based on averages and lumps the good with the bad."

In the past few years, millions of rand had been spent on upgrading employees' homes, by providing more living space, ablution facilities and electricity.

Millions had also been spent on providing new houses.

Employees were also encouraged to take part in education programmes.

# Citrus workers vote for strike

AFRICA'S biggest citrus estate, Zebediela, is threatened with a strike following a decision yesterday by about 1 000 workers to down tools from August 3, writes MATHATA TSEDU.

The workers, members of the Nactu-affiliated National Union of Farmworkers, said management had failed to conclude a recognition agreement since October last year, despite a court order setting that deadline.

They accused management of dragging its feet.

The workers rejected an offer by management's lawyers to begin negotiations at the end of August and instead resolved that talks should begin on August 1, failing

which they would down tools from August 3.

Management has been given until Friday to indicate whether they accepted the suggested date. *23/7/90*

The workers, some of whom earn about R80 a month, went on a month-long strike last year to demand higher wages, better working conditions and the recognition of their union.

Management refused to enter into talks with the union but later agreed to conduct negotiations through the union's lawyers appointed by the Legal Education Centre of the Black Lawyers Association.

Management could not be reached for comment yesterday.

# Frustrated domestics take a stand

WOMAN

THE frustration at the Government's delay in producing legislation for domestics and farm-workers has led to a march by about 2 000 domestic workers to the Department of Manpower to present wide-ranging demands.

The domestics, all members of the South African Domestic Workers Union, last week handed a list of their grievances to the Manpower's Mr J J Knoesen.

They demanded:

- \* R450 a month;
- \* A 40-hour working week;
- \* Visiting rights;
- \* Decent accommodation;
- \* Pension, maternity and other benefits enjoyed by all workers; and
- \* Coverage by the Employment and Labour Relations Acts.

## Attempt

This was not the first attempt to force the Government to consider the position of the four million domestic workers.

Trade unions and political organisations have for several years been pressing to get legal provision covering employment of domestics.

There have also been questions about it in Parliament.

The National Manpower Commission was instructed in 1982 to begin an inquiry into employment conditions for farmers and domestics.

In December 1984, a delegation from three domestics' groups travelled to Pretoria to protest to the then Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, about the delay.

Two years later the report by NMC was completed but prospects of possible legislation were still bleak.

Sowetan 25/7/90

# take a stand

By SIZA KOOMA

Domestic workers make a significant contribution to a stable society, but 75 percent of them are exploited, assaulted and unfairly dismissed by their employers who take advantage of their lack of protection by the country's labour laws.

Half of South African homes rely on fulltime domestic help, according to the Central Statistics Service.

## Reliance

Interviews by the *Sowetan* last year with some members of the Black Domestic Workers Association in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, Soweto's elite townships and Lenasia and Eldorado Park revealed that even top people in the community ill-treat their domestics.

They include priests, who preach justice and fair treatment, lawyers who ironically earn a living from defending people's rights, millionaires to whom a domestic's salary is a drop in the ocean, doctors, politicians and celebrities of all races.

Most of these enduring servants are migrant workers who often stick

to their exploitative employers because they have dependants to support.

The CSS reports said the average wage of domestics in South Africa was R156,15 a month, which includes food and accommodation.

The wage includes R96,50 cash, R37,76 for food, R15,29 for use of living quarters and R6,60 for other goods and services, it said.

The general contemptuous treatment of domestics includes dismissal without salary, severance pay and other benefits.

## Sacked

Some employees have even been unknowingly dismissed while on holiday, a worker's right most of them do not enjoy.

Some have returned to work to find they have been replaced.

Last January 62-year-old Selina Mazangazanga of Mount Frere returned to work after a four-week holiday to find her belongings bundled in a corner. A younger woman had taken over the duties.

Mazangazanga was bitter with her employer whom she had joined

when her child was eight days old.

She had never complained about her duties being beyond her age.

Her services and loyalty were rewarded with no official notice, no severance pay and obviously no pension fund.

Humility and good employer-employee relations do not exist in most of the households.

Employees are not allowed visitors. They only get to see their families when they go home for holidays.

## Employers

The refusal by employers to allow visitors into the quarters led to 40 frustrated domestics in 1988 taking their employers at the Majestic Towers Hotel, a block of flats in Parktown, to court.

Some had worked in the building for more than 15 years and their families had never seen where they lived.

Physical and emotional abuse is not unusual.

Insults are often hurled at domestics for errors.

Thoko Mkhwanazi was beaten black and blue by her employer's son for allegedly duplicating the keys to his flat with the intention to steal.



Mrs Florence de Villiers of Sadwu presents a petition to Mr JJ Knoesen of the Department of Manpower.

It is very difficult for unions to fight domestics' cases because of their legal position, which is often exploited by their employers.

Through the Small Claims courts they have been able to settle financial battles and managed to take abusive employers

to court for assault.

In 1988, the Black Domestic Workers Association won about 55 percent of the cases they took to court.

Some employers often agree to settle out of court and 834 of them did so that year.

Bladwa maintained that the percentage of losses, four percent, would not be as high if the union was allowed to represent its members in court.

It is usually domestics against their employers in court and they are often powerless.

# THIS SEAS DASH TO SAVE SEAMAN

AR645  
3/17/90

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123

By ANDREA WEISS  
and HENRI du PLESSIS  
Staff Reporters

A DASH through stormy seas by a trawler, has saved an injured seaman after attempts to lift him off by helicopter or drop a doctor on board failed. The injured sailor was admitted to Victoria Hospital about 1.35am today after the trawler docked in Simon's Town where paramedics and an ambulance were waiting.

The drama began about 11am yesterday morning when a chain on board the Harvest Belinda snapped. The end whiplashed back and hit Mr Richard Makalima, 21, on the forehead, knocking him unconscious.

Mr Nigel Campbell of Sea Harvest said the Harvest Belinda had been in stormy seas off Cape Agulhas and her master had radioed for help.

## Swells

The South African Air Force had sent a Puma helicopter to lift Mr Makalima off. The helicopter had arrived at the ship about 3pm, but a Force 7 storm with 50km/h winds and six-to-seven-metre swells had meant the mission had to be called off.

An attempt had later been made by Court Helicopters to drop a doctor on board the ship, but technical problems had forced the pilot to turn back to Cape Town.

"Meanwhile the Harvest Belinda headed for Simon's Town at its top speed of 8,5 knots, while Sea Harvest officials asked the Navy for clearance to allow the trawler to dock."

She had arrived about 1am today and Metro Rescue Services paramedics had taken Mr Makalima to Victoria Hospital. Sea Harvest trawling division manager Mr J Scholte said communication with the vessel had been "extremely poor" because of the bad weather. He said it was "very worrying" that the man was still unconscious although his pulse was strong.

This morning Medical Superintendent Dr Peter Morris said Mr Makalima's condition was not serious and he was under observation.

# Workers occupy wine farm office after row

By ANDREA WEISS  
Staff Reporter

while the hearing was under way.

FARM workers besieged an office complex at Anglo American's Boschendal wine farm in a row over the alleged slapping of a Food and Allied Workers' Union member.

Union spokesman Mr William Makhunga said members of the National Union of Wine Spirits and Allied Workers' Union, the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union and the South African Wood Workers' Union were also involved in the stoppage.

## 1 000 STOPPED WORK

The alleged assault caused a two-day work stoppage in the cannery of Anglo American Farms in Groot Drakenstein.

A personnel officer was dismissed yesterday after a disciplinary hearing, according to the group manpower resources manager for Amfarms, Mr Mark Allan.

About 1 000 workers stopped work on the farm, in the cannery, winery, restaurant and dairy on Monday and yesterday

Mr Allan said the staff member had been suspended on full pay immediately after the alleged assault, pending the outcome of a disciplinary inquiry.

● The go-slow by workers at liquor giants Stellenbosch Farmers Winery, Distillers Corporation and Gilbeys, which started yesterday morning, looks likely to continue with the possibility of a full-blown strike later, Sapa reports.



# Zebedela workers stand firm in face of threat by bosses

Swivelan  
27/8/90

STRIKING workers at Zebedela Citrus Estate at the weekend rejected an ultimatum from management to return to work tomorrow or face dismissal.

At a pact meeting held at Molelane Chief's kraal on Saturday, workers also denounced pamphlets distributed in the estate last week in the name of "concerned workers of Zebedela" which claimed that the National Union of Farmworkers - to which all the strikers belong - was useless.

Workers instead resolved that their demands for a minimum R500-a-month wage and a 60 percent across the

## Mathatha Tsedu

board increase should be met before a return to work could be considered.

Management was hammered for refusing to discuss wages and for bringing scab labour from Nelspruit in an effort to break the strike, which started on August 8.

The strike has brought Africa's biggest citrus estate to a standstill. It is feared that, should the strike continue for much longer, the price of oranges might rise as many are presently rotting on the estate.

The workers said management's attitude in

bringing scab labour was also geared at instigating black-on-black violence between strikers and scab labourers. They further alleged that some of those recruited were Mozambican refugees.

It is illegal to employ foreign refugees in South Africa.

The chief public relations officer for Zebedela, Mr Cornel van Rooyen, said the estate had been approached by a contractor to "fulfill certain functions". He said the contractor may employ Mozambicans, but emphasised that the workers so employed would not be Zebedela employees.

C/Kens 26/8/90

# Shocks, torture alleged over 'missing' firearm

## But police deny men were held

By CHARLES MOGALE

TWO farm labourers suspected of stealing their employer's firearm this week described the chilling details of torture at the hands of police investigating the theft.

The two, a grandfather and a youth, were released without being charged. The firearm was later found in the employer's car.

A police spokesman for the Free State, Lt J van der Merwe, denied the men were ever held by the police.

The incident happened recently in Edenville, a small town south of Heilbron in the Free State. Several families have already fled the Tulbach farm in the neighbourhood, fearing "indiscriminate" attacks.

Farm labourer Phaladi Motitsoe, 52, said he had just left his employer's home, where he had repaired a broken door, when police arrived at his home on the farm.

He was told a firearm had "disappeared" from the "huis", and his house was searched. Motitsoe said he denied any knowledge of the weapon, and was invited to the police station for further questioning.

"When we arrived at the police station, the police became aggressive. They threw me into a cell. Later that night, they took me away in a van to a lonely spot at a place called Lerotbod.

"They handcuffed me and forced me into a position which was very painful for a man my age. They put a stick under my knees, with my cuffed hands under the stick and put a hood over my head," said Motitsoe.

"I was crying out with pain, hoping they would leave me, but worse was still to come. There were two black policemen and one white - the blacks were more vicious. They produced electric devices and shocked me until I passed out. When I came to, we were at the police station late at night, and they threw me back into a cell."

The following morning, he said, he was taken to the office of a senior policeman who was "sympathetic"

and apologised for the maltreatment. His employers, Jockey and Koos Rautenbach, also apologised.

After his release, the police allegedly picked up a youth called Monaheng. During interrogation, which also included electrocution, he incriminated himself and 17-year-old Shongwe Sephiri.

According to Sephiri, he was picked up and also questioned about the gun.

"I told them I knew nothing about the gun. They took me to a quarry, handcuffed me, put a hood over my head. They shocked me on the ears, anus and private parts with electric devices. I bit my tongue badly, and when they saw blood pouring through the hood, they stopped," said Sephiri.

For two days, he was driven from spot to spot where Monaheng said the firearm had been buried. Nothing was found.

"I tried in vain to convince the policemen that Monaheng was merely incriminating himself and myself because of the torture. At the time when he said we had been to the 'huis' to steal the weapon, we were together at my home. It was also impossible to get inside the 'huis' at that time. It was only after three days that they accepted that Monaheng was merely trying to avoid being tortured."

The two were allegedly taken to a senior policeman who apologised, ordered them food and had them released.

"For days I could not eat, and my hands can't take any strain now," said Sephiri.

Motitsoe and Sephiri are receiving medical treatment, paid for by their employers.

Said Motitsoe: "I can understand the apologies, but that is not helpful enough. I am a physical wreck since the incident, and who is going to look after my family if I can't work? I was born on this farm and have lived all my life here. I have spent my life working honestly for my employers. I used to look after the home and their mother when they went on holiday. It saddens me that I should be suspected of stealing a firearm."

He said he was seeking legal advice on the matter.

According to Van der Merwe, the farmer found the weapon in his car, but denied any people were arrested.



Farmworkers Phaladi Motitsoe (left) and Shongwe Sephiri were handcuffed, bags were placed over their heads and they were severely beaten by police investigating the theft of a firearm.

# Court told man 'beaten to death'

CME Tms 25/8/90 4

BY MONICA GRAAFF

A CLOETESVILLE bricklayer died after being beaten with a pick-axe handle by a Stellenbosch farm manager as he lay sleeping in a labourer's cottage, Stellenbosch Regional Court heard yesterday.

Mr Rudolf Donald Rix, 25, of Watergang Farm, pleaded not guilty to a charge of culpable homicide. It is alleged he caused the death of Mr Charles Thompson, 36, who died in Tygerberg Hospital as a result of injuries received during the attack on May 18, 1989.

Mr Rix, who further pleaded not guilty to three counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm for allegedly attacking three other people that night, said he had been acting in self-defence.

The three other people were the dead man's brother, Mr Andrew Thompson, a 77-year-old tractor driver who has lived on the farm for 28 years, Mr Johann Wikus, and a Khayamandi resident, Mr Godfrey Williams, 55.

Giving evidence against her former boss, domestic worker Ms Margaret Williams told the court that she had watched Mr Rix beating the Thompson brothers as they lay sleeping in her home on the farm.

She said she went into the bed-



Rudolf Rix

room about 11pm when she heard a man shouting through the window: "What are you doing here! It's you people who steal the people's things."

"I saw two arms sticking through the window. He was shining a torch in one hand and beating Andrew, who was lying in the bed, with the other.

"Then the man shouted: 'Let me in. It's the police!'

"I opened the door and saw it was the master. He went into the bedroom and hit Andrew again.

"Then he stood over Charlie, who was sleeping on the floor, and started hitting him with the

pick held in both hands. I stood in the doorway and watched. I was too scared to do anything."

Ms Williams said that she and the Thompsons, who were visiting, had gone to bed early that night to recover from a beer-drinking spree in Khayamandi, a township next to the farm.

Mr Rix was "lying" if he said that the Thompsons had attacked him in the house because "they were drunk", she said.

Ms Williams said that an ambulance and several policemen, who had "possibly" been called by Mr Rix, arrived "simultaneously" a little later and took the brothers to hospital.

After they had gone, she went to the tap near the cottage to fetch some water and heard a man groaning. It was Mr Godfrey Williams who told her that someone had hit him while he lay sleeping under a tree. She said Mr Williams had also been drunk.

A Stellenbosch policeman, Constable Alex Kirsten, told the court that he was intructed by radio to investigate "trouble at Watergang".

On the farm he had met Mr Rix who had told him that two trespassers had attacked him when he went to the cottage to tell them to leave.

The case was postponed to October 11 in Paarl Regional Court.

# Cape farm workers getting a better deal

CAPE TIMES  
25/8/90

4

TALK of revolutionary improvements in farm wages and working conditions is probably an overstatement but a dramatic shift in industry thinking is taking place which should vastly improve the status quo.

□ When the Hex River Valley Farmers' Association is discussing a voluntary code of guidelines, which lays down a minimum wage three times above the average wage found two years ago by Stellenbosch University researchers, and provides for written service contracts incorporating grievance and disciplin-

**A quiet change is taking place on Western Cape farms, particularly in the fruit industry, in regard to working and service conditions of the workers. Industry representatives openly admit that not all farmers are good employers, but they argue that the bad examples should not be regarded as the norm. Barry Streek reports.**

ary procedures, something big has changed in the Boland.

□ When farmers in the Koue Bokkeveld area near Ceres have bought land to create a farming village where farm workers can buy their own houses and then commute to work this, too, is an indication of change.

□ When a farm in the Elgin/Grabouw area can provide a well-equipped pre-school, a primary school (with teachers' salaries provided by the government), health care facilities with a qualified nurse, sports facilities including a floodlit rugby ground and an old-age home, it is clear that radical transformation does take place.

These are, clearly, exceptional examples of improvements taking place in the deciduous fruit industry which employs about 213 000 people in the Cape, mainly in the Boland, Western and Southern Cape, and they come none to soon.

Advice office workers and human rights lawyers familiar with the region cite numerous examples of blatant exploitation of farm workers, who together with domestic workers, are still not pro-

tected by any labour legislation, although the government has said the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act will be extended to farm workers.

## More generous

It would also seem that some wine farmers and many in the fruit industry, which is expected to gross nearly R2 bn this year, could afford to be more generous employers.

The international marketing organisation of the industry, Unifruco, and its members, the producers, have already adopted a voluntary code of conduct, which rejects any colour or sexual discrimination, and farming associations, prodded by the Rural Foundation.

A Stellenbosch University study four years ago on farm schools found wages of R135 a month in the Hex River Valley area, but the guidelines being discussed by the local farmers' association says a family of five, two parents and three children, should receive a minimum cash wage of R445 a month plus housing, which includes elec-

□ From Page 17

tricity, hot and cold water and internal toilets. Even that is clearly not going to overjoy farm workers.

The chairman of the Hex River Valley Farmers' Association, Gerhard Burger, explained the farmers' perspective in an interview: "The sensible guy, the farmer, knows that to get quality labour needs a lot of things.

"It costs money to train labour. Anyone who has done it will realise it is an investment — and one can't neglect that investment. If he wants to keep that investment, he will have to provide all facilities that are competitive.

"If I lose a labourer to another farmer, I lose that investment. Anyone looking at a longer-term view will be likely to protect their investments — and people who don't will start falling behind."

An indication of the changing working conditions in the Hex River Valley area, which has a population of about 28 000 people and 150 fruit farms, is the provision of pre-school facilities on the farms: three to four years ago, few farms had creches but today, according to the farmers' association, there are now pre-schools with "trained" teachers on most farms.

Burger stressed the guidelines incorporated minimum standards: "We must tell the farmer what the bottom line is. We are trying to get the basic level right."

## Long way to go

He has a lot a work ahead of him. Only about 20% of the farmers have already adopted the minimum standards, Burger concedes.

But while the process of transition on the farms of the Hex River Valley still has a long way to go, progress is being achieved — and, unusually, with the farmers' association in the lead of the changes.

As Burger puts it: "No matter what political party farmers belong to, they will have to implement these changes because conditions, particularly economic conditions, demand it. Even if they are Conservative Party, they will have to do it because otherwise they will be forced out of business."

Farm workers are also demanding changes. "See those houses", Burger gestured, "I can't get people to stay in them any more."

● Next week Barry Streek looks at changes in the Elgin/Grabouw area.

□ To Page 18

## Lawyers query charge after labourer's death

GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town

STELLENBOSCH attorneys have asked the town's public prosecutor to explain why the manager of a wine estate has been charged with culpable homicide rather than murder — following the fatal assault of a worker.

Attorney Roger Chennels said yesterday he was still awaiting a response.

Rudolph Rix, employed by the Koopmansklouf Wine Estate, is expected to appear in the Stellenbosch regional court today in connection with the death of Charlie Thompson on May 18 last year. He has also been charged with three counts of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm.

Thompson was among a group of workers allegedly attacked while asleep in a hostel on the farm Watergang. He later died of his injuries.

Chennels told *The Weekly Mail* a civil claim arising out of the assault was pending against the owner of Koopmansklouf, Steve Smit.

Mail 2418-26/8/90

# 'Mozambicans hired as scabs at Zebediela,' says union

PIETERSBURG: Strike-torn Zebediela citrus estate is set to employ Mozambican refugees to replace striking workers, an union spokesman alleged yesterday.

Moses Mphahlele, regional organiser for the National Council of Trade Unions, said strikers had been reliably informed by some white supervisors that Mozambican refugees from the Lulekani camp were to arrive last night.

"Temporary shelters have already been built, complete with toilets, at a garage

away from the compounds used by the striking workers. We see this as a tactic to force workers back to work without meeting their demands," he said.

It is illegal for Mozambican refugees to accept employment in South Africa and many found on white farms in the Transvaal have already been repatriated.

Asked to comment on the union allegations, Zebediela's chief public relations officer, Cornel van Rooyen, said: "It is very possible that the contractor could

employ Mozambican nationals. We just want to emphasise that the above-mentioned workers are not being employed by Zebediela but by the contractor. He did not know who the contractor was.

A spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs in Pietersburg said no application to hire Mozambicans had been received by his office. Employing such people without his office's permission was illegal, he emphasised. — Sapa

## Abattoir 'back on track' after strike

By SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

SLAUGHTERING at the Maitland Abattoir has almost returned to normal and meat prices have stabilised after 300 slaughterers on a work stoppage were dismissed.

The workers, members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), were fired from Cape Slaughtering, Flaying and Dressing (Pty) Ltd after a one-day work stoppage last month which seriously affected operations at the abattoir.

A company spokesman said yesterday the emergency back-up team of 25 expert slaughterers — flown to Cape Town from the Transvaal by the company last month — were still hard at work. The company was training temporary staff.

"We are training people at the moment and taking them in on a daily basis. Obviously they are all temporary staff pending the outcome of a court action."

### BEEF FROM NAMIBIA

Fawu had brought an application against the company which would be heard in the Industrial Court on August 28, he said.

The union was not available for comment.

Meat Board regional manager Mr Bertie Ackhurst said about 4 000 sheep, 400 cattle and 450 pigs were slaughtered yesterday.

Normally between 600 and 700 cattle and between 5 000 and 6 000 sheep are slaughtered at the abattoir, which is owned and run by the Cape Town City Council.

Mr Ackhurst said: "We are also bringing in 400 beef carcasses from Namibia every week."

Meat prices were not higher than usual at the moment, he said.

At the abattoir, super beef was selling at R5,18 a kg, prime beef at R4,99 a kg and Top C beef at R4,58 a kg, he confirmed.

Super lamb was selling at R6,13 a kg, prime mutton at R6,13 a kg and Top C mutton at R4,39 a kg while pork super was selling at R3,56 a kg.

# Strikers assaulted, says union

16/8/90  
50 m. fan

SECURITY guards employed by Zebediela Citrus have been allegedly assaulting and intimidating striking workers, ordering children of strikers to move out of the residential compounds, a union spokesman said yesterday.

Nactu's Mr Moss Mphahlele said night raids by security officials were common since the strike began. Five workers were allegedly assaulted on Friday night.

## Demand

The workers, who earn R120 a month, are demanding a minimum salary of R500 a month.

Zebediela spokesman Mr Cornel van Rooyen denied that security guards assaulted workers.

"Management has neither found it necessary to use force to induce the workers to return to work nor to exert pressure on the workers to do so."



# Hex River 'wages' report misleading

*Cape Times 13/8/90*

From **JOHANN GRAAFF, Dept of Sociology, UCT (Rondebosch):**

WHILE I was away the Cape Times published material drawn from a report written by myself and two co-workers. The Cape Times headlines read "Shock findings on local wages" (Cape Times, July 18) and "Slave Labour in the Hex River" (Cape Times, July 19). These articles succeeded in conveying an impression about Hex River Rural Foundation (RF) members which is quite misleading.

First, it needs emphasising that our report was about farm schools, not about wages. It cannot be said that the report made any "finding" about farm wages. Anyone who has worked with wage statistics, in general, and farm wages, in particular, knows that it is a complicated area.

Farm workers are often paid a proportion of their wages in kind, they often receive free housing, water and electricity. Cash wages are a deceptive indicator of how farm workers live. Our research did not focus on wages, did not check the correctness of the figures, did not allow for inflation between 1986 (when the survey was

done) and 1990 (when the report was published), and did not consider the cost of living in various areas. For the Cape Times to put a Hex River cash wage of R135 in 1986 (excluding housing, water, electricity and inflation) alongside the Cape Town City Council minimum wage of R845 in 1990 (Cape Times, July 10), by way of comparison, is being really unfair to the Hex River RF members.

This does not mean that the average farm wage is good. It needs emphasising that, however they pay their workers, and however many perks their workers get, many farmers pay shocking wages. Nothing can be said to exonerate Hex River farmers paying less than R50 a month.

But what the Cape Times failed to say was that in our report we argue that in the last decade farm wages in many regions of the country have risen quite substantially in real terms, and that Hex River farmers are among the most progressive in the country, particularly when they are members of the Rural Foundation. It was in fact a major thrust of the report to argue precisely against the facile image of farmers as bloodthirsty slave-owners.

We argue that the scene on South African farms is in the process of quite rapid transition fuelled by changes in the National Party, the abolition of Influx Control, competition from urban labour and by mechanisation.

Finally, as a result of these changes, the gap between farm and unskilled urban wages is not as great as it used to be. If one assumes that the non-cash payment and perks that farmworkers get is worth R100, then Hex River workers in 1986 were getting about R235 a month. By way of comparison, the SAIRR Annual Survey quotes the minimum wage for underground mineworkers at R228 in 1986, and the average wage for clothing workers at R217. The Cape Times needs to be less emotional about what it thinks are (or were) slave-wages.

In summary, while I am in substantial sympathy with the Cape Times' concern for the level of farm wages, their focus and their perspective on it are misplaced.

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John Scott's PS column will be resumed in two weeks' time when he returns from leave.

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CAPT TMS 14/8/90

# Shock as 30 homes razed

JOHANNESBURG. — Thirty homes at a farm near Piet Retief were razed to the ground by the farmer on Friday last week apparently without a court order, leaving 62 people homeless.

Mr Ken Margo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee told said the farmer, Mr H A A Klingenberg, had been trying to evict Mr Mapagamisa Mavimbela, 65, and his "household" of 62 for over a year.

Mr Mavimbela is a labour tenant and apparently had an agreement with the farmer who had previously owned the farm, Mandonga.

"He was born on the farm, as was his father," said Mr Margo.

"He is head of a household of 62 people who lived in 30 dwellings built up over generations on the farm."

Mr Margo said the matter was still being negotiated by lawyers and the case concerning the pending eviction was due to come up on September 13 when the buildings were flattened on Friday — in the presence of police.

The residents were not shown a court order.

Lieutenant Gerhard Fourie, station commander at Piet Retief Police Station, confirmed the

police had been present, but said they had been there in a protective role only.

He denied that a court order was necessary for the demolition.

Mr Klingenberg could not be reached for comment.

Mr Mavimbela explained through an interpreter he had had an excellent relationship with the previous farmer, Mr Edward Hein. Mr Hein sold the farm in 1988.

Mr Margo said it had been a "shattering experience" for the tenants as they were deeply attached to the land and had nowhere to go. — Sapa

## Overseas focus on Zebediela strike

THE strike by 1 500 Zebediela-Citrus workers is to become the subject of national and international focus in the next few days, unionists and lawyers involved in the matter, said yesterday, writes

MATHATHA TSEDU. (4) (12)

Legal Education Centre litigation officer Mrs Dolly Mokgatle said a memorandum had been sent to State President FW de Klerk in his capacity as a trustee of the South African Development Trust which controls the estate. *Sowetan 10/8/90*

They want a meeting to discuss wages and conditions of service at Africa's biggest citrus estate.

The Pietersburg organiser for the National Council of Trade Unions, Mr Mos Mphahlele, said the Anti-Apartheid Movement (City Group) in London was to stage a one-hour picket at South Africa house, Trafalgar Square London, today.

# Dismissal follows favouritism

<sup>South 9/8 - 15/8/90</sup>  
GRAHAMSTOWN.— A strike by more than 500 Harvestime workers in Port Elizabeth has ended after management dismissed a white supervisor who was practising favouritism.

The workers, organised under the Food Workers Council of South Africa, embarked on strike action last week after management delayed taking action against supervisor Mr H de Klerk for clocking

in the work cards of two workers who were not at work.

The union organiser, Mr Elliot Nzolwana, said the workers complained that De Klerk favoured workers who were not members of the union and clocked in the workers for this reason.

The workers then approached their shopstewards to lodge a grievance with management because other workers were dismissed for doing exactly what De Klerk had done.

When management failed to respond a week after the grievance was lodged workers decided to embark on a sit-in strike because they felt management was trying to avoid taking action against De Klerk.

The strike was called off on Friday after a hearing where it was decided that De Klerk should be dismissed. — A/A

*ONT TIME 9/8/90 (4)*  
**1 500 on strike at Zebediela**

PIETERSBURG. — Africa's largest citrus estate, Zebediela, came to a standstill yesterday when more than 1 500 members of the National Union of Farmworkers went on strike. The workers are demanding an immediate wage increase of 50% across the board, a minimum wage of R400 per month, the completion of negotiations on a new contract of employment and the recognition of their trade union.

Reports by Sapa.

CH 1000 4/8/90 (4) (10)

## Strike: Meat price 'to remain stable'

Staff Reporter

MEAT prices in the Western Cape are not expected to rise dramatically over the next week, even though a Maitland abattoir has been unable to meet huge wholesale demands following the dismissal of about 300 of its striking workers on Thursday morning.

This was said by Blue Ribbon Meat Corporation general manager Mr Malcolm Simpson, who said Pick 'n Pay's 26 Western Cape outlets would have enough meat to last the weekend, after which they would be stocked with carcasses trucked from the Transvaal.

Asked how much meat Blue Ribbon had bought from the Cape Slaughtering abattoir yesterday, Mr Simpson replied: "None."

"If the strike continues till next Wednesday we could be in trouble. Hopefully the abattoir and the union will sort out the problem, otherwise there could be a drastic price increase," Mr Simpson said.

Checkers consumer executive Ms Theresa Erasmus said the giant retail chain did not foresee any problems at this stage, and that "a problem will only depend on the duration of the strike".

Cape Times 3/5/90

# Meat prices rocket after 300 abattoir men sacked

By PETER DENNEHY

RED meat prices have rocketed in the Western Cape in the wake of the sacking of 300 wildcat strikers at the Maitland abattoir.

A spokesman for Cape Slaughtering confirmed yesterday that about 300 of the company's 420 workers were fired yesterday morning for going on an illegal strike over wages.

Mr Ted Doman, PRO for the City council, which owns and runs the abattoir, said between 600 and 700 cattle were normally slaughtered every day, and between 5 000 and 6 000 sheep.

But yesterday the expected figures were 32 cattle and 1 000 sheep, Mr Doman said.

Mr Malcolm Simpson, general manager of Blue Ribbon fresh meat centres in the Western Cape, said lamb prices at the wholesalers' auction had already risen from R6,50 a kilogram on Monday to R7,50 yesterday.

A striking worker said the strike revolved around nine weeks of backdated wages.

"We got an increase from June 1, but management said they would keep the wages back for a certain time. Then last week they said they would only give us R120 each for the backdated pay, and if we don't accept it, it will be nothing. It was supposed to be more.

"Our lowest wages had been R115 a week before the rise, and they were brought up to R150."

A management spokesman said workers had rejected a written wage agreement reached two months ago between themselves and management and negotiated through the Food and Allied Workers' Union.

He could not confirm rumours that a new team of slaughterers would be brought in from Johannesburg — even at the risk of upsetting non-striking workers into extending the strike.

"We will be planning as we go along," he said.

Farmers' union in-  
stand on land issue

GERALD REILLY (4)

PRETORIA — The SA  
Agricultural Union is op-  
posed to any re-allocation  
of farmlands through na-  
tionalisation, confiscation  
or expropriation which  
might follow a new consti-  
tutional dispensation.

This was said yesterday  
by union President Nico  
Kotze after a meeting of  
the union's general council.

The meeting followed a  
referendum to determine  
affiliates' views on the is-  
sue. 6/Day 2/890



The congress was the first since

## Action in Oudtshoorn

From MAKHAYA MANI (1)  
OUDTSHOORN. — About 100 workers at an ostrich leather factory here are continuing with their strike over the alleged "unfair" dismissal of 20 of their colleagues. (4)

The Oudtshoorn Agricultural Cooperation workers went on strike two weeks ago after their colleagues were allegedly dismissed for leaving their jobs without permission. 50-218-88/90

The workers claim they left the factory, fearing the Oudtshoorn municipality would carry out its threat to evict families who are refusing to buy homes they have been renting for years.

The municipality has confirmed that, due to poor condition, homes in the Toekomsrus are now up for sale.

Meanwhile, about 17 bus drivers in the town went on strike last week to protest against the poor condition of buses.

"We are no longer prepared to drive people over these mountains in buses which are in such a bad state," said a driver who asked not to be named.

A company spokesperson has refused to comment on the workers demands.

Sowetan 1/8/70

## Protest march against ruling

By MATHATA TSEDU

WORKERS at Zebediela Citrus Estate are to march on the office of the Department of Development Aid in Pietersburg to demand the scrapping of a proclamation prohibiting dealings between management and trade unions.

This resolution was taken at a meeting of workers at the weekend.

The workers, who are members of the Nactu affiliated National Union of Farmworkers, also resolved to suspend strike action planned for next Monday. (4)

The suspension of the planned strike came after management offered to open talks with worker representatives this week instead of at the end of the month.

The talks, to negotiate a new contract of employment, begin in Pretoria tomorrow, according to Nactu's regional organiser Mr Mos Mphahlele.

### Talks

The workers resolved that proclamation R84 of 1970, which was quoted by management at a meeting two years ago as a stumbling block to direct talks with the union, had to be scrapped.

Meanwhile, about 80 members of the Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers of South Africa, employed by NTY in Pietersburg, have been dismissed following enquiries made by a representative over alleged continued retrenchments.

Nactu's Pietersburg organiser, Mr Theophilus Ramalamula, said yesterday that 18 workers had been retrenched in two separate actions since the beginning of the year.

Efforts to get comment from management were unsuccessful.

Also in Pietersburg, more than 3 000 members of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa employed by Tempest International in Seshego have been on strike for more than 14 days, demanding higher wages.

# Strikebreakers sent home after protesting against conditions

By GLENDA DANIELS

WORKERS brought in from the northern Cape to break the Zebediela Citrus strike were sent home after protesting about their conditions, the National Union of Farmworkers said yesterday.

Moses Mphahlele, regional organiser of the NUFW, said the Cape workers had lodged a protest at the Pietersburg police station about the "slavery conditions" at Zebediela. They were then sent home.

He said earlier company plans to bring in Mozambican refugees to break the strike had not materialised.

Management could not be contacted for comment yesterday.

The Weekly Mail was told that Zebedie-

la spokesman Cornel van Rooyen was unavailable.

Mphahlele said the failure to resolve the three-week dispute meant oranges were rotting on the trees at the estate.

The current strike involves about 1 500 workers and is the second to hit the company in a year.

Management of the estate, a project of the parastatal development corporation STK, argues that the exclusion of farmworkers from the scope of the Labour Relations Act prevents management from granting union recognition.

Also at issue are wages — the workers are demanding a minimum wage of R500 — and the renegotiation of employment contracts.

# Saldanha's bitter harvest

THE threatened boycott of a West Coast town festival has highlighted the rift between white and black residents in many coastal towns in the Cape.

A conference of fish industry workers organised by the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) last week decided to call for a boycott of the Saldanha "Harvest of the Sea" Festival this weekend on the grounds that the town's black community, largely employed by the fishing industry, has "no cause to celebrate".

"Workers in the fishing industry cannot see any reason to be festive," said Fawu spokesperson Mr Nossy Pieterse.

"They are experiencing the depletion of our country's marine resources, low wages, poor working conditions and re-butchments."

### Popular

While Fawu gears up for a boycott, on the other side of town the festival committee, oblivious to the protest call, is steeing itself for an influx of more than 25 000 tourists.

The festival, the sixth of its kind in the normally sedate town, is popular with white farmers from inland.

According to a festival committee organiser, the two-day event is intended to publicise the town and give people the chance to have fun.

"The disparity between Saldanha's black and white community is not unique to the town.

Delegates to Fawu's conference came from a range of Cape coastal towns, including luxury holiday resorts like Houtbaai and other residential areas like Hout Bay — itself the scene of a festival boycott last year — where squatter settlements are steadily intruding on the scenic valley's palatial homes.

Now Fawu intends mobilising workers in these towns. A series of rallies as well as a march in central Cape Town is scheduled to take place next month from St Helena to Plettenberg Bay.



CHILDREN'S FEAST: The rights of children were highlighted at the colourful, fun-filled International Children's Day Festival in Maynardville last Saturday

## Mandela to address PE youth on negotiations

From XOLA SIGONVELA

PORT ELIZABETH — ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela is due to address a regional conference on negotiations organised by the South African Youth Congress (Sayco) in Port Elizabeth this weekend.

Sayco has invited a range of youth groups, including those opposed to negotiations, to the conference. ANC security chief, Mr Joe Ntshahla, will also attend.

A Sayco spokesperson said preparations were being made to accommodate more than 1 000 delegates from all centres of the Eastern Cape.

He said invitations had been sent to all fraternal organisations, and positive feed-

back had been received.

"What we want is the youth from other groupings to seek clarification from the ANC leadership on negotiations."

Other issues to be discussed during the conference include the role of the youth during the negotiations process.

Areas expected to send delegates include the Albany zone, Great Karoo, Port Elizabeth and the Midlands district.

According to the spokesperson, invitations had been sent to the Azanian Students Movement (Azaso), Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu), Azanian Youth Organisation (Azyo), Pan Africanist Students Organisation (Pasoo) and the Democratic Party Youth. — PEV

## Amnesty

SowL 27/9 - 3/10/90

### FROM PAGE ONE

Support Group, was intended to coincide with De Klerk's visit in the US.

"In spite of the Pretoria Minute, security prisons are still full of people and political trials are still going on around the country," said Mr Jeremy Venter, one of the Group's coordinators.

MONO BADELA reports from Johannesburg that the delay in the release of political prisoners is one of the hottest issues to be discussed at the launch of the ANC in the PWV region this weekend.

Several ANC branches in the area have submitted strong motions about the issue and ANC spokesperson Ms Barbara Hogan said the issue would almost certainly be included in a programme of action.

Hogan said there was "outlet anger" about the slow rate of releases as well as continued detentions.

Dr Max Coleman of the Human Rights Commission said the government was "dragging its feet".

# Landmark Congress for Nactu

SowL 27/9 - 3/10/90

By CHIARA CARTER

A CONGRESS likely to have far-reaching significance for the labour movement is taking place in

participation in the national Manpower Commission, redistribution of wealth and the merger of affiliates to form strong industrial unions — a move resisted by some unions who fear losing their inde-

# 'Wall of death' fishing controversy flares anew

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE controversy over gill-nets has flared anew, with several conservation organisations attacking Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé for his remarks about a trade union campaign against the wasteful fishing method.

Mr Kotzé said last week the campaign by the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) against Taiwanese gill-netters was based partly on misinformation and ignorance.

He also denied that he and the government were "slack" towards the use of gill-nets.

## FATAL FLAW

"Together with a few other countries, South Africa is at the spearhead of an international attempt to stop this unacceptable and destructive fishing method," he said.

But veteran marine conservationist Mrs Nan Rice has hit out at anti-gill-net legislation, saying the permit system which allowed gill-netters to dock in South African ports was a fatal flaw.

She has been supported by the Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa which said it was "extremely discon-

certed" to note that — despite a claim by Mr Kotzé that no gill-netters would be allowed in South African ports after July 31 — permits had been issued to Taiwanese vessels with gill-nets to dock in Cape Town until the end of the year.

"The minister must take a firm stand on this matter — either he sticks by his word, or admits that he only acts when expedient and has no intention of upholding South Africa's so-called 'firm' stand against gill-netting", the statement said.

## MIGRATORY STOCKS

Both Mrs Rice and Earthlife have called for anti-gill-netting legislation similar to South Africa's anti-whaling laws of the 1970s which made it an offence for South African nationals to work aboard whalers or for any support to be given to such vessels.

In another statement, the Cape Town Ecology Group said it was "disappointed" by Mr Kotzé's reaction to the Fawu/Cosatu campaign.

"Gill-netting poses a definite threat, particularly to migratory stocks such as tuna.

"We believe that in such a situation the only suitable policy is extreme caution, which means *no* commercial fishing until any possible risk can be contained."

# Taiwan clampdown on wall-of-death nets

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

STRICTER measures against the use of gill nets on Taiwanese trawlers in South African waters and plans to compensate the families of South African seamen maimed by frostbite have been announced.

Consul Mr Tom Chou made this announcement after a trade union Press conference highlighted the use of the nets and the maiming of 38 South African crewmen by frostbite-related injuries.

A joint call was made by the Congress of South African Trade Unions and its affiliate, the Food and Allied Workers' Union, urging Taiwanese businesses to withdraw from the country. It was also stressed that many of the injured would not be able to do manual work again.

## New regulations

Mr Chou said Taiwan's new regulations prohibited the use of gill nets on newly built fishing vessels.

"We forbid any gill-net fishing vessels to enter the Atlantic Ocean and any other country's economic zone.

"If anyone violates our regulations we will severely penalise them by suspending the vessel's licence for two years.

"We are encouraging our fishing vessels to use long-line methods. The government is offering a subsidy to those shipowners who have changed."

It intended to compensate the families of maimed crewmen. "Even after the government's assistance, the injured South African crew are still eligible to claim proper compensation from the shipowner.

"In order to prevent or decrease this kind of injury, we suggest every South African crew member should undergo training to learn to protect himself while working in very low temperatures.

## "No discrimination"

"We will teach captains and officers to adequately protect the novice crew. We intend seeking legal advice so that the responsibility of safeguard rests on both the employer and the employee.

"We would also like to clarify that there is no discrimination on board our vessels. If any crew member is injured he is given proper medical treatment.

"We are also investigating the possibility of obtaining insurance cover for all seamen so they can get adequate compensation if injured on board the vessels.

"It will then be stipulated that all claims from crew will be dealt with only through this channel."

CALL-TIME  
rsday, September 20 1968



# Taiwan warns of R50m trade loss

CAPE TOWN could lose a staggering R50 million a year if Taiwanese trawler owners, plagued by bad publicity over gill-netting and dangerous shipboard conditions, stopped using South African ports, a Taiwanese consular official warned yesterday.

Mr Tom Chou, the Cape Town-based consul for fishing affairs, was responding to inquiries about the economic impact of the public outcry surrounding Taiwanese trawlers.

And, according to Mr Chou, an "embarrassing misunderstanding" seemed to have arisen regarding an earlier statement that the Taiwanese government would compensate the families of some 40 frostbitten sailors.

Claims for compensation would still have to be pursued via the South African civil courts, he said.

"However, on the basis of humanitarian grounds and the good

relations between the two countries, the Taiwanese government would like to offer them something as a token of goodwill."

He confirmed an invitation by the Food and Allied Workers Union to discuss the impact of gill-netting on local fish resources and jobs, and compensation for frostbitten sailors, but said he was still waiting for official permission to hold a meeting.

"I cannot say if the (Taiwanese) government will give the go-ahead."

He nonetheless sincerely wished to see a solution to the problems associated with gill-netters and their crews.

Public outrage at the persistent use of the "wall of death" gill-netting method by Taiwanese trawlers, and the plight of South African sailors disabled by frostbite while working on these boats, had already prompted some skippers to shun local ports, he said.

"Bad publicity has already

seen some vessels going to Mauritius, instead of Table Bay Harbour, which they actually wish to use."

Besides being equipped with superior harbour facilities, Cape Town was strategically placed between the Far Eastern Republic of China and the rich squid grounds off the Falkland Islands in the southern Atlantic.

Between November and March, fleets of up to 150 Taiwanese squid boats plied between Taiwan and the Falklands fishing grounds, docking in Cape Town for supply and bunkering purposes.

"Last year, 329 vessels passed through Table Bay harbour, taking on fuel, seeking repairs and being resupplied. Each boat had, on average, a crew of 25. For that year alone, the presence of these vessels was worth R50m for Cape Town.

"Given the economic impact of our vessels entering the harbour, both sides benefit," said Mr Chou. — Sapa

# Fawu campaign continues

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is proceeding with its fishing industry campaign despite an accusation by the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, that the union was ill-informed. Last week Fawu called for

the withdrawal of Taiwanese businesses from South Africa and claimed that gill-netting vessels from the Far East were depleting South African fishing reserves. In response, Kotze pointed to stringent legislation making it an offence for gill-netting vessels to enter SA ports without a permit and providing for heavy fines for

those who defied the law.

A joint statement issued by Fawu and Cosatu this week said that it was not true to say that gill-net fishing had been outlawed. More than 100 vessels had been given permits to enter SA ports this year, they claimed. (4)

The statement said if the government was serious about ending gill-net fishing, then it should remove the permit system and make it illegal for South Africans to work on gill-netters.

While Kotze last week claimed the fishing industry was showing healthy growth, Fawu says the opposite was happening.

The union said about 25 trawlers were being auctioned off with about 170 fishermen losing their jobs, while more than 250 workers are to be retrenched from several companies. (5)

The union claimed that pilchard and anchovy resources were nearly depleted and the same was likely to happen to tuna. (6)

## Severe injuries

The union is to meet Taiwanese government representatives on Friday to discuss compensation for the more than 30 workers who have suffered severe injuries as a result of being forced to work for protracted periods without adequate protection in the freezer compartments of Taiwanese trawlers.

The union also intends to meet with Kotze.

Fawu is holding a fishing industry conference in Cape Town this week and is planning several marches later this month.

The union has said its members at local and West Coast factories will refuse



# Kotze knocks Cosatu briefing

CAH-T 14/9/90  
By DANIEL SIMON

COSATU and the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) have been criticised by Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze for making "numerous" unfounded allegations and untrue statements over the "exploitation" of SA's marine resources by foreign fishing fleets.

Mr Kotze was referring to a press briefing called by Fawu and Cosatu on Tuesday, during which they outlined a strategy to protest against the over-exploitation of SA's marine reserves and

the abuse of SA seamen working on Taiwanese fishing trawlers.

Mr Kotze said the Fawu and Cosatu statements dealt with a wide range of topics — some of which had no simple answers.

"It is clear to me they are not fully informed on all the aspects. The Department of Environment Affairs and I follow an open-door policy and the Fawu and Cosatu are welcome to discuss matters of concern with us in detail."

He added that despite the impression that he and the SA government were perceived to be

"slack" over the use of gill nets, quite the opposite was the case.

Dolphin Action and Protection Group secretary Mrs Nan Rice said that until Regulation 69 (1) (:2) of the Sea Fisheries Act no 50, which permitted the use of gill nets was scrapped, nobody could take Mr Kotze's good intentions seriously.

Meanwhile, Fawu has expressed scepticism over the Taiwanese government's offer to compensate frostbitten sailors and wants to meet local representatives of the country.

ARCUS 14/9/90

# Cosatu, Fawu 'misinformed' about gill nets

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE campaign by the Food and Allied Workers Union and the Congress of South African Trade Unions against Taiwanese gill netters is based partly on misinformation and ignorance, says Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Kotzé said he and his department had an "open door policy" and that Fawu and Cosatu were welcome to discuss the issue with them.

Mr Kotzé took exception to a media release by Fawu and Costu this week when they launched their campaign, which included a call to their members to refuse to handle fish caught with gill nets.

### "UNFOUNDED"

"(The statement) teemed with so many unfounded allegations and simply untrue statements that it is clear their information and insight leave much to be desired.

"Their statement dwells on a wide range of topics, some of which have no simple answers, and it is clear to me that they are not fully informed."

Mr Kotzé said South Africa had introduced a ban on the use of gill nets ("Walls of Death") within its fishing zone

which stretches up to 360km from the coast.

"Despite the impression the media release may have conveyed that the government and myself are slack towards the use of gill (drift) nets, quite the opposite is true.

"Together with a few other countries, South Africa is at the spearhead of an international attempt to stop this unacceptable and destructive fishing method," Mr Kotzé said.

● Fawu has expressed scepticism at the Taiwanese government's offer to compensate frost-bitten South African sailors and wants to meet its representatives, Sapa reports.

### PROTECTION

It also wants to meet South African officials to discuss legal protection for off-shore workers, the "crisis in the fishing industry" and "future Taiwanese investments", Fawu spokesman Mr Nosey Pieterse said yesterday.

Mr Tom Chou, Taiwan's consulate-general in Cape Town, announced on Wednesday his government would "remunerate" the families of South African sailors disabled by frost-bite. His government would also severely penalise any gill-netting trawlers which fished in other country's economic zones, he said.

FARM CO-OPS

FIM 14/9/90

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# INVESTIGATING A HORNET'S NEST

The R22bn a year co-operative movement, created to serve farmers and to finance their crops and inputs, is increasingly seen as the tail that wags the dog. The Competition Board's report on the Oostelike Transvaal Ko-op (OTK) (*Leaders* August 31), lifts the lid on their operations.

As in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, farmers have become the victims of



De Villiers



Tager

a socialist system devised originally to "protect" them against the vagaries of the market. And they dare not complain too loudly, as they lay themselves open to victimisation by the all-powerful co-op managements.

The board's report found that many of their restrictive practices are legal and the only way to change the status quo would be through deregulation.

Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers' response, that a new Co-operative Act would not materialise before 1994, revealed a lack of commitment to resolving one of agriculture's most intractable problems.

As long ago as 1967, government's Steenkamp Commission on the co-op movement found the Act needed to be drastically amended in order to eliminate the sweeping powers that had evolved, often against the interests of farmers. But none of the commission's recommendations were accepted.

Now that more and more complaints against the invidious system are surfacing, government is rethinking the matter. Harmful Business Practices Committee chairwoman Louise Tager says she will investigate whether the Act allows practices that may prejudice consumers. "No part of the economy falls outside the ambit of the investigative powers granted by the Act. If any such practices are evident, my committee will recommend deregulatory changes."

Economic Co-ordination & Restructuring Minister Wim de Villiers has also received a copy of the board's report and has been asked to look into applying the

deregulatory powers contained in the Temporary Removal of Restrictions on Economic Activities Act. And the Agricultural Economics Liaison Committee, comprising Agriculture, Treasury and Land Bank officials, is also looking at co-ops.

Meanwhile, the registrar of co-ops is studying the implications of the board's report, with a view to recommending changes to the Act to Agriculture Minister de Villiers. In addition, a Unisa academic has been seconded to look into possible changes to the Act.

The board's report highlights unacceptable and anti-competition practices operated by OTK and other co-ops, such as:

- Writing off declared bonuses against tax assessments. In the OTK's case, only 25% of these bonuses are in fact paid out to members. The rest are, effectively, a tax-free "loan" from its members, whether they like it or not. By declaring all its profits as bonuses, the co-op pays no tax. In the case of companies, dividends can be declared only on after-tax profits;
  - Using subsidised financing from the Land Bank, not only to finance farmers, but also for vertical integration into operations such as feedlots, broilers, tractor assembly or milling — often in direct competition with its own members — and the private sector, which doesn't have equal access to cheap finance;
  - Using its lien over farmers' crop proceeds to squeeze out the commercial banking sector from recovering its debts; and
  - Preventing farmers from obtaining competitively priced inputs from other sources, because the co-ops control farmers' purse-strings and will not finance outside purchases. Especially where farmers are deeply in hock to the co-ops, they dare not rock the boat; management can sell them out.
- Abuses of power are not freely spoken about, but a few examples show the distorting effects of the powers that can be used by unscrupulous co-op managers — all made possible and legal by the Act:

□ In the case of tobacco producers, the Marketing Act has allowed a system in which sales can be handled only by the Tobacco Board — unlike "socialist" Zimbabwe, where tobacco farmers freely sell their produce to buyers from across the globe at the open Harare auctions. With co-ops acting as agents for the board, the farmer is at the mercy of the co-op official who grades and prices the produce. Farmers who are not favoured may find that all or some of their crop is "condemned" or under-graded. There is no appeal and no referee;

□ Under a ruling by a previous agriculture minister, only the Klein Karoo Ko-op (KKK) at Oudtshoorn can slaughter, process and market ostriches — no farmer is allowed to sell tanned or cured skins to clamouring buyers in Europe and elsewhere. If farmers were allowed, profits could be doubled.

"The KKK recently built an R18m abattoir at Oudtshoorn — but it is used only two days a week," says a source who asked not to be named. "So the costs have to be recovered from its members, who can do nothing about the matter unless the Co-op Act is deregulated. And, while the KKK pays its members about R850 for each live bird, cured skins alone can be sold for about R1 200 on the European market."

While ostrich farmers are not allowed to sell produce directly into world markets, ostrich farming in Bophuthatswana and Zimbabwe, where no such restrictions exist, is booming. Says another source: "Essentially, we have a communist system in SA."

*Arnold van Huyssteen*



Down on the farm... everything is not OK

# Compensation for hurt SA seamen

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

THE Taiwanese government is to make funds available to "remunerate" seamen who suffered frostbite injuries and will "severely penalise" any fishermen using gill nets in another country's economic zone.

The consulate-general of the Republic of China yesterday issued a statement responding to Cosatu's campaign to put a stop to the "gross" exploitation by Taiwanese vessels of South African workers and the marine ecology.

The campaign is a result of at least 38 trawlermen suffering frostbite-related injuries, many of them losing all or some of their fingers after allegedly being forced to work in the freezer compartments of foreign vessels.

About 32 former crewmen of Taiwanese vessels have institut-

ed legal claims for loss of digits, pain, suffering, medical expenses and future loss of earnings.

At a press conference on Tuesday, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) called for an immediate withdrawal of Taiwanese businesses from the country.

The Taiwanese statement, issued by the consul, Mr Tom Chou, said that "availability of funds" for the injured seamen "will be announced soon".

The Taiwanese government also said it would teach the captains and officers of Taiwanese vessels "to adequately protect the novice crew".

"In order to prevent or decrease this kind of injury, we suggest every South African crew undergo training to learn to protect themselves while working in very low temperatures.

"We are also investigating the

possibility of obtaining insurance cover for all seamen, so that they can receive adequate compensation if injured on board the vessels."

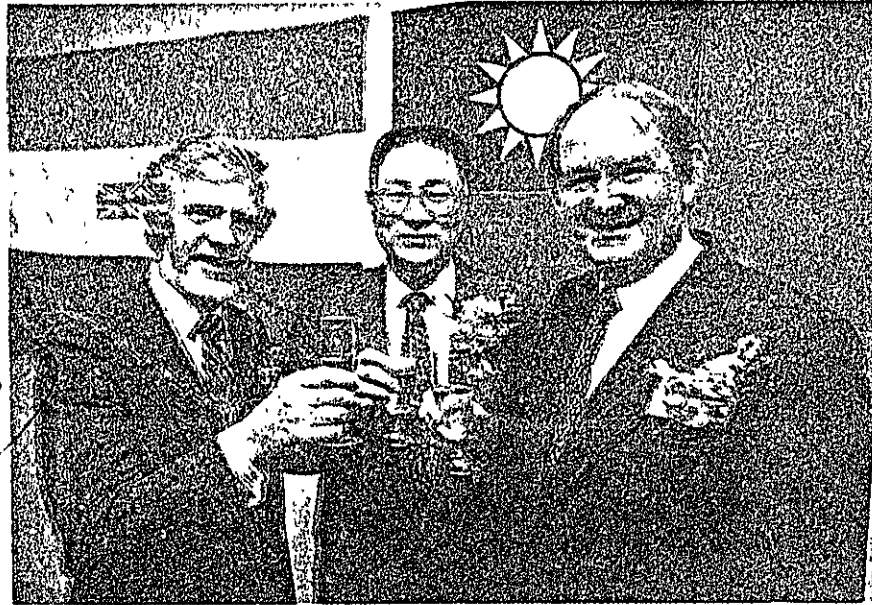
At the press conference, Fawu said its members would refuse to handle any gill-netted tuna. They quoted experts as saying that gill nets would "exhaust all our resources" within the next three years.

In reply, Mr Chou said: "We forbid any gill-net fishing vessels to enter the Atlantic Ocean, and any other country's economic zone.

"If any one violates our regulations, we will severely penalise them, that is suspend the vessel for two years.

"We are encouraging our fishing vessels to use long-line fishing methods, and for this the government is offering a subsidy to those ship owners who have changed," he said.

CMT  
Tais  
13/9/90  
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[Handwritten scribble]



**CHEERS . . .** A Chinese Seamen's Club was officially opened in the docks yesterday. From left: The Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Gordon Oliver, the Mayor of Kaohsiung in Taiwan, Mr P Wu, and the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, toast its success.

Picture: OBED ZILWA

## Club for Chinese seamen

Staff Reporter

A CHINESE Seamen's Club was opened in the docks yesterday to offer an alternative to "wine and women", according to Mr Tom Chou, Republic of China consul.

"We wanted to provide a proper place where the seamen could be entertained," he said.

The club, in the heart of the docklands, has cost the Taiwanese government R1,2 million to set up.

Seamen will be able to treat the club as a hotel, but they will not be able to take women there, said Mr Chou. International telephone booths have

been installed.

Last year 658 Chinese vessels arrived in Cape Town with 25 seamen on board each vessel.

The club was a combined effort of the fishing industry, the Taiwanese government and Port Net, said the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring.

"Co-operation between South Africa and the Republic of China is very good. There have been a few hitches with the gill nets, but I believe that is now sorted out. It is of the utmost importance to strengthen the ties between our two countries," said Mr Meiring.

# Stench, squalor - way of life in Zebediela

Sowetan  
13/9/90

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By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE scene is at Zebediela, Africa's largest citrus estate. It is also a residential compound to many black workers.

About 10 women queue in a row to relieve themselves in a trench. Rain drops filter through the roofless structure.

Behind the trench, people fill their water containers from the only tap available. Flies and mosquitoes buzz from the trench.

The workers have been on strike since August 8, demanding higher wages and improvement in their living and working conditions.

They have also been striving for a recognition of their trade union.

Today they are set to march on President FW de Klerk's office in Pretoria to present a memorandum about their work place.

Zebediela nestles under small koppies about 60km north east of Potgietersrust. From the vantage point on the main road linking Lebowaqgomo with the town, the view below is quiet inviting.

In spring, the green vegetation of the orange trees contrast with the last harvest of ripe oranges and the blossoming crop, to create a scene, good enough to evoke a poetic reaction.

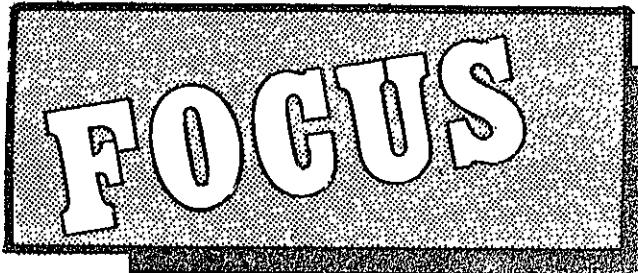
## Conditions

But, as you move in to be confronted by the squalor, the poverty and the dilapidated houses for the workers, coupled with the cry from the heart by workers who say they cannot survive on R120 per month, the poetry changes from the *Daffodils* of William Wordsworth to the lament of Ingoapele Madingoane.

Here are conditions that are reminiscent of the medieval times.

More than 15 000 workers are housed in rondavels whose roofs are easily penetrated by the drops of rain.

A study of the conditions at the estate, commissioned by the Black Lawyers Association (BLA), and



carried out by the Pretoria-based industrial relations expert Mr Louis Khumalo, claimed that management had refused to meet even the most basic worker demands over a long period.

Repeated appeals by workers, as documented in minutes of several meetings, for the installation of a communal tap have been turned down by the management, who instead suggested that "employees get their water for domestic use from a tap which was being used to flush the trench toilets, where there are large green flies", the reports states.

Khumalo found that "critical matters such as the renovation of houses was postponed at every meeting for over six months and finally disappeared from the agenda".

He also found that the system of employment and wage determination was "totally mixed up, and combined factors which were divorced from each other". These include:

- \* Payment for days worked per month, leading to what is known as the long month - with 23 days - and the short month - with 21 days.

- \* Quotas of orange bags to be sealed which are determined by the variety and age of the trees.

- \* Probation periods which are not monitored, leading to workers remaining at a probation wage scale of R7.13 per day for over a year.

- \* Discrimination based on race and sex, with whites living in unbelievable luxury, only a stone's throw away from the black squalor.

- \* Although the official working hours are from 6am to

4.30pm, most workers work up to 9pm on a regular basis.

Khumalo also found that a wage increase, implemented unilaterally in April had been unanimously rejected by the workers. But their protests were ignored by management.

After describing the conditions of houses, where men, women and their children sleep on bare floors in huts highly-infested with cockroaches, Khumalo said he took a walk to orchards.

## Increases

"They are 90 percent cleaner than the black residential areas".

The estate is run by the South African Development Trust, a division of the Department of Development Aid. The State President is the trustee of the SADT.

The workers went on strike last year demanding wage increases and union recognition.

After a month of bitter war, which left many injured after police and their dogs were called in, and after a successful Supreme Court application by the workers, management agreed to a R30 increase for all.

The Supreme Court also ordered that a new contract of employment be negotiated between management and the worker representatives.

The management has, however, refused to deal with the workers union, the Nactu-affiliated National Union of Farm Workers.

This has meant that all negotiations had to be done through lawyers, paid by the BLA.

The new contract of employment was to have been concluded

before the end of October last year but management did not respond to requests for meetings, according to BLA litigation officer and instructing attorney, Mrs Dolly Mokgatle.

Workers saw this as a result of the fact that picking season was still far and a strike at the time was not only out of question but would have been ineffective.

After a strike this year, Mrs Mokgatle sent a memo to De Klerk asking him to intervene or meet the worker representatives, to discuss the matter.

So far no response has been forthcoming from the state president's office.

De Klerk's Press secretary told Sowetan last Friday that he was not aware of the memo.

The workers are demanding a minimum wage increase of 60 percent across the board, R500 per month, a new contract of employment and the recognition of their union.

The strike has received international support from the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London, which has mounted pickets outside the South African Embassy.

Union official, Mr Moss Mphahlele, said the union was today also launching a campaign against oranges.

## Support

"We want people to ask themselves whether eating oranges, produced under such conditions when the workers are on strike is support for the workers or for management.

"Naturally we want people to support our workers and we are marching to de Klerk to say to him 'show us your reform at Zebediela,'" he added.

Whether this will result in any significant change to the conditions of the workers is a matter for discussion.

But what is beyond question, is the fact that history will be made today when this large group of workers, will confront the Head of State to demand what is rightfully theirs.

# Seshego goes off oranges

*Sumela  
17/10/90*

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ORANGES and drinks derived from oranges will no longer be sold at Seshego township shops as from next Monday, according to an agreement reached between the Seshego Chamber of Commerce and the National Council of Trade Unions.

The ban on oranges is in support of the striking Zebediela Citrus Estate workers who are demanding higher wages. SCC chairman Mr AB Kekana, said after a briefing by Nactu officials on Monday night, that his organisation pledged full support for the strikers.

"We were shocked to hear of the slave wages and the horrible conditions under which the workers have to live. Our chamber was even more horrified by the evictions carried last week which resulted in women and babies sleeping in the open."

"Our members will sell off the stock that they have this week but will not replenish stocks of any drinks that contain oranges. We are to hold an emergency general meeting on Wednesday evening to look into the matter and also to see whether there is any other assistance we can offer to

## BY MATHATHA TSEDU

the Zebediela workers," Kekana said.

The orange boycott call also received unanimous support from a historic meeting of organisations held at the Seshego Community Hall on Monday to discuss the education crisis.

## Boycott

The ANC, Azapo, Sayco, Azayo, Azasm, Cosas, Seshego Education Watchdog Committee, Seshego Civic Association, Seshego Taxi Association, Seshego Traders Association, Cosatu and Nactu, interrupted their programme to endorse the call for the boycott of oranges.

The organisations further called on the informal business sectors such as spaza shops and street vendors to join the call and stop selling the affected drinks and fruit.



Second year BA Vista University student, Michael Nkitsing (second from left), was over the moon when he received a R800 cheque from Sebokeng Chamber of Commerce and Industries' president, Solomon Sithleng (wearing spectacles). Sharing Nkitsing's happiness are Abe Lehoko, treasurer, and Abe Lehoko, assistant secretary.

# 'Farmer hit me,' says labourer

CAL TEL'S 13/10/90

(4)

## Court Reporter

A 78-YEAR-OLD farm labourer, stomach cancer patient and tuberculosis sufferer yesterday in Stellenbosch Magistrate's Court described how a farm manager attacked him with a pick-axe handle.

Mr Johannes Beukes, wearing hospital pygamas and a nightcap, was giving evidence in the trial of Mr Rudolf Rix, 25, on three charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and one of culpable homicide.

Mr Rix, manager of Watergang Farm which forms part of the Koopmankloof Wine Estate near Stellenbosch, has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Another labourer, 36-year-old Mr Charlie Thompson, is alleged to have died of multiple injuries received in an assault on him by Mr Rix with a pick-axe handle.

Mr Beukes told the court he had been to a doctor on May 18 last year and went to bed when he returned to his labourers' cottage late that afternoon.

"I woke up when I was hit. Mr Rix asked me why I was not working. Without waiting for a reply, he hit me over the arm. He then hit me across the chest and stomach."

Mr Beukes said that before that he had sent several messages to Mr Rix informing him of his illness.

The frail-looking labourer, who has lived and worked at Watergang for the past five years, said he had gone to hospital the day after the assault, and received treatment for a "very painful" and bruised arm.

Under cross-examination by Mr Francis Murray, counsel for Mr Rix, Mr Beukes conceded that Mr Rix's youth and strength as opposed to his own ill-health and

old age would have made it "easy" for Mr Rix to hurt him if he had "really wanted to".

Mr Murray put it to Mr Beukes that at the time his common-law wife, Mrs Dinah Fredericks, 64, had been "interfering" with Mr Rix and stabbing at him with a small pocket knife and that Mr Rix hit him across the arm by accident while trying to fend off his "cheeky" wife.

Mr Beukes conceded his wife was cheeky but denied that she had been in the room during the alleged assault.

The hearing was adjourned to November 6 for further evidence by Mrs Fredericks.

On Thursday she told the court that after the alleged beating Mr Rix had pulled a bloodied pick-axe handle from his overall jacket and told her he had already killed eight people with it.

The magistrate was Mr D Cronje and Mr M Louwrens was the prosecutor.



# Labourer's <sup>12/10/90</sup> death: Farm <sup>(4)</sup> manager on trial

By CLIVE SAWYER  
Tygerberg Bureau

WITNESSES in the trial of a Stellenbosch farm manager on charges of culpable homicide and assault have described alleged pickhandle attacks on four labourers, one of whom died.

Mr Rudolf Donald Rix, 25, of Watergang Farm, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Charlie Thompson and not guilty to charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Mr Andrew Thompson, Mr Godfrey Williams and Mr Johannes Beukes.

Constable May Frans September told Stellenbosch Regional Court yesterday that he went to Watergang Farm on May 18 last year accompanied by another policeman.

Mr Rix, holding a pickhandle, took him to a labourer's house where he found two injured men, one lying on a bed, the other on the floor.

"He told us they had wanted to assault him," Constable September said.

## Loss of blood

Ambulanceman Mr Henry Robertse said he treated Mr Charlie Thompson for head and arm injuries and his brother Andrew for a femur fracture and arm injuries.

He gave Mr Charlie Thompson a drip to promote oxygen circulation because of severe blood-loss.

Andrew was admitted to Stellenbosch Hospital and Charlie was taken to Tygerberg Hospital.

Andrew said he was sleeping in another labourer's house

when he was awakened by blows.

"It was dark when I woke from the blows coming through the window. I could not see who was hitting me," he said.

Mr Rix did not say anything to him during the alleged attack.

## Confused

Cross-examined by Mr F Murray, for Mr Rix, Mr Thompson said he at first thought it was the tenant of the house when he felt the blows.

"Don't you find it strange that he would hit you hard enough to injure you in order to wake you up?" Mr Murray asked.

"No. I woke up because I was injured," Mr Thompson said.

Mr Murray challenged Mr Thompson's evidence that he was confused (deurmekaar) when awakened by the blows.

He had not been confused because he had slept only two hours after drinking, but because of the blows, Mr Thompson said.

Mr Williams said he was sleeping about 50 metres from the house in which the Thompsons were staying, when he was also attacked.

His right arm, legs and ribs were injured and he was in hospital for a month.

The hearing continues.

Mr D Cronje is the magistrate.

Mr M Lourens appears for the State.

## 'Oldest' bird found

NEW YORK. — A 135 million-year-old fossil found in China appears to be that of the oldest known bird that lived in trees and flew. — Sapa-AP.

CH 74/5 12/10/80 (4)

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By EUNICE RIDER  
Court Reporter

# Wife 'saw farmer beat husband, others'

THE wife of a farm labourer yesterday told Stellenbosch Regional Court that she saw a farmer beat her husband and three other labourers — one of whom died of his injuries — with a pick-axe handle where they lay sleeping in a cottage.

Mrs Dinah Fredericks, 64, who was testifying against Mr Rudolf Donald Rix, 25, of the farm Watergang, said that after the attack Mr Rix pulled a blooded pick-axe handle from the inside of his overall jacket and said he had already killed eight people with it.

Mrs Fredericks said she heard a scream on the night of May 18 last year and ran into her shared labourers' cottage to see Mr Rix hit her husband, Mr Johann Wikus, over the stomach. Mr Wikus is in his 70s and has lived at the farm for the past 28 years.

Mr Rix faces a charge of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Charles Thompson, 36, who died of multiple injuries in Tygerberg Hospital, and three charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The state has alleged that he also assaulted Mr Godfrey Williams, 53, and the brother of the dead man, Mr Andrew Thompson, 34.

Mr Rix has pleaded not guilty to all the charges, saying he acted in self-defence. He told the court he was attacked when he went to check whether trespassers had entered the farm.

The trial continues. The magistrates are Mr D Coetzee, Mr M Louwrens was the prosecutor. Mr F Murray appeared for Mr Rix.

# Open letter to FW

Sowetan 12/10/90

Dear Mr FW de Klerk

I am a Sowetan journalist who has been covering the events at Zebediela Citrus Estate for the past two years.

I write to you in your capacity as State President for it is in that capacity also that you are the overall boss at this orange plantation that rakes in millions of rands in foreign exchange for this country.

I am aware that both the union, the National Union of Farmworkers, and their attorneys at the Black Lawyers Association's Legal Education Centre, have sent memos to you asking you to intervene or meet them to hear the cry of the workers who make the millions of rands possible.

I am also aware that workers have taken it upon themselves to march to your office to present their grievances.

As you are, I hope, aware, the workers are on strike.

They earn an average of R120 a month with no extra frills.

They stay in conditions that are no different from the ones that shocked you at Nancefield Hostel, Soweto, when you ventured into the ghetto.

## Proposal

Some of them have been working there for more than 40 years and still earn about R9 a day.

The workers, or should I say your workers, are saying this is too little and they cannot survive on it. They have proposed that the minimum wage be placed at R500 a month.

A man in your position should indeed know that even this is not a living wage by today's standards, thanks to the inflationary policies of your Government.

A request to your line management for discussions on this matter has been rejected by your juniors at the South African Development Trust (SADT) which you head as chief trustee.

They have said plainly, even to me when I inquired in the process of my duties, that they will not discuss wages.

Wages will only be increased as and when management want and the percentages involved will

## COMMENT

be determined by management alone.

A request by the workers to negotiate with your company, has been turned down.

Your company has steadfastly refused to meet and negotiate wages. This, in my understanding, was the attitude that led to the strike which started on August 8 and continues today.

I write to you because I have seen you on television where you expound almost daily on the new South Africa which is to be founded on democratic principles, a new South Africa where people will be respected, a country that will result from negotiations based on mutual respect and human dignity, a South Africa where the resources of the land will be distributed to all without regard to race and colour.

## Dreams

I watched you as you performed in the USA a week or so ago, where you expounded further on your dreams and hopes of seeing South Africa as the survivor of not only Southern Africa, but of Africa as a whole.

I was touched by your description of the hunger and poverty, of the illiteracy and hopelessness of this continent.

But I also wondered whether you were serious or not.

I wondered whether this was another well orchestrated anti-sanctions public relations exercise with no further meaning.

When you said change in this country was irreversible, I asked myself whether I had witnessed any change at Zebediela where you are the boss.

If you are as serious as you want us to believe, why have you not at least granted these people a hearing.

If you believe in negotiations, why is your company refusing to even discuss wages with your employees. Your company has hired scab labourers from Nelspruit who earn four times what the strikers were earning. They effectively earn what the strikers are demanding.

On top of all this, your new employees are given three free meals a day.

But for the workers who gave their all to make the estate what it is today, your response is threats of eviction, dismissal, harassment by your security staff and above all, a refusal to negotiate.

This in my humble opinion, does not add up with the image that you cultivate in your public pronouncement.

And this leads me to ask, which of the two men is you.

## Questions

Is it the reformer or the obstinate employer who has now dismissed more than 1 500 people without giving them a hearing because they dared to ask for a rise.

The National Council of Trade Union (Nactu) has now decided to call for a National Day of Action throughout the country in solidarity with your now dismissed workers.

Letters are to be sent to all foreign heads of states that you will be visiting pointing out these inconsistencies. This will obviously affect in some way, your image and you may then have to face embarrassing questions about this matter as you sell your policies in the United Kingdom and Holland later this month.

## Active

I am convinced that you will feel bad that people are actually actively working to create embarrassment for you abroad.

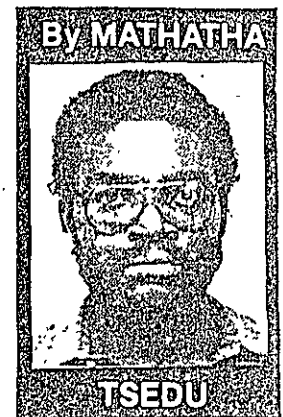
But, don't you deserve this reality? Is it fair for you to talk one thing and do another?

Are you different from the other white presidents that have ruled over black people in this country since your ancestors arrived in 1652?

I seriously think you are not different.

For I am not going to judge you by how well you put your words in speeches. Instead, I prefer to judge you by what you also do about important things, such as the standard of living of people who fall directly under you, such as the workers at Zebediela.

Am I to believe your reform rhetoric when black workers live in mud huts that collapse when it rains and which your company refused to do something about?



Am I suppose to believe your big talk about the dawning of a new era when these workers use toilets which are not partitioned and have no roof or seats?

When the only tap for drinking water stands behind the open toilet trenches infested with green flies that buzz around incessantly.

And, as the black workers survive all these conditions, how are your relatives, the white employees, doing at the same place?

Manicured gardens, big houses with electricity, running water and sewerage inside and all the modern hi-tech gadgets that technology has spawned.

They buy these things because, unlike the black workers, they are well paid.

I look at all this and ask myself "Is the State President lying to the country and the world?"

You and your Cabinet Ministers have accused Nelson Mandela of the ANC of speaking with two tongues and saying many different things on the same subject.

## Different?

Are you yourself different or do you also have a split personality as you claim about Mandela?

In that case, is it wrong to ask the real Mr de Klerk to please come forward and be seen?

It is these questions that have been taxing my mind that now force me to write this open letter to you.

I know you are a busy man. The office of Head of State is a busy one that has to grapple with weighty matters. I however hope that you will find time to think about the questions that I have raised.

I remain

MATHATHA TSEDU

# Farm workers evicted

STATE-owned Zebediela citrus estate has evicted more than 200 families of farm workers who have been on strike for the past two months.

The evictions started on Monday and coincided with the first summer rains in the area.

Officials of the estate, accompanied by police,

By MATHATHA  
TSEDU

bundled belongings of the strikers and dumped them alongside the main road - in pouring rain.

Rain-soaked men, women and children, helped by Nactu officials, battled to save their possessions.

The estate is run by the South African Development Trust, whose chief trustee is State Pres-

ident Mr FW de Klerk.

Management has steadfastly refused to meet the union or its lawyers to discuss a minimum wage demand of R500 a month. (4)

The workers earn an average of R120 a month.

The strike, which started on August 8, included a march on De Klerk's office in Pretoria last month to demand wage increases.

50-2-12-11/101/70

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**NOTICE 842 OF 1990**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER**  
**NATIONAL MANPOWER COMMISSION**  
**INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS**  
**REGARDING AGRI-INDUSTRIES**

1. The Minister of Manpower has requested the National Manpower Commission (NMC) to consider and recommend before the end of November 1990, the possible inclusion of the following clause in the proposed Labour Relations Amendment Bill to be tabled in Parliament during 1991:

**Section 2 (2) (b):**

**Notwithstanding the above, this Act shall apply to any undertaking that in the nature of its operations, is industrial in character.**

1.1 This request relates to so-called agri-industries, i.e. undertakings in the broader agricultural sector that are mainly involved in non-farming operations. The request should be seen as separate from the NMC investigation regarding the expediency or otherwise of making the Labour Relations Act, No. 28 of 1956 (LRA) applicable to *bona fide* farmworkers, regarding which investigation the NMC will in due course call for submissions.

2. In an endeavour to facilitate the widest possible consultation and in an effort to work for broad consensus, comment from any interested party in regard to the proposed inclusion of the clause in the Bill, is hereby invited. The responses received will enable the NMC to consider and recommend to the Minister of Manpower, an appropriate course of action.

3. The following background is provided in an effort to raise some of the relevant issues and to put forward certain arguments pertaining to the possible inclusion of the proposed clause or an alternative clause.

4. Section 2 (2) of the LRA whereby farming operations are excluded from the ambit of the LRA, has given rise to a long line of Supreme Court and more recently, Industrial Court decisions as to the application of the Act "to persons in respect of their employment in farming operations".

5. The present accepted case law position would roughly seem to be that both the nature of the main activities in which employees and employers are associated together for purposes of farming and the nature of the enterprise would determine whether the undertaking constitutes farming operations as envisaged in the Act. This is, however, not necessarily conclusive in itself [see *Sweet, Food and Allied Workers Union and Another v. Delmas Kuikens*, (1986) 7 ILJ 628 (IC)].

6. The aim of the proposed inclusion of section 2 (2) (b) is by no means to place *bona fide* farming interests of ordinary farmers within the ambit of the LRA. Rather, with the development of Agri-industries (and the advent of agri-businesses) it has become imperative to work towards a position of certainty in this regard. It is becoming increasingly clear that although certain undertakings may be termed enterprises in which employees and employers are associated together for farming purposes, the actual nature of the operations may well be industrial in character. Those employed in

**KENNISGEWING 842 VAN 1990**  
**DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG**  
**NASIONALE MANNEKRAGKOMMISSIE**  
**UITNODIGING OM VERTOË TE LEWER**  
**INSAKE AGRI-INDUSTRIË**

1. Die Minister van Mannekrag het die Nasionale Mannekragkommissie (NMK) versoek om oorweging te skenk aan en aanbevelings te doen voor die einde van November 1990, aangaande die moontlike insluiting van die volgende klousule in die voorgestelde Wysigingswetsontwerp op Arbeidsverhoudinge wat in 1991 ter tafel gelê sal word:

**Artikel 2 (2) (b):**

**Nieteenstaande die bostaande, sal hierdie Wet van toepassing wees op enige onderneming wat in die aard van sy bedrywighede, industrieel van aard is.**

1.1 Hierdie opdrag het betrekking op sogenaamde agri-industrieë, d.w.s. industrieë in die breëre landbou-sektor wat hoofsaaklik betrokke is in nie-boerderybedrywighede. Die opdrag moet gesien word as afsonderlik van die NMK ondersoek rakende die wenslikheid al dan nie om die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, No. 28 van 1956 (WAV), op *bona fide*-plaaswerkers van toepassing te maak. Die NMK sal tergelegenertyd vertoë aanvra t.o.v. hierdie ondersoek.

2. In 'n poging om die grootste mate van konsultasie moontlik te maak en as deel van die soeke na breëre konsensus, word kommentaar van enige belanghebbende party rakende die voorgestelde insluiting van die klousule in die wetsontwerp hiermee uitgenooi. Die vertoë sal die NMK in staat stel om die Minister van Mannekrag van gepaste advies te voorsien.

3. Die onderstaande agtergrond word voorsien om sekere van die relevante aspekte te opper en om sekere beredenerings t.o.v. die moontlike insluiting van die voorgestelde klousule of 'n alternatiewe klousule te opper.

4. Artikel 2 (2) van die WAV waardeur boerderybedrywighede uitgesluit word van die bestek van die WAV, het aanleiding gegee tot 'n hele reeks beslissings van die Hooggeregshof en meer onlangs die Nywerheidshof, insake die toepassing van die Wet t.o.v. "persone ten opsigte van hul diens in boerderybedrywighede".

5. Die huidige aanvaarde hofbeslissings dui breedweg aan dat beide die aard van die hoofaktiwiteite waarmee werkgewers en werknemers saam geassosieer is vir die doeleindes van boerdery sowel as die aard van die onderneming sal bepaal of die onderneming boerderybedrywighede in terme van die Wet behels. Dit is egter nie noodwendig beslissend opsigself nie [sien *Sweet, Food and Allied Workers Union and Another v. Delmas Kuikens*, (1986) 7 ILJ 628 (NH)].

6. Die oogmerk met die voorgestelde insluiting van artikel 2 (2) (b) is geensins om *bona fide*-boerderybedrywighede van gewone boere binne die bestek van die WAV te plaas nie. Met die ontwikkeling van agri-industrieë (en die ontstaan van agri-besighede) het dit eerder belangrik geword om te beweeg na 'n posisie van sekerheid in hierdie verband. Dit word algaande meer duidelik dat alhoewel sekere ondernemings as ondernemings beskryf kan word waar werkgewers en werknemers saam geassosieer is vir boerderydoeleindes, mag die werklike aard van die bedrywighede in der waarheid industrieel van aard wees. Diegene wat in dié

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 this connection may be subject to conditions similar to those applicable to employees falling within the ambit of the LRA, and they would thus be entitled to the protection afforded by the LRA.

7. It has also become imperative to clarify the position for purposes of the above-mentioned NMC investigation regarding the accommodation of farm workers in terms of labour legislation.

8. It is foreseen, however, that difficulties may well arise as to the definition of "industrial character" when it comes to farming. This aspect may in terms of section 76 (3) possibly be left for determination on the facts by the Courts, and here especially by the Industrial Court. Submissions are invited regarding other mechanisms which are simple, efficient and inexpensive (also for the State), whereby such determinations can be made.

8.1 Taking into account existing guidelines in terms of case law, activities related to agricultural production, can possibly be Categorized in several ways. One such way is probably the following:

- (a) **Primary activities:** These include all *bona fide* (primary) farming activities such as sowing, cultivating crops, harvesting, breeding live stock, raising live stock, etc. It will possibly also include cleaning, packaging and storage of the farm's own primary produce.
- (b) **Secondary activities:** These include industrial activities pertaining to the agricultural sector, such as the secondary processing or refining of farm produce, the packaging of processed farm produce, etc. It may possibly also include the purchasing and further processing (milling or packaging of other farmers' produce).
- (c) **Tertiary activities:** These include service activities as they pertain to the agricultural sector, such as trading in agricultural produce.

8.2 Other possibilities to differentiate between the various activities, are on the grounds of ownership, scale of production or the nature of the production process. There may also be further or even be simpler tests which could be applied to distinguish between activities which are industrial in character and *bona fide* farming activities. Submissions on this aspect are invited.

9. The definition of "undertaking" is also important. At present it is accepted that an employer may be involved in the agricultural sector as a person running a farming operation (thereby excluded from the LRA), but may also be considered as employing other employees engaged in separate activities (eg industrial) and such employees will be included under the LRA. This is possible because "undertaking" in terms of the LRA also includes a section or portion of an undertaking. On the other hand, it is quite clear that not only farmers in the conventional sense may be engaged in farming operations, but other commercial or industrial firms may equally be engaged in farming operations in which they employ farm workers excluded from the ambit of the LRA [see *HL & L Timber Products (Pty) Ltd v. Clegg* (1990) 11 ILJ 847 (IC)]. The inclusion of the proposed section 2 (2) (b) could possibly bring more clarity in this regard.

verband in diens geneem word mag onderhewig wees aan omstandighede wat soortgelyk is aan dié wat van toepassing is op werknemers wat binne die bestek van die WAV val, en hulle sou dus geregtig wees op beskerming in terme van die WAV.

7. Dit is ook van belang dat die posisie uitgeklaar moet word vir die doeleindes van die bogenoemde ondersoek deur die NMK rakende die akkommodering van plaaswerkers in terme van arbeidswetgewing.

8. Dit word egter voorsien dat probleme moontlik kan ontstaan rakende die definisie van "industriële aard" t.o.v. boerderybedrywighede. Hierdie aspek kan moontlik in terme van artikel 76 (3) gelaat word vir 'n bepaling op die feite deur die hof en veral die Nywerheidshof. Verhoë word verlang rakende ander meganismes wat eenvoudig, effektief en koste-doeltreffend is (ook vir die Staat), waardeur sodanige vasstellings gedoen kan word.

8.1 Met inagneming van die riglyne wat reeds bestaan in terme van hofbeslissings, kan aktiwiteite t.o.v. boerderyproduksie moontlik op verskeie wyses gekategoriseer word. Een sodanige manier is waarskynlik die volgende:

- (a) **Primêre aktiwiteite:** Dit sluit in alle *bona fide* (primêre)-boerderybedrywighede in soos plant, bewerking van gesaaides, oes, veeteelt, ens. Dit sal moontlik ook insluit die skoonmaak, verpakking en opberging van die plaas se eie primêre produkte.
- (b) **Sekondêre aktiwiteite:** Dit sluit in industriële aktiwiteite wat verband hou met die landbousektor, soos bv die sekondêre prosessering of verfyning van plaasprodukte, die verpakking van geprosesseerde plaasprodukte, ens. Dit kan moontlik ook insluit die aankoop en verdere prosessering (maal of verpakking van ander boere se produkte).
- (c) **Tersiêre aktiwiteite:** Dit sluit in diensaktiwiteite met betrekking tot landbou, bv. handel dryf in landbouprodukte.

8.2 Ander moontlikhede om te onderskei tussen verskillende bedrywighede, is op grond van eienaarskap, skaal van produksieproses. Daar mag ook verdere en selfs eenvoudiger toetse wees wat toegepas kan word om te onderskei tussen aktiwiteite wat industrieel van aard is en *bona fide*-boerderybedrywighede. Verhoë oor hierdie aspek word aangevra.

9. Die definisie van "onderneming" is ook belangrik. Tans word dit aanvaar dat 'n werkgewer in die landbou betrokke kan wees as 'n persoon wat 'n boerderybedryf bedryf (daarmee uitgesluit van die WAV), maar dat hy ook ander werknemers in diens kan hê wat betrokke is in afsonderlike aktiwiteite (bv. industrieel) en sodanige ander werknemers sal dus ingesluit wees onder die WAV. Dit is moontlik omdat "onderneming" in terme van die WAV ook insluit 'n deel of gedeelte van 'n onderneming. Aan die ander kant, is dit ook duidelik dat nie alleen boere in die konvensionele sin betrokke mag wees by boerderybedrywighede nie, maar ook ander kommersiële of nywerheidsondernemings wat ewenwel betrokke kan wees in boerderybedrywighede en waar hulle plaaswerkers in diens neem wat uitgesluit is van die toepassingsbestek van die WAV [sien *HL & H Timber Products (Pty) Ltd vs Clegg* (1990) 11 ILJ 847 (NH)]. Die insluiting van die voorgestelde artikel 2 (2) (b) kan moontlik meer duidelikheid in hierdie verband bring.

9.1 It should also be noted that the courts have defined an "undertaking" as follows: "An undertaking may be those industrial operations, generally large in scope, which involve any or all of the operations of industry but are not so general or common in occurrence that they may be said to fall under any recognised industry ... Industry denotes the devotion of work to production, generally understood as commercial production rather than mere creation". *R v. Port Elizabeth Municipality* 1928 EDL 49.

10. To simplify the processing of submissions, it would be appreciated if submissions could be structured along the following lines:

- (a) Whether a clause with the intent of section 2 (2) (b) should be incorporated in the LRA. Please motivate both positive and negative responses.
- (b) Whether the proposed wording would be unambiguous, and if not, what alternative wording would be more suitable.
- (c) What should be understood by "industrial in character"?
- (d) Possible tests or guidelines to distinguish between undertakings that are industrial and those that are agricultural in character.
- (e) Proposals regarding inexpensive (also for the State), efficient and simple mechanisms to determine whether an undertaking is industrial or agricultural in character.

11. Any comments or representations regarding the proposed section 2 (2) (b) should be submitted in writing, in duplicate, before **26 October 1990**. The submissions obtained, will if necessary, be made available for public information. One copy must be sent to the Secretary (att. Ms F. A. Kroukamp), National Manpower Commission, Private Bag X316, Pretoria, 0001, and the other to the Director-General: Manpower, Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001.

M. J. K. BLOM,  
Secretary  
(5 October 1990)

## BOARD NOTICE

### BOARD NOTICE 69 OF 1990

#### THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE

It is hereby notified in terms of section 15 (5) of Act No. 56 of 1974 and regulation 8 of the regulations for the election of members of the Council published under Government Notice No. R. 2279 of 3 December 1976, that the following registered medical scientists have been validly nominated as candidates for election as members of the Professional Board for Medical Science, for the five year period 1 December 1990 to 30 November 1995:

Fripp, Peter John.  
Jansen, Stander.  
Nel, Pieter Phillip Cornelius.  
Smith, Martin Sidney.  
Steyn, Josef Markus.  
Van Helden, Paul David.

9.1 Dit moet ook gemeld word dat die houe 'n onderneming soos volg gedefinieer het: "An undertaking may be those industrial operations, generally large in scope, which involve any or all of the operations of industry but are not so general or common in occurrence that they may be said to fall under any recognised industry . . . Industry denotes the devotion of work to production, generally understood as commercial production rather than mere creation". *R vs Port Elizabeth Municipality* 1928 EDL 49.

10. Om die verwerking van vertoës te vergemaklik, sal dit waardeer word as voorleggings soos volg gestruktureer kan word:

- (a) Of 'n klousule met die strekking van artikel 2 (2) (b) by die WAV geïnkorporeer moet word. Motiveer asseblief beide positiewe en negatiewe antwoorde.
- (b) Of die voorgestelde bewoording ondubbelsinnig sal wees, en indien nie, watter alternatiewe bewoording sal meer gepas wees.
- (c) Wat behoort verstaan te word deur "industriële van aard"?
- (d) Moontlike toetse of riglyne om te onderskei tussen ondernemings wat industriële of landbou van aard is.
- (e) Voorstelle rakende goedkoop (ook vir die Staat), effektiewe en eenvoudige meganismes om te bepaal of 'n onderneming industriële of landbou van aard is.

11. Enige kommentaar of vertoës rakende die voorgestelde artikel 2 (2) (b) moet skriftelik, in tweevoud voor **26 Oktober 1990** ingedien word. Die verkreë vertoës sal, indien nodig, vir openbare inligting beskikbaar gestel word. Een kopie moet gestuur word aan die Sekretaris (aandag mev. F. A. Kroukamp), Nasionale Mannekragkommissie, Privaatsak X316, Pretoria, 0001, en die ander aan die Direkteur-generaal: Mannekrag, Privaatsak X117, Pretoria, 0001.

M. J. K. BLOM,  
Sekretaris,  
(5 Oktober 1990)

## RAADSKENNISGEWING

### RAADSKENNISGEWING 69 VAN 1990

#### DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENEESKUNDIGE EN TANDHEELKUNDIGE RAAD

#### VERKIESING VAN LEDE VAN DIE BEROEPSRAAD VIR MEDIËSE WETENSKAP

Ingevolge artikel 15 (5) van Wet No. 56 van 1974 en regulasie 8 van die regulasies vir die verkiesing van lede van die Raad afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing No. R. 2279 van 3 Desember 1976, word hierby bekendgemaak dat ondergenoemde geregistreerde mediese wetenskaplikes geldig genomineer is as kandidaat vir verkiesing as lede van die Beroepsraad vir Mediese Wetenskap vir die vyfjaar tydperk 1 Desember 1990 tot 30 November 1995:

Fripp, Peter John.  
Jansen, Stander.  
Nel, Pieter Phillip Cornelius.  
Smith, Martin Sidney.  
Steyn, Josef Markus.  
Van Helden, Paul David.



# The farm workers who are 'thrown away' in the veld

Joel Khothane's screams woke his family in the dead of night.

"Baas Bear" and his son came down to the compound and stumbled the TB-riddled old man to within an inch of his life.

A cow had gone missing and the Free State farmer held his chief herd "boy" responsible.

At noon the next day "Baas Bear" loaded the injured Joel Khothane and his 19 children and grandchildren into his bakete and drove to Ladig, near Sun City.

## Dropped

He stopped at the side of the road and told the family to get out.

Then he roared down the road with not a word of thanks for the 15 years that Joel Khothane laboured on his farm for R30 a month. Not a word about Joel's wife, Sarah, who died after 11 years of working for "Baas Bear".

Not a word of regret over the child that died in a freezing Free State winter because the Khothanes did not have the money for medical expenses. Not a penny for pension. Not even a loaf of bread for the

The tale of farmers who evict or simply dump tired old labourers after years of service is not new to South Africa. But it is currently being repeated with disturbing frequency, reports **DAWN BARKHUIZEN**.

thin, uneducated, simple people left huddled in the veld. "He liked his animals better than he liked us — and he treated them better. Us he always beat," said Joel Khothane's daughter, Dora (21).

In fact, "Baas Bear" had so terrified Dora Khothane over the years that, sitting in the back of that truck, she had been convinced he was taking her family to a place where he would kill them all.

Her relief at surviving the journey was short-lived, however, as she found herself hearing only knew where, in the dark at the side of the road with a sick father, a heavily pregnant sister and a band of weeping children.

Had it not been for the local tribesmen who found them the next morning, gave them meat, the meal and bits of iron to build a shack, Dora Khothane is convinced that "Baas Bear" might well have succeeded in killing them all.

"We would have starved," she said.

The story of the Khothane family is not a new one in South Africa.

But it is currently on the increase, particularly in the Free State, according to Operation Hunger deputy director, Mpho Mashimbi.

At a tent town near Koffiefontein, faceless farmers are dumping off an average of 10 families a month, according to Judith Mokhele, national coordinator for Operation Hunger.

Bothshabelo near Bloemfontein is teeming with people in a similar predicament.

Mrs Mokhele is aware of about 900 people from farms dumped throughout South Africa each month. But she believes the true number is far greater.

A ploy popular with some farmers in the Nelspruit area is to knowingly use Mozambican refugees and then have them deported when pay-day comes around.

Mr Mashimbi distinguishes between the plight of farm labourers losing their jobs in

drought-stricken areas in the northern and western Transvaal and those in the Free State and Nelspruit.

"The situation in the Free State has nothing to do with farmers going broke or losing their farms," he said.

"It is simply abuse, getting as much out of labourers as is possible and then getting rid of them."

## No laws

"There are no laws protecting farm people.

"They are not unionised. They are at totally the mercy of the farmers.

A good farmer may treat his people well but a bad one will treat them worse than donkeys," says Mr Mashimbi.

"The long-term problems of farm families and people like the Khothanes are as great, if not greater, than the short-term difficulties.

Where are they going to go? What will happen to them? They have no education, no direction, no future plans.

"The farm families are South Africa's forgotten people.

"With all the plans for a new and free South Africa my greatest fear is that they will get left behind."



Dire straits... The Khothane family is struggling to survive after being dumped on the roadside near Sun City by their farmer employer. There are many other families in a similar predicament. Picture by Sean Woods.



# Stayaway call to aid citrus workers

Sowetan 11/01/90

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By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE National Council of Trade Unions yesterday called for a one-day countrywide stayaway, which will include a march to the office of the State President, to support striking workers at Zebediela Citrus Estate.

The stayaway is to take place within 20 days but the exact date will be announced soon, the federation resolved at its third biennial congress which ended at the Nasrec Exhibition Centre in Johannesburg at the weekend.

Noting that Zebediela Citrus Estate is owned by the Government, with State President Mr FW de Klerk as chief trustee, the congress dismissed "the reformist rhetoric of the Government as

meaningless as proved by De Klerk's refusal so far to intervene despite several approaches by the workers".

The "day of action" will consist of a one-day stayaway, during which workers will march on Government centres throughout the country.

National leaders of the federation and its affiliates will lead the main march in Pretoria which will end at the offices of the State President.

A call has also been made to people to stop eating and selling oranges and drinks derived from them. An approach is to be made to Cosatu, independent unions, chambers of commerce and politi-

cal organisations for support.

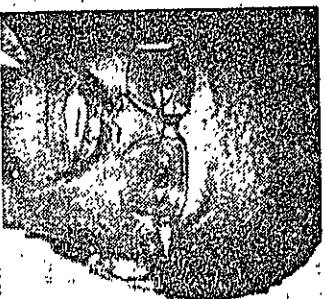
International allies of Nactu, such as the British Trade Union Congress, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and others are to be approached to help in publicising the boycott of oranges from South Africa, the resolution said.

The Zebediela strike started on August 8 but management has refused to meet the union and its lawyers to discuss wages.

It was revealed that scab labourers from Nelspruit were being paid R120 a month and given three free meals a day.

The strikers were paid the same amount a month but were not provided with food, it was said.

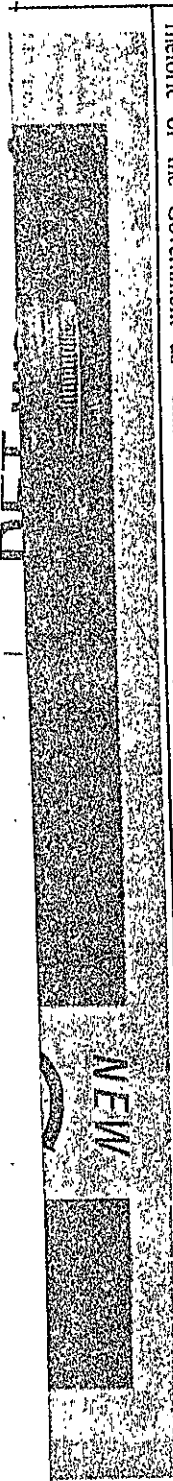
The congress re-elected its



JAMES MNDAWENI

president, Mr James Mndaweni, but replaced the only woman in the executive, Ms Patricia de Lille, with Mr James Masekani as vice-president.

Also returned to office as treasurer, Mr Boas Mashete. The secretariat of the federation was also re-elected.



## Second <sup>4</sup> march <sup>Somefen</sup> 15/11/90

THE National Union of Farmworkers is to stage a second march to the office of State President FW de Klerk to back demands for wage increases.

The union's general secretary, Chaka Moletsane, said the march on November 19 will be in support of the Zebedeala Citrus Farm workers, currently involved in a labour dispute with management. - *Sapa*.

# Life on R1

# a day

4

Sowetan 23/11/90

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

**DESTITUTE Mozambican refugees, desperate for work and food, are being used as cheap labour and severely assaulted by ruthless white farmers in South Africa.**

One of the farmers has been identified by *Sowetan*.

Investigations into the plight of Mozambican refugees in South Africa, which last week revealed a slave trade between the two countries, have now shown that some of the refugees are sold for as little as R50 for cheap labour.

A farmer who employs refugees in the eastern Transvaal Lowveld is particularly vicious, according to one of two former workers on the farm who were bought for R50 each by the investigating team.

**Pending**

The farmer, whose identity is known but is being withheld pending the outcome of further investigations, pays the refugees between R1 and R4 a day, provides no food or clothing and keeps almost 100 of them in small rooms on a compound on his property, the refugee said.

There is an average of 15 people in a room without beds or blankets. The refugees work 12 hours a day with a half-an-hour break, six days a week.

They are not allowed to wear shirts and are frequently beaten.

The labourers are expected to work through

From Page 1

## Sold for R50 as cheap labour

deal in which the two former workers - both teenagers with a burning desire "just to be away from the misery of the war and find some work" - were bought from the *induna* on the farm.

"The *induna* goes to Mozambique regularly to get people. He then sells them to anybody.

"The one thing about all the people he brings through is their desire to work. That's all we want, or run away.

This is believed to be the reason why the refugees do not complain or run away.

cried for its mother.

"There are many youngsters working on the farm. The youngest is 12 years old. We were paid according to our size. The smaller ones are paid R1 a day and the bigger ones R4," he said.

The *induna* on the farm also serves as a kind of trader in cheap labour.

*Sowetan* was part of a

rain and intense heat.

"If you refuse you are beaten with a sjambok or a piece of wood," the former employee told *Sowetan*.

"Many times the children cry when their mothers go to work in the field. The farmer beats them. He has hit a one-year-old child when it

R11111

ONLY ZERO AND CHOOSE FREE USERS OF R120

ORS UNIT



## LABOUR

### Citrus farm managers meet union in effort to resolve long strike

By DREW FORREST and Sapa  
IN A policy switch, Zebediela Citrus Estate management met Nactu officials this week in a bid to resolve the 11-week strike over wages and union recognition by more than 1 000 workers at the farm near Pietersburg.

Arguing that labour law prevents it from recognising Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers, the company earlier insisted on contact through lawyers.

However Nactu's Mmutle Phasha said little progress was made in the talks. Management had refused a demand



Mmutle Phasha

for a R200 monthly increase, saying rises would be considered only next year and would not be negotiated with the union.

The company also refused demands for the unconditional reinstatement of all fired strikers, arguing that losses from the strike meant lower manning levels.

During a media tour of the estate last week, Zebediela general manager MW Minaar said the Nactu talks arose from the realisation by all parties that the strike had inflicted great suffering and loss. *W. Mar 2/11 - 8/11/90*

Journalists were shown new toilets for workers, and Minaar stressed that company services for workers and their families included a creche, sewing school and a subsidised clinic.

01/11/90 4-10-1990  
**R500-m**

# boost for 'capable' farmers

By George Nicholas

Additional State aid amounting to more than R500 million is to be extended between now and 1996 to about 12 000 farmers who are financially distressed but solvent and capable of recovery.

The aid is confined to farmers in the summer rainfall cropping regions of South Africa.

It includes Northern Transvaal farmers who gatecrashed the recent South African Agricultural Union congress.

The financial aid, announced by Minister of Agricultural Development Dr Kraai van Niekerk in Pretoria yesterday, has been welcomed by the SAAU

Dr van Niekerk said the relevant areas included the service areas of the 28 major co-operatives participating in the existing five-year and 10-year carry-over debt schemes.

## Recovery

"The additional aid is intended to help farmers who are still solvent in spite of accumulated debts and have the ability to recover financially in the long-term, but who, due to serious short-term cash-flow problems, can no longer be helped by their co-ops and other financial institutions to obtain production credit again," he said.

The Minister said farmers applying for the additional State aid in future years would have to satisfy his department they were capable of meeting their commitments if assisted.

Commenting on the Minister's announcement, the president of the SAAU, Nico Kotze, said the sympathetic response of the Government to the representations made by organised agriculture for relief aid in difficult circumstances was deeply appreciated by the farming community.

The generous gesture indicated the Government's understanding of the important role fulfilled in the economy by agriculture and the large workforce that depended on the industry for its livelihood.

# The heroine of Orange Farm

By SIZAKHE KOOMA

OLGA LUTU is an unsung heroine of the shack-dwelling community that she has unselfishly dedicated her life to.

Since 1982 when she moved into Weiler's Farm, Lutu has been harassed, arrested and appeared in court more than she can remember - all for the benefit of squatters.

She was harassed by the police after she had urged farm labourers there not to pay rent, arrested for opening an advice centre which was meant to help the squatters obtain ID books and pension funds, among others, and appeared in court and fined R800 for

refusing to pay service charges for a house that had no electricity and water supply, which she also had no permit to live in.

### Members

There was a time when she and other community members were arrested every day.

They would appear in court even on Saturdays, so that they could be charged, fined and released. Despite all this Lutu did not will under the pressure.

Her experiences became a challenge that propelled her to form a

## Harassed, arrested, Olga fights back

strong and united Weiler's Farm community.

"Our unity was displayed in 1983, when we were told to leave the farm after the owners had sold it.

"Our electricity and water supplies were cut off. We were harassed by police every night, but we would not budge," Lutu said.

"I led a committee to Pretoria to ask for the reinstatement of electricity

and water supplies. The Government later granted us permission to touch the borehole.

"We got a donation of a water pumping equipment from one firm and our problem was solved."

By then they had already started a residential committee of which she was chairperson. They had also acquired legal assistance from the Legal Resources Centre.

They held monthly meetings with the

So 21/11/90

authorities negotiating for alternative accommodation. They identified Orange Farm as a possible living area and the Government granted it to them last year.

This daughter of a "cruel policeman" who was reared by a "poor mother" in the Cape does not get credit for the allocation of Orange Farm to Weiler's Farm and township squatters.

She was instrumental in the formation of com-

munity projects that included a school, a self-help sewing scheme for unemployed women and a pre-school.

The projects and all her services, which she offers voluntarily, are still provided at Orange Farm.

Her extensive yard is always full of people who come to her for advice on acquisitions of permits, ID books and pension funds.

### Rounds

She does rounds with the Black Sash every Thursday which enables her to keep tabs on 11 000 families that live in the Farm's four wards.

She also handles day-to-day problems from residents, that include

fights with local farmers.

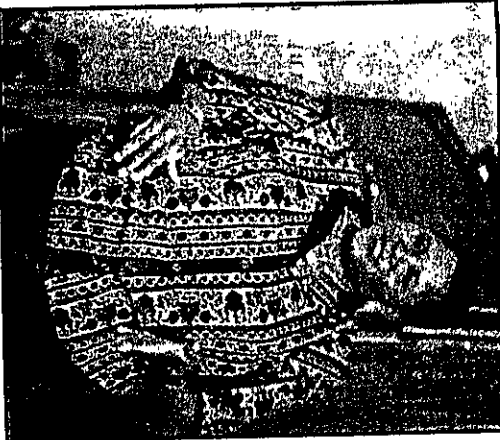
Lutu is very bitter, she said, with the one-sided media reports she reads in the Press about Orange Farm residents stealing from the farmers.

"Our people are harassed and beaten up by the local farmers almost every day but I never see that in the Press."

Her wish is to see the desperate community's problems to facilitate progress and development of services and projects that would benefit the people in Orange Farm. Allocation of more sites and construction of proper roads are in the agenda of the next problems she wants to tackle.



# WOMAN



OLGA LUTU

48643 7/11 190

# Farm manager gave 'vague' account about death, assault

By VUSI KAMA, Staff Reporter 4

A STELLENBOSCH farm manager on trial for culpable homicide made "dubious" statements in court and contradicted himself, a Paarl Regional Court prosecutor has alleged.

Farm manager Mr Rudolph Donald Rix is charged with culpable homicide following the death of Mr Charlie Thompson and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Mr Andrew Thompson, Mr Godfrey Williams and Mr Johannes Beukes.

Prosecutor Mr Niel Louwrens said yesterday after cross-examining Mr Rix that Mr Rix ducked questions and presented a "vague" story.

"If he is innocent, why does he not tell the whole story, rather than choose to give a vague story?"

Mr Louwrens said Mr Rix, 25, of Watergang Farm, initially could not remember everything about the assaults, but now could and admitted some of the things he disputed earlier.

At an earlier appearance Mr Beukes, 78, alleged Mr Rix assaulted him with a pickhandle.

During yesterday's cross-examination by the prosecutor Mr Rix said he went to the house of one of his labourers and was attacked by two men who were trespassing on his farm.

He hit them with a pickhandle in self-defence and left them to call the police after he had seen them lying down.

He could smell they were drunk.

After the incident he walked to his house, where his domestic worker, Dinah, swore at him. He hit her and another worker.

He then telephoned the police and told them he had hit some trespassers, but did not tell them he was assaulted because he did not want to "cause a drama".

But he did tell them he was assaulted when they arrived at the farm.

Mr Rix said he did not tell the police he was injured because he did not want an ambulance.

The hearing will continue on November 27.

The magistrate was Mr D Cronje and Mr F Maree appeared for the defence.

# Farm workers faced with legal disempowerment

4  
B Day 1/11/90

LEGAL action programmes are essential to ensure that farm workers are given the protection of the law, says Farming Resource and Research Project co-ordinator Andrew Ball.

He believes that the farm workers' situation amounts to "legal disempowerment".

While there are a number of small unions representing farm workers in SA, the established urban-based unions find it hard to mobilise rural employees, of whom they represent no more than 30 000 out of the total 4-million.

## Additional

Natal-based Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) co-ordinator Richard Clacey says that social work has concentrated too much on the plight of people in cities and townships. But there are nearly 1-million farm workers, with an additional 5-million dependants, who live on white farms — 1-million in Natal alone.

They have inadequate legal protection and are unable to assert the rights they do have.

Afra, in association with Natal

MATTHEW CURTIN

University's Law School, local communities and church organisations, is drawing up a Farm Workers' Legal Action Programme (Flap) to promote legal education and improve access to the law in farming communities.

Afra, supported by Dutch government and non-government organisations, is running ad hoc programmes for freehold farmers and labour tenants in central Natal.

More than 400 000 people have been forcibly removed from white farms in recent years. Flap is seeking to deepen the focus of service organisations' operations by concentrating on social services and labour conditions.

Afra will provide advice centres so farm workers can find out their legal rights with regard to eviction, dismissal and the impounding of their livestock.

With training provided by an expanding team of Afra advisers, the programme will be managed by farmworker committees in the Richmond, Vryheid and Weenen districts in Natal.

Clacey says service organisations

have been encouraged by the National Manpower Committee's investigations into extending labour rights to farm workers.

However, government's decision to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farm workers before extending the Labour Relations Act is "putting the cart before the horse" and amounts to a political gambit to show the world that reforms are reaching the rural sector.

In Natal University's Focus Spring journal, law faculty dean Prof James Lund says farm workers are not entitled to unionise as they have "very little legal protection".

## Swamped

Their right to live on farms often hinges on "their satisfactory rendering of labour".

In the same bulletin, Community Law Project director Carole Baeky says her organisation has been swamped by appeals for legal assistance from 4-million rural people in KwaZulu who have had little or no access to the legal system.

The project provides paralegal education, training and community legal education for rural communities, she says.



# The good life at Zebediela estate

See page 10/11/90

## FOCUS

BY MATHATHA TSEDU

THE seven or so women who were standing behind their sewing machines at Zebediela Citrus Estate had been very subdued. They had answered all our questions but had volunteered no additional information.

We were about to leave, having said our bye-byes when they looked at each other and one of them said: "Wait, let us pray". What followed was one of the shortest but also most moving renditions of Nkosi Sikelele iAfrika that I have ever heard.

I struggled to hold back emotions as thoughts welled up in my mind and I was taken back to the union meetings of Zebediela workers who have now been on strike for three months, demanding more money and union recognition.

But this was a different singing: the general manager's wife, Mrs AE Minaar, was also in attendance and stood stoically by as the women, joined by the black pressmen around, called on God to end the black suffering in the country.

### Concern

We were at Zebediela by invitation of the estate management, who were concerned at the negative publicity surrounding the company since the strike started on August 8.

Management, in the person of general manager Mr Marius Minaar, was also concerned at the wrong or incomplete statistics that were being bandied about in the media as fact. And so we found ourselves at the estate, to see and hear the "facts" as Minaar saw them.

Minaar, a robust Afrikaner man who says most of the information in the media, especially *Sowetan*, has been nothing but nonsense, admits to the shortcomings of the estate in its housing and salary bills for the black employees.

But, and he insists on this, credit has to be given where it is due.

The company has built 15 "villages" for its black employees, who stay in them for free. These are spread around the estate. The houses, one of the major focus of the media in its reports on the estate, are in two varieties.

The "traditional" thatched-roofed huts and "modern" brick houses with water and toilets in-

side. There are presently about 700 huts, with each family allocated three rondavels. The estate is responsible for their maintenance. Dilapidated rondavels are the ones not in use. They are the most popular with the workers and more often the "modern" ones stand empty.

### Upgrade

The estate is aware that the houses are not up to standard and have in August this year approved more than R1-million to upgrade housing. This will be used to build new houses and renovate the existing ones. An additional sum of R234 000 is to be spent on building new toilets to replace the "primitive" ones that are not partitioned, have no seats and are simply a row of holes on the ground that cannot be used when it rains. We were shown one of the new blocks that had just been completed, with locking doors for the toilets as well as seats. It was indeed a far cry from the hole in ground.

The estate also runs a creche for which parents pay only R6 a month while the company chips in between R9 and R13,49. Mrs Minaar explains as we tour the estate.

Her husband gets very agitated when the discussion turns to wages. He is livid with anger that

newspapers have been stating that the average pay at Zebediela was R120 because "this is simply not so", but just another "nonsense". The true state of affairs is that an unskilled labourer's starting wage is R7,13 a shift or R156,86 a month. That the media has been undercutting the amount by R36,86 is totally unfair and unacceptable and is proof of a bias in the media, Minaar says.

### Lessons

Minaar says both his estate and the union have learnt some lessons from the strike and that is why Zebediela has now agreed to meet the union to discuss ways of ending the strike. It is everyone's hope, he says, that a solution acceptable to all will be found to stop the estate bleeding to death which, he says, has lost millions of rands since the strike started.

The prayer by the sewing women, in the form of the national anthem, was particularly poignant; for while Minaar may be saying the obvious for a man in his position, the strike has been traumatic in many ways. There have been evictions and people had to sleep in the open. There are food shortages after three months of strike. There are unpaid hire purchase accounts, etc.

The voices of the singing women echoed in my mind throughout the return journey from Zebediela. Will God indeed end the suffering as asked by the women? It is a moot question as a meeting held three days later between management and NUP ended in a virtual deadlock, with management refusing to budge on wages. And so, as the workers would say, the struggle continues.

# The fugitives who are sold in SA

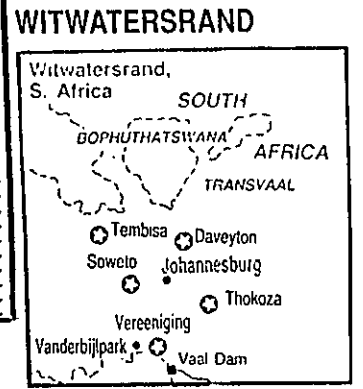
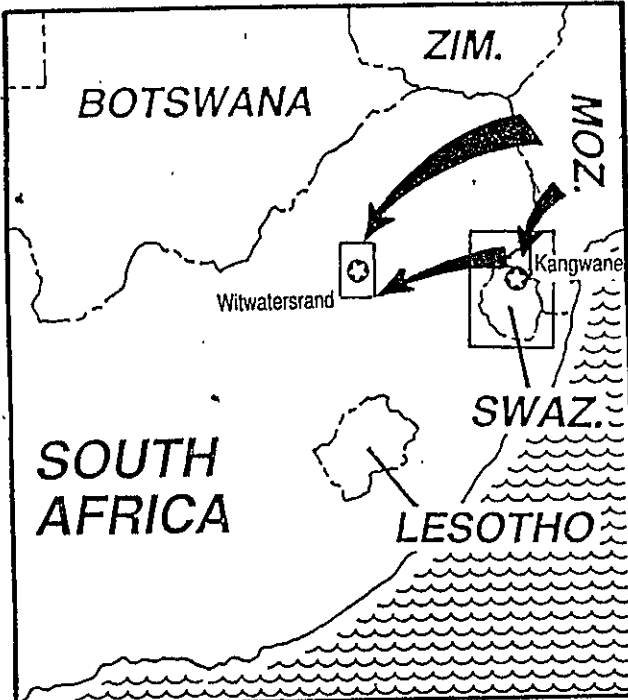
From PAGE 3

Mangweni, acknowledged that he had paid for her but said this was *lobola* — a dowry — and the girl was his “wife”. It would appear that the traditional practise of paying *lobola* before marriage is being perverted to legitimise the trade in women.

●Slave labour in township businesses. Young boys and girls are sold to local and Reef businessmen by the agents without any conditions attached to the transaction. The “owners” are then free to do what they like with the labourers and can pay them a small wage or simply feed them.

●Forced labour on farms. White farmers recruit labourers from the agents and offer to pay them a monthly salary. They then pay a much lower wage and use a range of coercive measures, including the threat of deportation, to keep them in check.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees said it had no record of war refugees being enticed into slavery in other parts of the world.



Slave route ... fugitives are bought and sold in kangwane and from there transported to the Reef.

May 16/11 - 22/11/90

# Man gets 18 months for killing labourer

*Capt. Tait* *2/11/98*  
BY EUNICE RIDER  
Court Reporter

4

A STELLENBOSCH wine farm manager was yesterday sentenced in Paarl Regional Court to 18 months' in jail and a fine of R250 for beating a labourer to death and assaulting another with a pickaxe handle in May 1989.

Rudolf Rix, 25, of the farm Watergang, was freed on R500 bail pending the outcome of an appeal.

Rix had pleaded not guilty, saying he had hit workers with a light vineyard stick in self-defence, after going to their cottages to make inquiries.

Regional magistrate Mr D Cronje sentenced Rix to three years — half of which is suspended for five years — for culpable homicide and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, resulting in the death of Mr Charlie Thompson, 36.

He also fined Rix R250 (or six months) for assaulting an elderly and sickly labourer, Mr Johannes Beukes, 78.

He said Rix had wanted to "scare and threaten" the workers, who had been absent from work for several days, and launched the assault for "no reason".

Mr M Louwrens prosecuted. Mr J Murray, instructed by Mr F Du Toit, appeared for Rix.

# Victim of ostrich attack dies

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — A Graaff-Reinet farm manager, Mr Koos Erasmus, 45, has died in the town's hospital of injuries suffered when he was attacked by an ostrich in a breeding enclosure on the farm.

His brother-in-law, Mr Adam Gerber of Despatch, said Mr Erasmus had been connected to a life-supporting system at the hospital. He was declared brain-dead on Monday and the machine was turned off.

He said Mr Erasmus had been attacked by an ostrich on Mr John Biggs' farm Vrede some time ago. He was kicked in his head and a splinter of his skull penetrated his brain.

Mr Gerber said Mr Erasmus had been bitten by a snake a few weeks ago and had not fully recovered from the bite when he was attacked by the ostrich.

"The wound in his head became septic and did not respond to antibiotics. His condition deteriorated rapidly," said Mr Gerber.

# Farm death accused pleads self-defence

Court Reporter *7/11/60*

A STELLENBOSCH farm manager on charges of culpable homicide and assault in Paarl Regional Court, following an alleged attack on workers with a pick-axe handle in May last year, said yesterday that he had acted "in self-defence".

Mr Rudolf Rix, 25, of the farm Watergang, said he had gone to make inquiries at the homes of two workers who had been absent from work.

At the first cottage he felt his life was threatened and hit out with a pole "after feeling a blow to my arm".

In the second house the common-law wife kept jabbing him with a pocketknife and he lashed out with the pole, which he was still carrying.

He said that on his return home he found his hand had been injured and called the police. "I had not meant to go and make trouble - I acted in self-defence."

The hearing continues.

The magistrate is Mr D Cronje, Mr N Louwrens is the prosecutor, Mr F J Murray is appearing for Mr Rix.

# Boe sold as slaves inside SA



Den of iniquity ... The house in Nkomati, where slave trader Josea Sibuya stays Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

wanted me to be in love with him. He gave me no pay and when I refused to sleep with him he treated me badly (but did not assault her)," says Langa. "He made me his *sigcila* — slave."  
In March 1988 Sally McKibben, coordinator of refugee relief work in kaNgwane, was informed by a Mozambican woman that her eight-year-old son had been kidnapped by the

agent who brought her across the border because she was unable to pay him the guide's fee of R150.  
"It appears that the agent took the child as payment for bringing them over the border," says McKibben. "We managed to get the boy back after paying Mhlanga the R150. He was in an extremely malnourished condition."  
In July 1990, the *indlaza* at Mangweni brought three young women — aged 17, 21 and 23 — to the refugee centre and informed the field workers that they had been beaten by one of the agents in the village. According to the trio — Jameco Chicea, Berta Chicea and Hemanina Malogite — they had been promised transport to Carletonville, where they have relatives, but were forced to stay in the village be-

absconded.  
Field workers at Mangweni say they receive frequent reports of similar abuse by Mozambican labourers at the hand of white farmers.  
Rachel Nsimbini, a field worker at the refugee transit centre at Mangweni, describes the extreme vulnerability of the refugees like this: "A lot of refugees just disappear (before and after they are registered at the centre). It's easier I think to take refugees. They have no relatives, you can't trace their origins, they have no identity papers and it's said but nobody will miss them."  
It is estimated that there are at least 75 000 Mozambican refugees living in South Africa, either illegally or in refugee camps in the homelands of Gazankulu and kaNgwane. *The Weekly Mail* has identified at least three types of slavery and forced labour that have developed around the plight of these foreign people.  
● Sex slaves for township men. This is the most explicit form of slavery practised. The women are sold by the agents and become the property of their owners for life. They are expected to sleep with the men and work in their houses. They are fed but not paid and describe themselves as *izigcila* — a siTsonga word that translates directly as "slave".  
Jabulile Masuku's former owner, when confronted by workers from

● TO PAGE 4

6/10/90 4

# Fawu member to be charged after protest outside embassy

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Police are to charge Food and Allied Workers' Union national executive member Nosey Pieterse for allegedly failing to meet magisterial conditions imposed on a demonstration outside the Taiwanese embassy yesterday.

Cape Town police district commissioner Col. Philip Delpoort confirmed this after monitoring the noisy, placard-bearing demonstration on Festival Square outside the Standard Bank Centre yesterday.

He said a docket of failing to comply with the conditions — which included no more than 50 demonstrators be allowed to gather and that they stand 5m apart — would be opened against Pieterse.

Pieterse said the demonstration of the estimated 250 Irving & Johnson workers and Fawu members was to demand compensation for the 40

local fishermen who had lost fingers while working in the cold rooms of Taiwanese gill-netting trawlers.

It was also to draw government's attention to the "crisis" in the fishing industry caused by gill netting along the SA coast. This included massive retrenchments and companies introducing "short-time" — labourers working only two-and-a-half days a week.

Fawu was also demanding that anti-gill-netting legislation be tabled in Parliament as soon as the new session opened.

Pieterse was allowed to see consular official Tom Chou, who told him that he was awaiting a reply from his seniors in Pretoria about Fawu's compensation demands.

# Dancing workers protest against gill-netting

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 250 dancing and chanting fish factory workers staged a lunch-time protest next to the Civic Centre yesterday against Taiwanese gill-netting and in favour of compensation for frost-bitten sailors.

Police closely watched the demonstration on Festival Square.

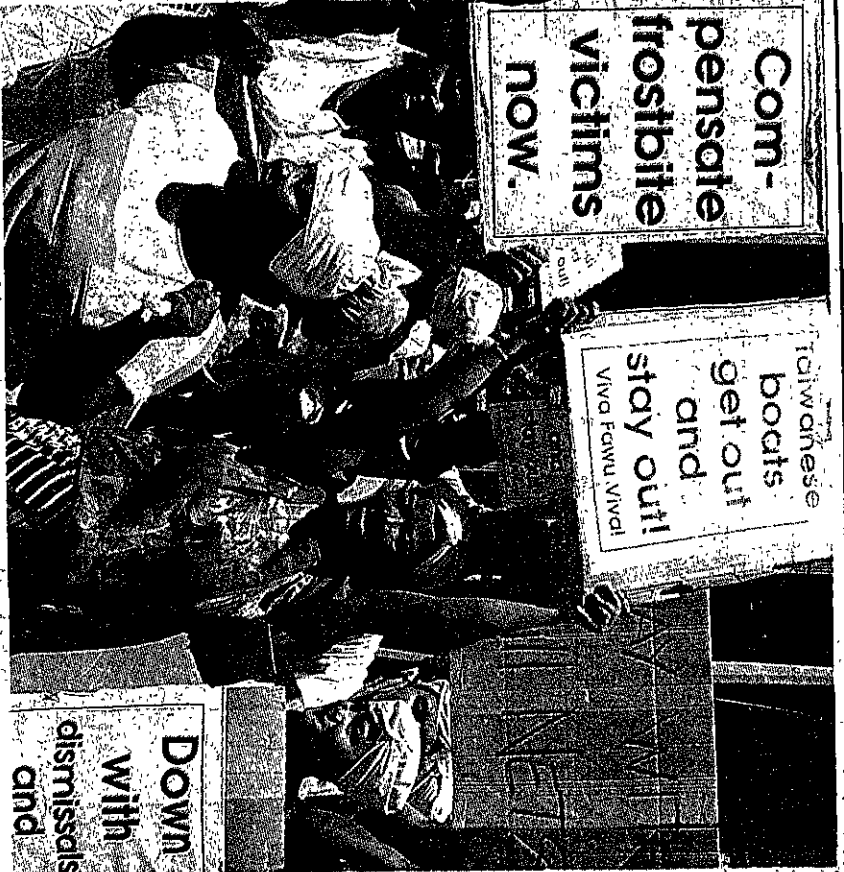
Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) executive member Mr Nosey Pieterse was later given the assurance by Taiwanese consul Mr Tom Chou that the workers' demands would be passed to Taiwan's ambassador in Pretoria. Mr Chou's seventh-floor office is in a building adjacent to the square.

Meanwhile, police are to charge Mr Pieterse with allegedly failing to meet magisterial conditions imposed on the demonstration.

The District Commissioner of Police for Cape Town, Colonel Philip Delpert, confirmed this after personally monitoring the demonstration.

He said a docket alleging failure to comply with the conditions, which included that no more than 50 demonstrators be allowed to gather and that they stand five metres apart, would be opened.

Mr Pieterse said the demonstration by Irving and Johnson workers and Fawu members was held to demand compensation for the 40 local fishermen who had lost fingers working in the cold-rooms of Taiwanese gill-netting ships.



**FROSTBITE** ... About 250 fishing industry employees demonstrate outside the Taiwanese embassy yesterday in protest at colleagues' frostbite injuries on board Chinese trawlers.

Picture: BENNY GOOL



EXPOSED: South Africa's secret slave trade

# This man is a slave

W/M/16/11/11 - 22/11/90

4

## We bought him for R200

AN WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION BY AEDIE KOGH & PHILIP NOLES

**T**HIS man is one of two slaves bought this week by *The Weekly Mail* as part of an investigation into an extensive trade in human beings in the Eastern Transvaal and Reef townships.

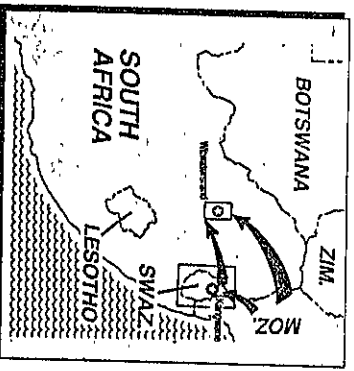
The investigation uncovered an organised network of slave-traders based in the Komatiport area who lure Mozambican youths, desperate to escape their country's civil war, across the border with promises of jobs.

Once here, they are sold for between R200 and R300 — to farmers, business people and men who use the females as concubines. Once the deal is struck, the slaves are entirely in the hands of their "owners".

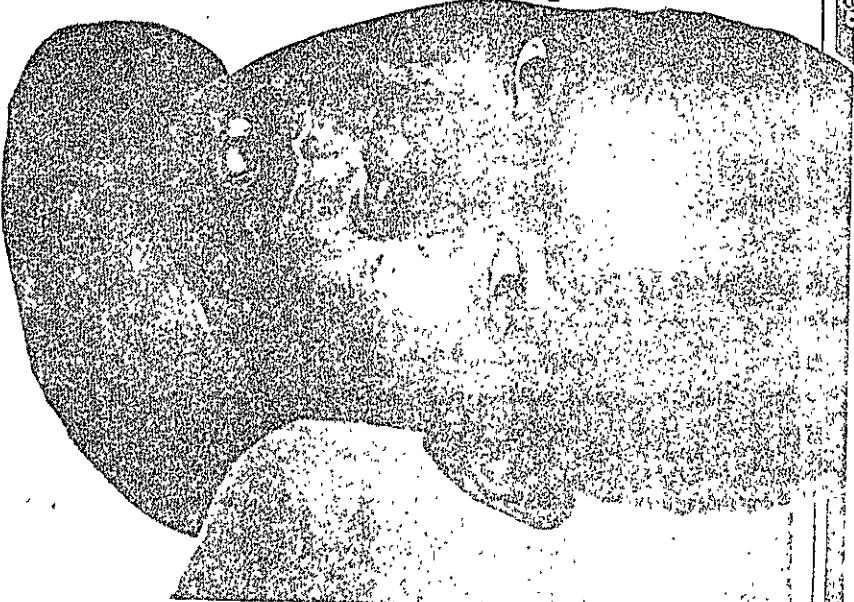
If they refuse to work, demand pay or threaten to leave, they risk the owner calling the police, who would arrest them as illegals and send them back to their war and famine-ridden country.

*The Weekly Mail* has spoken to three traders — who refer to the youths as "stock" — and a number of slaves and ex-slaves, including a woman who was sold as a concubine and severely beaten up when she refused to sleep with her buyer.

\*See PAGES 2, 3 & 4



The slave-trade routes: across the border from Mozambique, to Kainyane and the Reef.



Immanuel Kambule ... aged 18, lured from Mozambique, sold as a slave

Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

# Horrifying tales of conditions on Tvl 'slave' farm

**T**HIS week *The Weekly Mail* "bought" two boys from a white-owned farm in the Eastern Transvaal as part of an investigation into a slave trade involving refugees from Mozambique.

The two youths — aged 17 and 18 — were bought from the *induna* on the farm. According to them the *induna* makes regular trips into Mozambique to recruit cheap labour for the farmer.

I paid R50 for each of the youths. The transaction took place at night at a remote spot on the farm so that the white farmer could not find out about it. I posed as a farmer and said I was in desperate need of labour. (We recorded the transaction on tape and video)

As in the case reported in the *Weekly Mail* last week, I was free to do what I liked with the youths. I left no number or contact address and was given no details about how they should be treated. When I pressed the *induna*, he said I should pay them something. I asked him if I could beat them if they did not work and he said "yes". The youths were not told where they were going or whether they would be paid.

The two youths bought by *The Weekly Mail* tell a horrifying story of punishing conditions of work, sordid living conditions and daily beatings at the hands of the farmer.

Their names and the location and identity of the farmer cannot be released at this stage for fear of jeopardising the safety of those who remain on the farm. Under South African law the farmer can have them arrested and deported as "illegal aliens".

From our interviews the following picture of life on the farm emerges:

The farmer sends his *induna* on regular recruiting forays into Mozambique to collect youths. He has to do this "because he is a hard man and at the end of the month many of the youths run away".

He pays the recruits R20 to R60 a month depending on their size and age. Some are recruited on the understanding that they would get R150 a month.

There is a shop on the farm. The farmer does not provide food and clothes and workers are obliged to buy from him. The costs of the goods are deducted from workers' wages at the end of the month. "There are some people who receive only R2 when the farmer takes off the money for food we buy from his shop," says one of the youths.

The labourers work six days a week, Monday to Saturday. They start at 4.30am and finish at 4pm. They get a break from 8am to 8.30am. "We work even if it is very hot or raining. If we do not work or if we come late he takes off money from our wages. This can sometimes be R10."

Beatings are a regular occurrence. "If we do not work fast enough he beats us. There are women on the farm with babies. If the babies cry while we are working he beats them. I saw one baby beaten who was only one year old."

They live in a squalid compound on

A white farmer 'recruits' labourers from Mozambique.

**EDDIE KOCH**, posing as a farmer, bought two of the boys who told him how they lived — and worked — in appalling conditions

the farm. More than 50 Mozambicans work there. They sleep on the floor without blankets and a mattress and about 15 share a room. There is no running water and no ablutions.

Our youths come from Inhambane and Maputo. They each paid R100 to a professional guide who promised them work at the other side of the border.

They fled Mozambique because of the war and extreme conditions of poverty. Their families collected money to pay the guides' fees and they are expected to send money back to their families.

This is one reason why they did not run away from the farmer. "For us it is better to work on that farm than to live in Mozambique."

## Civil war, SA laws promote slave trade

By PHIL MOLEFE

THE civil war in Mozambique and South Africa's immigration laws contribute directly to the slave trade between the two countries, a representative for the Mozambique Solidarity and Information Committee (Mosaic) said.

The slave trade was one of the most brutal practices this century and highlighted the adverse affects of the country's civil war, said Mosaic representative Monty Narsoo.

Narsoo said the Aliens Act and the Illegal Entry of Persons into the Republic Act were the new "influx control" laws which were applied harshly.

"For slave trade to stop these laws must be abolished and refugees given a sanctuary in South Africa," he said.

The Mozambican government said it could not give a "formal reaction at this stage" to the existence of trafficking in human beings between the two countries until the matter was investigated.

The Mozambique National Director of Information, Arlindo Lopes, said his government had "no knowledge" about the plight of young boys and girls lured from Mozambique and sold in South Africa.

"We appreciate the account of the slave trade which was published in *The Weekly Mail* and it is now left to us to investigate this matter," said Lopes.

A South African Police spokesman in the Eastern Transvaal, Major Pienaar, said it was difficult to investigate at this stage because most of the incidents occurred in the kaNgwane area.

Lawyers for Human Rights member Brian Currin said slavery was one of the worst forms of violation of human rights and should be stopped.

# Fishing workers protest against Taiwanese trawlers

By GLENDA DANIELS, Cape Town

FISHING workers held a placard demonstration outside the Cape Town Civic Centre on Wednesday to express their feelings about Taiwanese fishing trawlers operating off the South African coast.

The demonstration was intended to highlight the general crisis in the fishing industry and protest against the number of workers that have lost fingers — and, in some cases, hands — from frost bite.

The Food and Allied Workers' Union blames the Taiwanese for "plundering our resources and we blame the Pretoria regime for allowing the Taiwanese to do so". The workers are demanding compensation from the Taiwanese government for the frostbite victims.

About 500 demonstrators, mainly

women, toyed outside the civic centre displaying placards reading "We have no fingers, no money, no work", "Taiwanese Boats Get Out and Stay Out", "Compensation for Frostbite Victims Now" and "People before Profits". A large contingent of police ordered the crowd to disperse and to stand five metres apart. The workers ignored the warning, but police allowed the demonstration to proceed.

Union media officer Mansoor Jaffer said Fawu had embarked on a campaign to highlight the fishing crisis which included "demanding compensation for frostbite victims, protesting against gillnet fishing which depleted marine sources, retrainments, poor working conditions and poor wages".

The union says there are 38 recorded cases of workers who have lost fingers

and the use of their hands due to severe cases of frostbite. These workers have been permanently maimed and will not be able to perform any manual labour for the rest of their lives.

Taiwanese consul Tom Chou, who has been liaising with the union on the issue, could not be reached for comment because of the closure of the embassy for a cultural holiday.

Chou is reported to have said the Taiwanese government will soon make an announcement regarding compensation for frostbite victims.

Fawu's action against the Taiwanese will include demonstrations at workplaces; refusing to handle any fish caught in gillnets; picketing the Taiwanese embassy; public meetings; marches; mobilising the international community; and a march in Cape Town.

2/11/90

# Boycott suspended

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) this week suspended its call for a red-meat boycott in the Western Cape.

A Fawu spokesperson said the boycott had been suspended because management of Cape Slaughter, where more than 400 workers were dismissed earlier this year, was not prepared to meet unions and community organisations until Fawu "clarified" the boycott

issue.

The union is meeting with the company later this week.

Meanwhile Fawu is continuing with its fishing industry campaign.

The union is meeting with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze in Cape Town on Friday.

On the agenda is anti-gill-net legislation and protection for the local fishing industry.

(4) South 15/11-21/11/99 Fawu is organising a march from District Six to coincide with the meeting.

The marchers will include frostbite victims from Taiwanese trawlers, retrenched workers from the fish canning industry and conservationists.

A series of mass meetings in Cape fishing towns is due to take place over the next week.

# Back to the land

## FARMING, which once was the backbone of the African economy, has over centuries been degraded to a leper industry for black South Africans.

### Farming trainees get a break with new programme

*Sowetan 26/11/90*

This arose from the inhuman treatment of farm workers, who had no educational opportunities, no labour rights and no legislation to protect them from callous, white farmers.

The Back to the Land programme aims at reversing this situation.

The administrator of the programme, Mr Amos Cebekhulu, says: "We aim to train people in the basics of agriculture and to re-educate them in the art and joy of farming."

"Our dream is to make farming and agriculture an attractive, cit-

joyable and life-giving activity.

"We have been turned off farming, not only by its notorious image, but by such legislation as the Land Act. As a result, less than four percent of all commercial farmers are black.

### Viable

"We must move from subsistence farming to commercial and viable farming," he says.

On December 1, the programme takes off with training of 15 budding farmers who will be taught farming skills. The

training programme is aimed at people aged 18 or older who have passed Standard 8.

Training, which is free of charge, will last for a year and is divided into three sections: theory, practical and stock farming.

It covers - among other things - ecology, horticulture, water conservation, irrigation, tree planting, animal husbandry, animal diseases, dairy farming and produce, and bookkeeping.

"Without relevant and proper training in agricul-

ture and related skills, poverty will remain with us," says Cebekhulu. "We should, therefore, strive to eliminate ignorance and lack of skills by all means possible and our project is one such means."

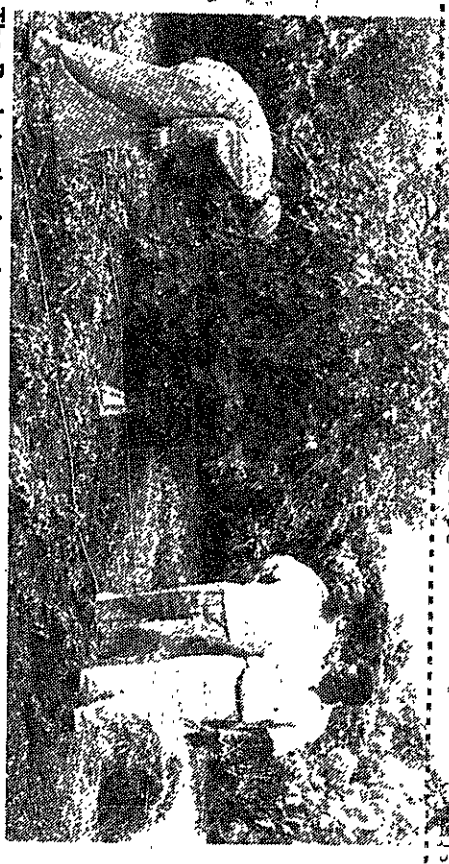
The project is currently operating on the land subleased by the Ananda Marga Mission, near Orange Farm, and there is a borehole and residential hostels for the trainees and staff.

### Selling

"Our first concern is to get it off the ground," he says.

"We hope to live off our products and hope to sell them at nearby townships.

"Trainees will be encouraged to return to their communities and start co-operatives after graduating."



The Back to the Land programme aims to teach trainees the basics in agriculture. The project aims to be self-sufficient, selling produce in nearby townships.

GET IT FIRST! SEE IT FIRST!

## Call to boycott Zebediela oranges

TRADE unions should not be politicised because they often represent workers with different and even opposing ideologies, Allied Workers Union general secretary Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu said at the weekend.

Addressing a workers' rally at

Thohoyandou stadium in Venda Mutobvu said the AWU was not a political organisation.

Mutobvu called on workers to unite and intensify the struggle to "repossess the land from the exploiting ruling class". - *Sapa*.

Sowetan 26/11/90

4

### Eviction order overturned

■ A Potgietersrus magistrate this week overturned the eviction of strikers from the state-owned Zebediela Citrus estate, near Pietersburg.

About 200 families were reportedly evicted last week, as strike over wages and recognition of Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers went into its ninth week. (19/10 - 25/10/90)

Lawyers for the strikers argued that workers had not had the opportunity to oppose the eviction order.

Reports from Weekly Mail staff, Sapa

# Bid to oust Taiwan's trawlers from SA

ARCUS 12/7/90

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to stop Taiwanese trawlers fishing in South African waters because of alleged gill-netting and the plight of 38 South African crewmen who had frostbite after working long hours in refrigerated holds.

This move and the mobilising of fishermen and fish factory workers to pressure Taiwanese trawler owners for compensation were announced by the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) at a Press conference yesterday.

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) national executive member Mr Nosey Pieterse said trawlermen with frostbitten fingers had been maimed. Many would be unable to do manual labour for the rest of their lives.

The campaign will include demonstrations at workplaces, marches, refusal to handle any fish caught with gill-nets, and the picketing of Taiwanese diplomatic missions and agents recruiting workers for Taiwanese boats.

It will be run jointly by Fawu, Cosatu, the United Democratic Front, African National Congress and the South African Communist Party.

Although gill-netting has been outlawed by the South African government, crewmen alleged that nets were transferred on to trawlers in mid-

ocean.

"The fishing industry is in a crisis," Mr Pieterse said.

Gill-netting, condemned internationally, could exhaust South African fish resources within three years. He claimed that it had caused the volume of fish caught by fishermen to drop sharply. Most recently this had led to nearly 160 retrenchments in the Cape-based fishing industry and the closure of one factory, costing 170 jobs.

He blamed the government for allowing this situation to develop.

The unions demanded a meeting with the authorities to discuss State intervention to save the fishing industry. They also called for a ban on gill-net fishing.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has been asked to negotiate compensation for frostbitten sailors.

The Western Cape regional secretary of Cosatu, Miss Luci Nyembe, said attempts to negotiate a solution with the Taiwanese or their agents had been fruitless.

She claimed that South African workers on Far Eastern trawlers had faced differential treatment to Taiwanese crewmen. They were not given proper protective clothing and were forced to work in refrigeration holds for long periods at low temperatures.

If they refused to work because of frostbite, they were assaulted. Medical care on the boats was either inadequate or non-existent, she said.

## Amputee tells of working in freezing hold

Staff Reporter

MR Joseph Haddon, 33, spreads out his amputated finger stumps and says: "I hope the government can do something about this."

He lost nearly all his fingers in his first month at sea in a Taiwanese trawler after contracting frostbite while working in a refrigerated hold.

Only his right thumb and little finger remain, eight months after signing up as a crewman in the Taiwanese trawler Ching Chia Chin.

The vessel sailed in January into the South Atlantic to catch squid off the Falkland Islands and he was put to work in a refrigerated hold.

### STIFF WITH ICE

He said: "We were given inferior gloves. My fingers were stiff with ice. I couldn't carry on working."

When he asked the skipper to be taken to a doctor he was told he would be "okay in a day or two".

But he still wasn't treated two weeks later when the trawler docked somewhere in Uruguay.

Another two weeks passed before he reached Cape Town and was admitted to a private hospital. Most of his fingers were amputated in four operations.

He cannot claim compensation under South African industrial legislation. Human-rights lawyers are trying to sue the Taiwanese owners of the Ching Chia Chin.



# Cosatu fights gillnet fishings

CMT 7/4/95 12/9/90



Cape

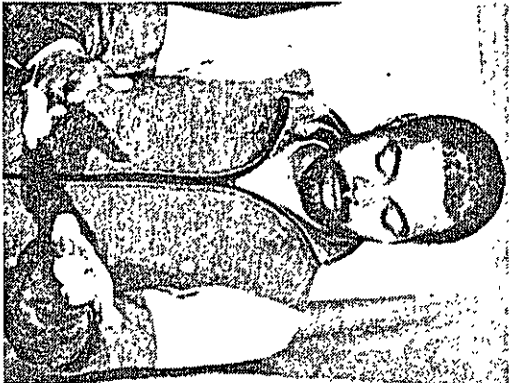
By CHRIS BATEMAN

**TAIWANESE** gillnetting companies yesterday gained themselves a new and militant enemy — Cosatu — which is determined to use all legal means to put a stop to "gross" exploitation of local workers and the South African marine ecology.

At a press conference held to launch their campaign, local member union the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), said its members would refuse to handle any gillnetted tuna at local and West Coast factories.

Fawu's regional secretary, Ms Lucy Nyembe, said her union had members at all local cold storage factories which, she alleged, were openly storing the easily identified gillnetted tuna.

The campaign is a direct result of at least 38 South African trawlers, men suffering frostbite-



**LEFT:** Mr Joseph Haddon, 33, of Bonteheuvel, shows his almost fingerless hands — the result of "forced" work in the freezer compartments of a Taiwanese gillnetting vessel. **RIGHT:** Mr Ndodomzi Lolwe, 35, of Guguletu, a former worker aboard a Taiwanese fishing trawler, who lost fingers through frostbite. **CENTRE:** At yesterday's antigillnetting press conference are, from left, Mr Nosey Pieterse, executive member of Fawu, Ms Lucy Nyembe, regional secretary of Cosatu, and trawler fishermen Mr Lolwe and Mr Haddon.

PHOTOS: STEWART COOMAN

related injuries, many of them losing all or some of their fingers from forced periods in the freezer compartments of foreign vessels. Two of at least five local seamen present

yesterday showed the media their fingerless hands, the result of amputation due to frostbite. Fawu national executive member Mr Nosey Pieterse said experts had predicted that with

in three years gillnets would "exhaust all our resources", turning coastal fishing villages into "ghost towns" with massive unemployment. There had already been 259 retrenchments at seven Western Cape fish factories due to marine over-exploitation, he said. He called for immediate withdrawal of Taiwanese businesses from the country and

said the SA Department of Foreign Affairs had been approached to negotiate compensation for disabled sailors. Ms Nyembe said previous attempts to negotiate with the Taiwanese and/or their agents had been "fruitless". Mr Pieterse said an estimated 500 South African fishermen worked on Taiwanese and other foreign gillnetting vessels every season under

"The campaign will include picketing the Taiwanese embassy and local agents recruiting workers, marches in all fishing communities and a march in central Cape Town.

Mr Joseph Haddon, 33, of Bonteheuvel, told reporters that for R500 a month he had been forced to work for up to 10 hours at a stretch in a trawler's freezer compartment. When he complained he was assaulted, he said.

Recently two Taiwanese trawlers were successfully arrested by Cape Town lawyers as security for claims by frostbitten fishermen, one claiming R195 000 and the other R250 000.

South African government," she said.

# Estate dismisses 1 500 strikers

ZEBEDIELA Citrus Estates has dismissed over 1 500 striking workers and restricted their movements with the orange farm.

Confirming this yesterday, the company's public relations manager, Mr Cornel van Rooyen, also added that scab labour recruited in Johannesburg last week, had left the estate.

Strikers said the new

workers, whom they said came from Damaraland, had been working under armed guard and had requested to leave.

According to a notice distributed in the compounds last week, workers and their families have until September 21 before evacuating the premises. In the meantime the workers are forbidden from entering any areas outside their compounds and farm roads.

Commenting on this, Van Rooyen said this did not restrict the workers movement "unfairly".

Union organiser Mr Mos Mphahlele said yesterday the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) would launch a major information drive in black areas this week to heighten awareness amongst people of the four-week old strike.

*Sowetan Reporter*

# Taiwan gets report on frostbitten SA labourers

W/E Argus 1/9/90  
By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

TAIWANESE government officials in Taipei are studying a report detailing the consequences of frostbite among South African labourers on trawlers, many of whom have also complained of assaults.

Cape Town lawyers acting for frostbite victims compiled the dossier weeks ago, before the number of reported cases rose to the present "35 to 40" given by one attorney, who said the significance of the dossier had been underlined earlier this week when three Transkeian workers successfully claimed R195 000 from the owners of a ship on which they allegedly had developed frostbite.

First to examine the report was the Department of Foreign Affairs, which passed it on to Taiwanese officials in South Africa.

Mr Y S Chi, second secretary at the Taiwanese Embassy in Pretoria, confirmed that his office had sent the report to Taipei yesterday morning for consideration at the highest levels.

The dossier lists:

- Details of all the reported cases;
- The alleged conditions that gave rise to frostbite on trawlers during their months-long fish trips around the South Atlantic;
- How much South African taxpayers will pay in disability grants to injured workers;
- Precautions that could have been taken; and,
- A summary of the damages frostbite victims are expected to claim.

In the latest incident three labourers — Vuyani Bhele, 37, Jeffrey Maswana, 26, and Mr N Mginda, 28 — sought legal assistance after the Kwang Mao captain allegedly had refused to pay them.

Lawyers recognised their injuries, referred them to an orthopaedic surgeon and secured the holding of the vessel on August 9 in terms of the SA Admiralty Rules.

The vessel was to have sailed on Monday. By 4.30pm a notice of release had been signed after the ship's agents had placed R195 000 in trust, pending further legal action.

The matter is expected to reach trial in three to four months.

# Forward sales help cover to sugar's fall

6/04 31/10/90  
3 Sugar  
23/10/90  
DURBAN — Sugar's world price had fallen from \$350 a ton to just more than \$200 a ton this year, but SA had sold the bulk of its output forward at good prices.

The dollar proceeds were covered favourably, SA Sugar Association (Sasa) chairman Glyn Taylor said at a Press briefing yesterday.

Local market sales up to the end of October were 80 000 tons ahead of the previous year's, "well above estimates", he said.

The industrial market was per-

Own Correspondent

forming well in all sectors and the industry was confident of a good sales season.

Recent rains were welcome because the cane belt had suffered from a dry winter and spring, and if a typical summer followed, the crop outlook was promising.

Sasa has informed companies with plans to start sugar farming and milling in the eastern Transvaal that they

have until November 13 to lodge their interest in a proposed new sugar mill and until February 11 next year for full applications.

The new mill and refinery, to cost an estimated R300m, will have throughput of about 1.2-million tons of cane a year and output of 130 000 tons of sugar a year, says Sasa.

It is understood there are two contenders for the scheme — the CG Smith Sugar group and the Transvaal Sugar Corporation.

## Farmers' union to stay white

810001  
30/10/90

GERALD REILLY (4)

PRETORIA — The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) is to stay white in spite of the SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) decision to open its doors to blacks. TAU president and CP MP Dries Bruwer said yesterday a majority of the TAU's general council decided membership of the farmers' associations and agricultural bodies would be limited to whites.

Bruwer said the TAU's delegation to last week's SA Agricultural Congress had no mandate to vote in favour of open SAAU membership.

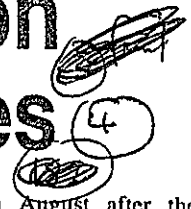
He said the TAU had assured the self-governing and independent black states of aid in the establishment of agriculture organisations for black farmers.

The TAU had also announced its readiness to assist with secretarial work for such organisations. The TAU would continue with its policy of assisting black farmers to set up their own farm groups.

The TAU would arrange a meeting with President F W de Klerk to tell him of members' opposition to the repeal of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

# Unions start action to boycott oranges

Sowetan 26/10/90



A BOYCOTT of oranges in solidarity with striking Zebediela Citrus Estate workers has been adopted by organisations in the northern Transvaal, with Seshego township taking the lead.

The boycott call was made by the National Council of Trade Unions.

University of the North students pledged to ban drinks derived from oranges and lemons in campus canteens, following a campaign by the Azanian Students Convention and the National Students Congress.

In Venda, vendors joined the boycott while the African Council for Informal Business has cancelled a R2,1 million order of orange-related items.

The Azanian Students Movement and the Azanian Peoples Organisation in the northern Transvaal have called for support for the strikers. They pledged to boycott oranges.

The strike by more than 1.200

workers started in August after the management's alleged refusal to negotiate wages for the workers, who the union says earn an average of R120 a month.

The estate is Government-owned, with State President FW de Klerk as chief trustee.

De Klerk's connection with the estate has caused a political row, with the union targetting him overseas for demonstrations by anti-apartheid campaigners.

Zebediela public relations officer, Mr Cornel van Rooyen, has said workers earned a minimum of R156 a month.

The company is to conduct a tour for journalists today to counter the adverse publicity by what has become the longest farmworker strike in South African history. - Sapa.

**ZEBEDIELA ORCHARDS WAR:** *A group of labourers, who have little left to lose, have somehow sustained a two-month strike for their rights*

W/Ment 26/10-1/11/90 (4)

# The fruit pickers: Bitter battles but they're not broken

IN the one-mule Lebowa village of Koringpunt, long after the tarred road runs out, barefoot children comb a mound of human leavings. The pickings are thin: last year's calendars, thatching straw, a broken suitcase containing scraps of material, plastic coat hangers, a mattress worn to its rusty springs.

Three weeks ago 90 families evicted from the Zebediela Citrus estate were deposited here, allegedly in heavy rain, in a sequel to a two-month strike of almost archetypal bitterness.

The battle at Zebediela, an oasis of green amid bare hills 40km from Pietersburg, has been fought in an obscure corner.

The bare facts — the strike (the second in a year), mass dismissals, evictions, a court case — have been recorded. But sporadic press reports cannot convey the unique texture of events: sustained labour action by isolated farm labourers, many of them women, most illiterate and some allegedly earning R120 a month, in a conservative rural backwater.

The estate belongs to the SA Development Trust Corporation (STK) and has members of both the Department of Development Aid and the Lebowa government on its board. It stands on land registered in the name of the Development Trust of which President FW de Klerk is the trustee. But Pretoria, with its pledges of a new deal for farmworkers, its expert sub-committees and inter-departmental reports, seems in another country.

"This is a very arrogant company we're dealing with," says our host and interpreter, Afro-shirted Nactu official Mmule Phasha. "We have a double problem: it's a farm and it's government."

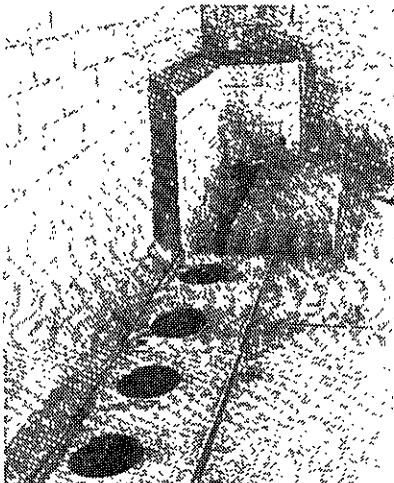
The National Congress of Trade Union's lawyers recently won a court case overturning the Zebediela evictions, and the army-issue tents in Koringpunt which housed them now stand empty. But twice a day, under a large Vaseline billboard featuring a beaming black nuclear family, strikers in dusty overalls, faded skippers and laceless boots collect for communal meals.

Following the court order many of the labourers are returning to the estate but others have moved to their homes.

The two-year fight for a R500 minimum wage and the recognition of Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers

*You will not find Koringpunt on many maps but the 10-week strike at the state's Zebediela citrus estate is drawing world attention.*

**By DREW FORREST**



**Rudimentary facilities are provided**

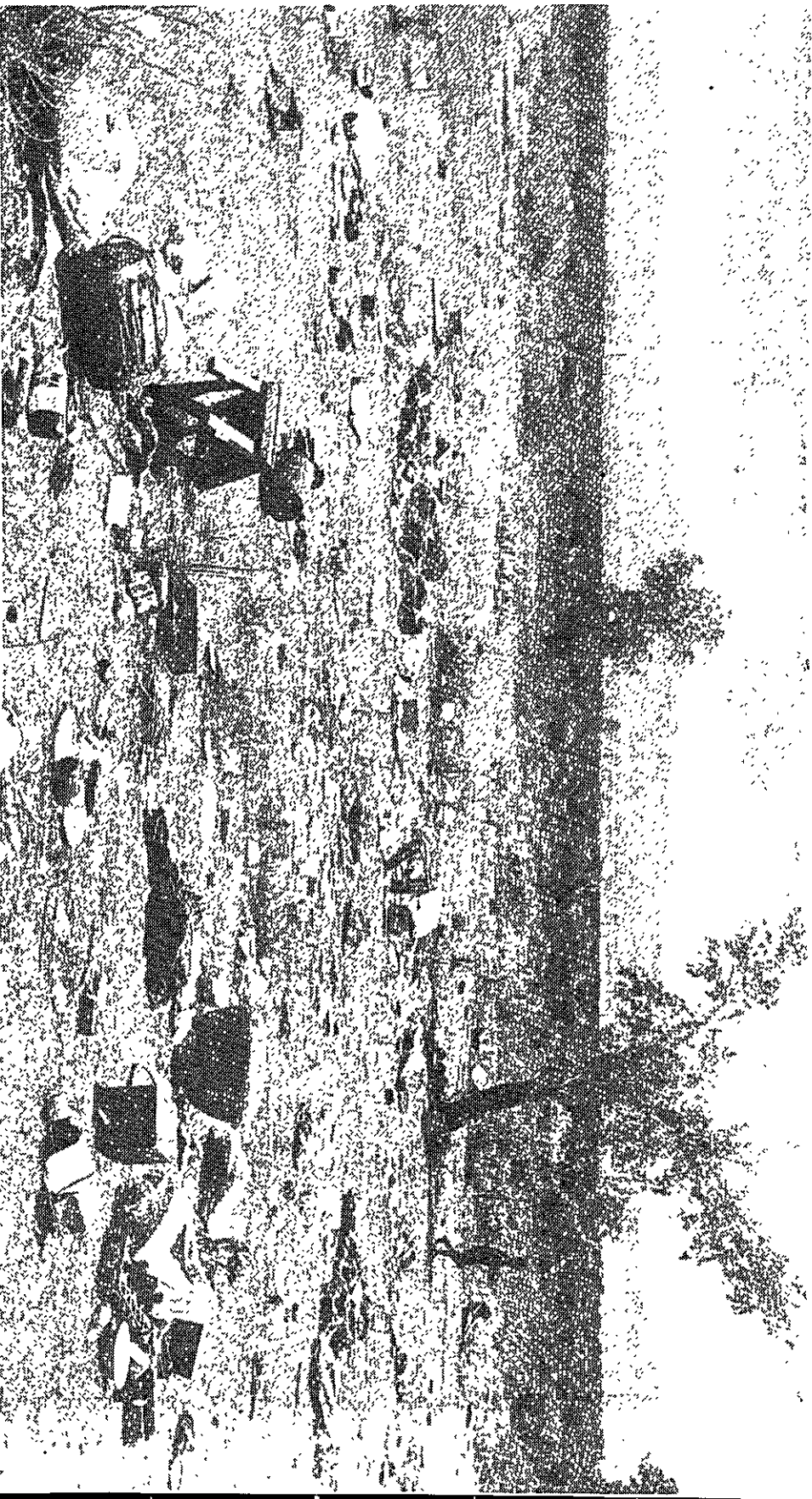
has changed these workers. Somehow one does not expect orange pickers to call each other and their union officials "comrade".

A mix of anger and supplies donated by local black businessmen keeps them going, Phasha says. They have three days' food left but seem determined to see the strike through — despite selective evictions, seen as a strike-breaking device, and alleged harassment by police and company security.

Workers claim South African and Lebowa police are permanently stationed on the estate, and have imposed a sort of curfew. Assaults are also alleged.

"We already see cracks in management; we'll stay as we are," insists *induna* Rice Sithole, a key figure in the union's organising drive and company stalwart with 34 years' service. Asked if he wants to be quoted by name, he says he is "not afraid, as I am in the forefront".

Ask picker Rosa Mabotha what she wants from the strike and no interpreter is needed — with a shrewd look, she rubs her thumb and forefinger together. Of those interviewed Sithole is the highest earner, with R250 a month. A tractor driver earns R175, while half-deaf cleaner Mitlas Aphane, who "knows he was 17 in 1925", claimed a monthly



**After the evictions ... A child searches among the scattered belongings of the orange pickers**

Pictures: KEVIN CARTER

wage of R120.

More is at stake than money — the ring of impassive rural faces lights up as grievances are listed. "They've always treated us roughly," says Sithole, who complains he was never compensated for an accident which severed three toes and disabled his left knee.

At the sound of a siren, pickers start at gam and pick through to gam, often later, they claim. Complaints flow freely: they get a one cent bonus per bag picked after meeting daily quotas. Despite medical aid deductions, no cards are issued and workers pay their own hospital bills. They get 12 days' unpaid leave annually and many do not take leave. Sprayers are not given masks or protective clothing and some have been scalded by leaking chemicals.

"The only thing that changed after the first strike (in May last year) was that we started getting payslips," Sithole says.

Adds Phasha: "Nothing is for *matilda* here. Workers pay rent and for treatment at the company clinic. There are even deductions for water."

The interview ends, to a burst of spontaneous applause from workers. We move to section 8B — one of 11 company villages in and around the estate.

At the entrance to the stamped red-earth compound with its scattered mul-

berry and paw-paw trees stand three brick houses, a small number of which can be found in other sections, workers say. Most of 100-odd residents live in "traditional" thatched rondawels of clay, perhaps 3m across, without electricity.

"If it rains, my house is a lake," complains Rosa Mabotha. "In some houses, you can see the stars through the roof." She sleeps on the floor, she says, visibly embarrassed that her makeshift furniture includes no bed.

We counted seven communal taps. In one case a broken waterpipe — reported three months ago, workers claim — had turned the surrounding area into marshland. Flies swarm through the communal latrine, a row of holes in asbestos sheeting without partitions. The flush-air mechanism is broken. The open-air showers are set so low one must crouch beneath them.

In contrast, Phasha says, white Zebediela employees "live like lords". Among their perks, he claims, is a swimming-bath and a golf-course.

Settlement of the strike seems a distant prospect. Zebediela still insists on negotiating through lawyers, arguing that it cannot recognise the union because farmworkers are not covered by the Labour Relations Act.

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pre-Wiehahn period, and chimes ill with government moves to legislate rights for farmworkers.

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A few taps do work but drainage is poor



## Yes, you can join the union. Recognition? No promises<sup>(4)</sup>

ZEBEDIELA Citrus recognised workers' right to join trade unions but believed the issue of union recognition "should be considered within the existing legal framework", the company said this week, *W/Mail* 26/10-1/11/90. "Existing legislation does not provide for the primary agricultural sector to be included in the framework of the Labour Relations Act," it said in answer to a list of questions submitted by *The Weekly Mail*.

Zebediela's Cornel van Rooyen said that except for service contracts, which still had to be thrashed out with union lawyers, all conditions in the settlement deal ending last year's strike had been met.

A 15 percent pay increase had been given, with a pledge of a 13th cheque if the present crop was harvested in time. An extensive community service and development programme had been launched, which would include the upgrading of housing at a cost of more than R1-million.

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Many workers preferred traditional housing, but management believed the number of brick houses should be increased to improve their quality of life.

Van Rooyen said no fees were charged at the company's school, but a nominal charge of 6c a trip was levied for the 107 children using transport provided by the estate. A nominal fee of R2,50 was charged for treatment at the company clinic, which was staffed by trained nurses and heavily subsidised.

On wages, Van Rooyen said the lowest salary, paid to workers on probation, was R156,86 a month. Blacks in senior or managerial positions earned between R1 369 and R3 387 monthly.

Van Rooyen also said:

- Worker charges that masks and protective clothing were not provided were "totally incorrect and in fact criminally prosecutable".

- A bonus of 19c a bag was offered to workers exceeding their quotas. No worker was compelled to work a 12-hour day.

- Ill-treatment of workers was not allowed.

- The company offered 12 days' paid leave a year.

OCTOBER 1990.

## Guards on strike at farm

BLACK security guards at Zebediela went on strike yesterday after they were forced out of the houses of evicted workers, it was learnt. (A)

The security guards, who had been living in mud huts, moved into the brick houses following the eviction of striking workers last Monday and Tuesday. (A)

Early yesterday, entrance gates leading to the citrus estate were deserted as security guards sang freedom songs in a garage.

This dramatic development in the three-month-old strike followed Friday's decision by Potgietersrus magistrate Mr R Uys to rescind his earlier order granting Zebediela management the right to evict the strikers.

The magistrate's decision meant that the evicted workers should move back into their former houses.

ZEBEDIELA ORCHARDS WAR: A group of labourers, who have little left to lose, have somehow sustained a two-month strike for their rights

# The fruit pickers: Bitter battles but they're not broken

You will not find Koringpump on many maps but the 10-week strike at the state's Zebediela citrus estate is drawing world attention  
BY BREW FORREST

In the one-mile Lebowa village of Koringpump, long after the tattered road runs out, barefoot children comb a mound of human leavings. The pickings are thin: last year's calendars, thatching straw, a broken suitcase containing scraps of formalin, plastic coat hangers, a mattress worn to its rusty springs.

Three weeks ago 90 families evicted from the Zebediela Citrus estate were deposited here, allegedly in heavy rain, in a sequel to a two-month strike of almost unparalleled bitterness.

The battle at Zebediela, an oasis of green amid bare hills 40km from Pretoria, has been fought in an obscure corner.

The bare facts — the strike (the second in a year), mass dismissals, evictions, a court case — have been recorded. But sporadic press reports cannot convey the unique texture of events: sustained labour action by isolated farm labourers, many of them women, most illiterate and some allegedly earning R120 a month, in a conservative rural backwater.

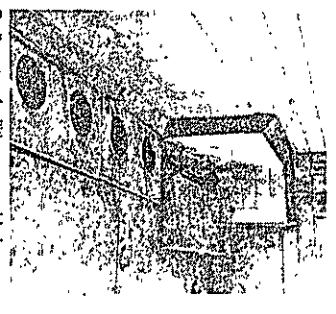
The estate belongs to the SA Development Trust Corporation (STK) and has members of both the Department of Development and the Lebowa government on its board. It stands on land registered in the name of the Development Trust, of which President FW de Klerk is the trustee. But Pretoria, with its pledges of a new deal for farmworkers, its expert sub-committees and inter-departmental reports, seems in another country.

"This is a very arrogant company we're dealing with," says our host and interpreter, Afro-shirted Nactu official Amnibe Phasha. "We have a double problem: it's a farm and it's government."

The National Congress of Trade Union's lawyers recently won a court case overturning the Zebediela evictions, and the army-issue tents in Koringpump which housed them now stand empty. But twice a day, under a large Vaseline billboard featuring a beaming black nuclear family, strikers in dusty overalls, faded slippers and laceless boots collect for communal meals.

Following the court order many of the labourers are returning to the estate but others have moved to their homes.

The two-year fight for a R300 minimum wage and the recognition of Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers



Rudimentary facilities are provided

has changed these workers. Somehow one does not expect orange pickers to call each other and their union officials "comrades".

A mix of anger and supplies donated by local black businessmen keeps them going, Phasha says. They have three days' food left but seem determined to see the strike through — despite selective evictions, seen as a strike-breaking device, and alleged harassment by police and company security.

Workers claim South African and Lebowa police are permanently stationed on the estate, and have imposed a sort of curfew. Assaults are also alleged.

"We already see cracks in management," he says. "I insist *zama-zama* Rice Sibhole, a key figure in the union's organising drive and company stalwart with 34 years' service. Asked if he wants to be quoted by name, he says he is "not afraid, as I am in the forefront".

Ask picketer Rosa Mabotha what she wants from the strike and no interpreter is needed — with a strained look, she rubs her thumb and forefinger together. Of those interviewed Sibhole is the highest earner, with R250 a month. A tractor driver earns R175, while half-deaf cleaner Ntshas Alphean, who "knows his cleaver" in 1925, claimed a monthly



After the evictions... A child searches among the scattered belongings of the orange pickers

vage of R120.

More is at stake than money — the ring of impassive rural faces lights up as grievances are laid. "They've always treated us roughly," says Sibhole, who complains he was never compensated for an accident which severed three toes and disabled his left knee.

At the sound of a siren, pickers start at beam and pick through to open, often later, they claim. Complainants how freely they get a one cent bonus per bag picked after meeting daily quotas. Despite medical and deductions, no cards are issued and workers pay their own hospital bills. They get 12 days' unpaid leave annually and many do not take leave. Strikers are not given masks or protective clothing and some have been scalded by leaking chemicals.

"The only thing that changed after the first strike (in May, last year) was that we started getting 'red ships'," Sibhole says. Aids Phasha: "Nothing is for *madida* here. Workers pay rent and for treatment at the company clinic. There are even deductions for water."

The interview ends, to a burst of spontaneous applause from workers. We move to section 8B — one of 11 compounds in and around the estate.

At the entrance to the staccato red-clay compound, with its scattered mud-

berry and paw-paw trees stand three brick houses, a small number of which can be found in other sections, workers say. Most of 100-odd residents live in "traditional" thatched rondawels of clay, perhaps 3m across, without electricity.

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Picture: KEVIN CARTER

# LRA provisions irk farmers

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry's opposition to being included in the controversial Labour Relations Act (LRA) was stressed at the annual conference of the SA Agricultural Union yesterday.

Western Cape Agricultural Union president Chris du Toit warned that farmers were not prepared to be integrated into a formal labour relations framework yet. Neither were farm workers ready for such a sophisticated system of bargaining.

It was clear the proposal to include farm workers in the legislation was rooted in pressure from certain sources, apparently with political motivation, he said.

There were serious reservations about whether a system of industrial councils and industrial courts where every farmer and his workers could bargain on service conditions could ever work in practice.

Du Toit said unemployment was SA's greatest problem — not negotiations or constitutional reforms or any other problem politicians liked to talk about.

All factors, including legislation that

could work against the creation of employment, had to be handled with kid gloves. The farmer's production process was dependent on a reliable work force.

They had no other choice "but to do the right thing at the right time" because of weather and growth cycles, Du Toit said.

The wage legislation collided with all the principles of a free economic system. "And I cannot see how imposing it on agriculture can be considered."

Du Toit said the LRA was clearly tailored for the needs of the industrial and commercial sectors.

It had little relevance against a background of the complexities and different needs of the primary agricultural sector.

Massive stayaway actions and unrealistic wage demands had taken on political dimensions. What trade unions failed to appreciate was that employers were also fighting for survival.

## Agriculture 'stymied by interest rates'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Sustained high interest rates are among the major stumbling blocks preventing a significant recovery in the agricultural industry.

This point was made yesterday at the SA Agricultural Union conference.

Free State Agricultural Union president Izak Cronje said the industry was worried about government planners' reliance on interest rate mechanisms in the fight against inflation.

Cronje said the interest rate policy should form part of a comprehensive strategy with a balanced fiscal and monetary policy package in which interest rates did

not play a dominant and distorting role.

He stressed a purposeful fiscal policy should include a shrinking of government's demand on scarce capital and manpower resources and a reduction in government's part in the economy.

Speakers complained about the widening gap between producer and consumer prices.

In the previous 12 months, it was stated, production costs rose by nearly 18% against producer price rises of 5.4%.

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# No funds yet for frostbite victims

Staff Reporter

THE Taiwanese government was lagging in financially assisting workers who had lost their fingers because of frostbite while working on Taiwanese trawlers, Cosatu spokesman Mr Nosey Pieterse said yesterday.

Mr Pieterse said representatives of the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) had been promised a meeting with the Taiwanese ambassador to discuss compensation but they had not received word, despite contacting the local consul several times.

"Instead they are meeting with the SA Department of Foreign Affairs and lawyers on the amount for compensation," he said.

Western Cape Cosatu secretary Ms Lucy Nyembe said the Taiwanese had offered to set up a fund for the frostbite victims, but had later indicated that this was not compensation for the workers.

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CP 7113 24/10/90 (4)

## NGK urges responsible wages

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) has called on its members to apply their "Christian responsibility" in determining the wages and housing conditions of their domestic and farm workers.

And in another decision at the NGK General Synod here yesterday, all farmers and other employers were called on to encourage their employees to send their children to school. The Synod also instructed its

General Missionary Commission to investigate the feasibility of founding Christian private schools.

However, it shied away from taking a definitive stance on condemning the Population Registration and Group Areas Acts.

The Synod also decided that if other church bodies subscribing to the Gereformeerde Confession should choose to link up with the NGK, this could be done after consultation. — Sapa

# Farmers warn against

THE SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) was confident it could pre-empt soaring wage demands and large-scale redundancies among farm workers, SAAU deputy director-general, services, Kobus Kleyrhans said yesterday.

He said farmers realised labour would inevitably become more expensive. But if government listened to SAAU appeals not to extend the Wage Act to

MATTHEW CURTIN

farm workers, if farmers adopted sound management principles which indirectly deterred unionisation and spiralling wage demands, and if farmers achieved greater productivity, agriculture would remain competitive in the job market.

Agriculture was traditionally infertile ground for union mobilisation. Far-

# excessive pay demands

8/Day 24/10/90  
farmers had no misgivings over the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) to their employees.

But, said Kleyrhans, farmers were still wary of the implications that an extension of the Wage Act or unionisation, yet to be legitimised in terms of the Labour Relations Act (LRA), would have.

Excessive wage demands would threaten the 1,3-million farm workers in SA who, with dependants, made up almost a quarter of the country's population.

The Agriculture Department, in a report in August, said about 30% of farmers stood "to go bust by year-end" and the SAAU has appealed to government to make more bridging finance available for threatened farms.

Food and Allied Workers' Union assistant general secretary Mike Madhala said yesterday farmers

should not prejudice the effect higher wages would have on the industry.

Fawu, the union charged by Cosatu to mobilise farm workers, was concerned primarily with ensuring farm workers were recognised in law and able to organise legitimately.

Manpower Ministry spokesman Johann Muller said yesterday Minister Eli Louw had commissioned the National Manpower Commission (NMC) to investigate how to extend the BCEA and Unemployment Act to farm workers, and whether the Wages Act and the LRA should be extended.

The ministry was addressing the issues "with urgent attention". Future conditions in agriculture had to guarantee a living wage for employees and the economic performance of farms.

The SAAU's 19th annual congress opened last night in Pretoria.

# Killer boss beat sick man with axe handle

ST Times  
2/12/90

(4)

By IVOR CREWS

WHEN terminally ill farm labourer Johannes Beukes returned from his cancer treatment at hospital he went straight to bed.

Hours later the 78-year-old man was beaten awake by an enraged Rudolph Rix, his boss, who then set about bludgeoning him with a pickaxe handle for not being at work.

Clad in hospital pyjamas and a nightcap, the frail old man told the Stellenbosch magistrate's court:

"I woke up when I was hit. Mr Rix asked me why I was not working. Then, without waiting for a reply, he hit me across the arm, the chest and stomach."

He was giving evidence in the trial of Rix, who was this week sentenced in a higher court to an effective 18 months in jail for beating to death another labourer, Charlie Thomp-

son, 36. Mr Thompson died in the Tygerberg hospital two weeks after lapsing into a coma.

Rix — of the farm Ruando at Kraalfontein, near Stellenbosch — was convicted in the Paarl regional court of culpable homicide and sentenced to three years' imprisonment — half of which was suspended for five years.

## Knife

He was also fined R250 (or six months' imprisonment) for assaulting Mr Beukes.

But he was freed on R500 bail pending the outcome of an appeal.

Prior to the unprovoked assault on Mr Beukes in May last year, the farm worker, who suffers from stomach cancer and TB,

had sent several messages to Rix informing him of his illness.

Under cross-examination by Francis Murray, counsel for Rix, it was put to Mr Beukes that his common-law wife Dinah Fredericks, 64, had been "interfering" with Rix at the time of the attack by stabbing at him with a small pocket knife.

Mr Beukes, said Mr Murray, had been hit across the arm "by accident" while trying to fend off his "cheeky" wife.

Mrs Fredericks told the court that, after beating Mr Beukes, Rix had pulled a bloodied pickaxe handle from his overalls and claimed he had already killed eight people with it.

Rix pleaded not guilty to the charges, claiming he had hit the workers with a "light stick" after going to their homes "to make

enquiries".

He claimed he had acted in self-defence.

But the magistrate found Rix had wanted to "scare and threaten" the workers, who had been absent from work for several days, and launched the assault for "no reason".

## Shotgun

When approached for comment on his father's farm this week Rix said: "I have nothing to say. It won't make any difference now."

However, his father, Donald Rix, defended him.

"If Rudolph had been black he would have got off," he said, protesting his son's innocence.

But he admitted his son had taken a pickaxe handle with him for "protection". "It's just as well he did not take a shotgun instead or a lot more people could

have been killed after he was attacked by the labourers and forced to defend himself."

"He must have hit one of them too hard because he died later in hospital."

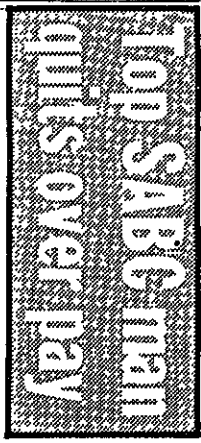
He said his son did not have a violent temper. "Rudolph just kept the blacks in their place.

"He is worried about going to jail, but won't show it."

Democratic Party spokesman for justice Dave Dalling this week slammed the sentence.

He said: "Although I am not fully aware of all the facts pertaining to the case it would appear that Rix has got off very lightly.

"It cannot create a good impression among the public at large, nor can it assist the administration of justice in attaining any legitimacy among people who are not white."



By RYAN CRESSWELL

BROADCASTER Peter Broomfield severed his strong ties with Radio Port Natal because of poor freelance fees and friction with staff members.

Broomfield presented the popular Anything Goes with Peter B on Radio Port Natal for several months. He started broadcasting one night a week but ended up working six.

Mr Broomfield said: "It was my decision to leave because the conditions were unfavourable for me to continue working there." He was now busy working as a regular contributor to Audiomix and Radio Today.

After Mr Broomfield left Radio Port Natal the head of SABC's English and Afrikaans Radio Group in Natal, Bill Sharp, said the group was sorry to lose the services of such a fine broadcaster.



# Assault: workers in court



*Sowetan 3/12/90*

**By MATHATHA  
TSEDU**

FARMER Mr Johannes W Erasmus and two of his labourers appeared briefly in the Messina Magistrate's Court on Friday charged with assaulting six children.

Erasmus appeared with Mr Nelson Mbedzi and Mr Mark Moleya before Mr AH Klopper.

They were not asked to plead and prosecutor Ms M Skinner asked for a postponement of the case to January 17 for further investigation.

The accused were released on their own cognisance.

Erasmus, of Plot 7 Weipe, is alleged to have

fetches the six children aged between nine and 16 years from school and work on November 21 and 22 and taken them to his farm where he sjambokked them until their behinds cracked.

He is alleged to have accused them of assisting men who stole his irrigation pipes.

The six children were at the Messina Limpopo Hospital on Friday. Five of them had just been discharged and were waiting to go home.

## LRA clauses on farm labour 'to be dropped'

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE National Manpower Commission (NMC) was set to shelve clauses which include agri-industrial workers in the new labour relations legislation due for promulgation in the first 1991 parliamentary session, it was claimed at the weekend.

Farm Workers' Research and Resource Project (FRRP) co-ordinator Andrew Ball said the FRRP as well as Cosatu and the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), were concerned the clauses, part of the Saccola/Cosatu/Nactu accord, had been "squashed" after SA Agricultural Union representations to the NMC.

These workers now had "no guarantee" they would be covered by new legislation.

The FRRP was concerned the discrepancies in conditions between industrial workers and so-called agri-business workers in areas like forestry would be perpetuated. Ball said unionised workers in companies like Sappi, Mondi and Hans Merensky earned an average of R850 a month compared to their counterparts working in timber growing, classed as agricultural workers, who earned only R280 a month.

SAAU deputy director, general services, Kobus Kleynhans said there were several problems about the inclusion of agri-industrial workers in the new amendments to the Labour Relations Act (LRA). There was no succinct definition of these workers, and as Manpower Minister Eli Louw had instructed the NMC to compile a report on the possible application of the LRA to farm workers by the end of April, the SAAU felt there was no need to rush through clauses concerning agri-industrial workers.

NMC member Adolph Landman said last week the inclusion of agri-industrial workers in terms of the amended LRA had been postponed pending the NMC's report on all farmworkers.

NMC acting chairman Frans Barker said there were practical problems in extending the LRA to farm workers.

The NMC remained committed to its task of investigating how the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act would be extended to farm workers, and whether the LRA and Wage Act should be extended.

# Income from agriculture soars to R19,5bn

PRETORIA — The gross income of the country's agricultural industry soared to R19,554bn in the 12 months to end-June this year, according to Department of Agriculture preliminary calculations.

This was R3,096bn greater than the figure for the previous 12 months of R16,458bn.

However, mainly because of inflation, input costs rose sharply during the 12 months from R6,775bn in 1988-89 to R8,009bn in 1989-90.

Although the value of exports for the period was not available, in the 1989 calendar year the figure was R5,8bn, greater by R1,9bn than the foreign earnings for 1988.

And according to departmental calculations, the industry's contribution to the GDP in 1989-90 amounted

**GERALD REILLY**

to R11,911bn compared with R10,6bn for the previous year.

The huge total income, however, had to be seen against a background of farmers total debt which by the end of this year could reach R15bn.

The claimed lack of profitability of farming had forced hundreds of farmers off their lands in the past three or four years.

**Labour**

The industry, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) said, was caught in a vice between highly inflated input costs and depressed prices, particularly for crops.

Farmers claimed there was far too wide a gap between what they earned

for their products and what the consumer ultimately had to pay. Farm labour costs were also rising.

In the 12 months to June this year, the industry paid its million workers R2,283bn — R273m more than in the previous 12 months.

Interest on debt was the next highest cost, an SAAU spokesman said.

In the 12 months to June interest amounted to nearly R1,9bn.

Commercial banks were the biggest lenders followed by the Land Bank and other financial institutions.

Big gross earners included maize at R3,057bn, wheat R1,217bn, wool R786,1m, horticulture R3,853bn and deciduous fruit R932,3m.

The total for field crops amounted to R6,491bn — R1,738bn up on the figure for June 1988 to June in 1989.

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# E Cape town feels the pinch of a 'chicory' shops boycott

By SHADLEY NASH: Port Elizabeth

A HOTEL has been put up for sale in Alexandria, as the consumer boycott in the town enters its fourth week.

Peter Gordon, owner of the Heritage Lodge, said that the sale was prompted by inquiries from investors. He conceded that the boycott had been a factor, as it had adversely affected business, but said it was not the main reason.

He said one business, which traded predominantly with blacks, had closed its doors to "sit out the boycott".  
u/m/ai 7/12-13/12/90

Meanwhile, the Chicory Board has written to the boycott committee to give an assurance that local workers will gradually be selected to work on chicory plantations in the area.

The boycott began some four weeks ago because of the Chicory Board's insistence on using Ciskeian contract labour rather than local workers. Five years ago, the board fired 225 workers who were local residents and began employing migrants on its plantations.

Gordon, who is chairperson of the Alexandria Sakekamer, said he had received a copy of the letter, but African National Congress branch executive member Mcedisi Skepu said the committee had not yet received it.

He said once the letter was in their possession, the committee would review it and report back to the community for a further mandate.

He said the boycott, at this stage, would continue indefinitely, but certainly throughout December, in line with the national call by the ANC for mass action. — Pen

# VAT will be test of farmers' bookwork

*Biday 6/12/90*  
FARMERS would have to get their paperwork and accounting systems in order or lose out on credit refunds when the value added tax (VAT) system was introduced next year, accountants said yesterday.

They would not be able to leave their paperwork until year-end as was the case with GST. The VAT system was invoice-driven and invoices had to be supplied whenever a taxable service was received or supplied, the accountants said.

While efficient farmers had nothing to fear from the introduction of VAT — provided they already had good accounting systems — those without proper accounts would have difficulty in reclaiming the tax component included in their bills for purchased inputs.

When all tax paid on purchases or services (input tax) was deducted from the total tax farmers charged their customers (output tax), farmers could claim credit only if input was greater than output.

To a certain extent VAT would provide a built-in checking mechanism and although tax collected would have to be paid over to the tax authorities, VAT paid and shown on invoices could be claimed as a tax credit paid on goods and services obtained for farming purposes (inputs).

"The ideal VAT system should have as few exceptions and zero-ratings as possible to ensure that it will be a broad-based consumption tax," said Mark Badenhorst of Price Waterhouse.

## MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

He added that all primary producers such as farmers, fishermen and timber growers would have to be included to safeguard the integrity of the system.

There were large numbers of farmers on medium-sized farms who would be caught in the middle between the large primary producers and small producers.

They would be faced with the problem of ensuring that their accounting systems and records complied with requirements such as VAT registration, which was necessary to claim input tax credit, and correct invoicing, giving the registration number and amount of tax charged, Badenhorst said.

## Refunds

An insignificant percentage of small farmers falling below the threshold turnover limit of R50 000 would be exempted and, therefore, not liable to comply with the VAT requirements, while large producers already had accounting systems and records to ensure adequate compliance.

Because farming was seasonal, farmers would tend to claim refunds at the beginning of the agricultural year, when purchasing inputs, before making heavy payments to the Receiver after harvest, economists said. This made government revenue more seasonal.

# Appeal over health budget

PRETORIA — The Medical Association of SA yesterday appealed to President F W de Klerk to give urgent priority to the health care budget for next year.

In a letter to De Klerk, Masa said it was seriously concerned about the deterioration of health services in the public sector.

This was caused by the loss of public sector health personnel to the private sector and to jobs in other countries because of inadequate pay, stressful work, outdated equipment and lack of career incentives at state hospitals.

*Biday 6/12/90*  
Wits University's Specialists Association, using information from medical personnel at medical schools, estimated 76% of the doctors planned to move to the private sector; 41% were considering emigrating; and 9% planned a career change.

It was feared if the trend of losing state doctors continued, public sector health care services would be unable to provide care for a growing population.

Masa secretary-general Hendrik Hane-

## GERALD REILLY

korn stressed the vast majority of South Africans were totally dependent on state health care services. A preliminary report by management consultants commissioned by Masa warned that losses of senior practitioners and administrators to the private health care sector were a major threat to the public health sector.

Hanekom stressed that in the past 10 years there had been increasing concern over the deteriorating standards of academic medicine.

The standard of health care was determined by academic medicine standards and Masa had warned for years that urgent steps were needed to head off the crisis now developing.

Masa, Hanekom said, was waiting for feedback from a leadership conference on academic medicine held earlier this year but in the meantime it had started its own investigations into the funding aspect.

# POOR

By SOPHIE TEMA

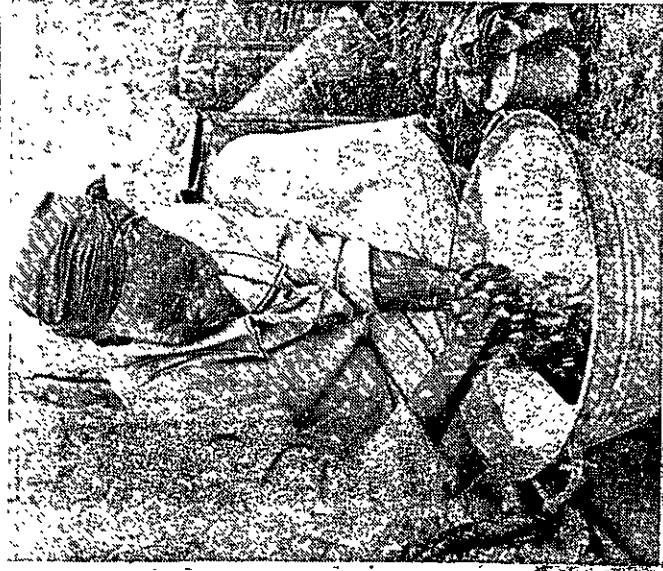
PARENTS suffer when they are forced to allow their children to work on farms. They know the children are badly treated, but have no option when they cannot afford to feed and clothe them.

Child labour is not uncommon on Western Transvaal maize and groundnut farms. In some instances the children are paid in bags of unground mealies.

Parents who spoke to *City Press* this week said most of the child workers were collected from villages near Kuruman in the Northern Cape. Children from the ages of 10 to 17 were taken to work on farms, and sometimes adults joined the recruits because of the poverty and unemployment in their villages.

The recruits were picked up at collection points at poverty-stricken villages such as Seloja (Slough); Padstow, known as Pepsi by the villagers; Laxey and Dearham. The children stayed on the farms for between three and five months.

The children claim they slept on mealie bags on the cement floors of unused barns while on the farms.



Ma Torch Mokgethi lives alone while her children work on farms near Makwassie.

# CHILDREN!

## Paid in kind for back-breaking work . . .

Sometimes they were forced to use the same barns as male labourers, and girls were often sexually exploited by the "boss boys". *City Press* 7/12/70

Saratjie Mashube, who lives in Dearham, said her daughter was recruited to harvest mealies on a farm in Leeudoringstad in April this year. "My daughter was away for almost four months and when she returned she had 16 bags of unground maize.

"What is worse, my daughter had her arm broken by a man. A case was brought against the assailant, but the farmer intervened and nothing came of it. I have sent her away, but she will come back next year to be in the village when the recruitment starts.

"I can't stop her from going back - because the mealies are our only source of survival," she said.

Kukwane Minah Mokomela, a mother of four young

children, said she joined the recruits in March because her husband died about three years ago, leaving her to fend for the family. She worked on a groundnut farm for three months. She was paid R3 a day.

"After the harvest I went to work on a potato farm, but I was paid nothing. The farmer told me I had worked to pay for my transport back to the village.

"I cannot afford to send my children to school. We haven't enough food to keep us alive," she said.

Phillip Moisewabangwe, of Padstow, said he was forced by circumstances to join the recruits. "I was forced to do something to keep my wife and children alive. I can't look for work in town, because we have to pay R12 a single trip by bus or taxi to Kuruman." He also has no choice but to join the farm recruits again next year.

## Citrus workers end strike (4)

PIETERSBURG. — The four-month strike by more than 1 200 Zebediela Estate citrus workers ended yesterday. Workers are to resume full-time duties today.

*Cart 7/25/80 10/2/90*  
Workers decided to end the strike during a report-back meeting at the estate hall yesterday afternoon when they accepted management's offer of a R30-a-month interim wage increase from December 1.

They also decided to end their boycott of the estate's orange crops. — Sapa

# Zebediela workers get sweet taste of success

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Sowetan 10/12/90

by MATHATHA TSEDU

THE marathon strike by Zebediela Citrus Estate workers ends today after management gave workers an interim increase of R30 a month and agreed to the tacit recognition of the National Union of Farmworkers.

Workers accepted the offer at a meeting held on the estate yesterday and resolved that they would return to work.

Nactu's regional organiser in Pietersburg, Mr Moses Mphahlele, said workers had until Friday this week to return to work.

Mphahlele said management's offer also included immediate implementation of the R30 increase for December, a full pay for December,

full leave pay as well for those who had gone on leave earlier in the year, a full bonus for the year.

The two parties also agreed to an exchange of wage and union recognition proposals between them by January 15.

## Wages

Negotiations over recognition and wage increase are set to begin on January 23, Mphahlele said.

"If by February 23, both parties have not reached agreement on any of the issues, the matter will go for mediation," he said.

The end of the strike comes exactly four months and two days after it started on August 8 following management's refusal to discuss wages.

Workers at the estate earned a minimum of R156 a month and were demanding a minimum wage of R500 a month and recognition of the union.

Management initially refused to deal with the union and preliminary talks were conducted through lawyers. But as the strike went into its third month, generating international publicity as well as a boycott of oranges, management relented and agreed to meet union leaders.

Yesterday's meeting was the first to be held within the estate, a development which indicated de facto recognition of the union.

Mwasa president Mrs Sandra Nagfaal received a tumultuous welcome from

the more than 1 500 when she told them that the deal by management was "a drop in the ocean" which should spur them to continue the struggle until they got a living wage.

The general manager of Zebediela, Mr M W Minaar, was not available for comment yesterday. He was said to be on leave.

## Curtain f

IT'S definitely off - forever speaking of his stormy marriage Fassie.

Mbambo said in an interview "a lot of things" during their

"But now I think it is time. A divorce was definitely met Brenda at the Johannesburg business. She told me that she but I was not impressed."

Nhlanhla has gone back to where he is helping to run his

"I met Brenda during my

burg.

"I was under pressure to make our marriage a success.

## No ANC stayaway today

The ANC has not called for a stayaway today, a statement by the ANC's PWV regional executive said at the weekend.

A spokesman said it had been suggested that a stayaway be called, however after consultation with the Cosatu it was decided not to make such a call. - Sapa



## Citrus workers' strike victory

By DREW FORREST

WHAT is believed to be South Africa's longest-ever farm strike, by 1 200 workers at the state-owned Zebediela Citrus Estate near Pietersburg, has ended in a breakthrough for the workers and their union.

Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers (NUF), probably the most active farm union in the country, said the four-month strike was settled last week with management agreeing to recognise the NUF and granting a R30-a-month interim increase.

NUF organiser Moses Mphahlele said pay and recognition talks would start early next year and be concluded by February 23, failing which a mediator would intervene.

He said the company had also agreed to reinstate the 1 200 dismissed strikers, and that the case of 11 workers fired during a strike last year was under negotiation. Workers would receive their full December salary and annual bonus.

The company's climb-down may be linked to broader state moves to legislate rights for farmworkers. The need for a new dispensation was agreed in the state-employer-union "minute" on the Labour Relations Act and the issue is currently under National Manpower Commission investigation. *w/m and 14/12-19/12/90*

During the strike, Nactu made much play of President FW de Klerk's links with the company, as a trustee of the SA Development Trust, which owns the estate land. Overseas publicity — the City of London branch of the Anti-Apartheid Movement mounted a picket outside South Africa House — may also have played a role.

In a recent tour of the estate, management conceded that the strike had cost the company millions of rand.

CAPE TOWN 19/12/90

# Farm workers to get labour rights

## Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Recommendations by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) that rights enjoyed by workers in other industries be extended to farmworkers will be gazetted on Friday, the Manpower Department confirmed yesterday.

Department spokesman Mr. Joggie Kasiner said the NMC's recommendations centred on labour rights such as unemployment benefits, maximum working

hours, overtime, vacation leave, the right to form unions and the right to strike.

He added that his department was giving all interested parties until February 1 next year to comment on the recommendations before an amendment bill was drafted.

"After an amendment bill has been drafted it will be published in the Government Gazette to enable all interested parties to comment before it is taken to the cabinet for consideration," Mr. Kasiner said.

He added that the bill would be tabled in the 1991 parliamentary sessions after it had been approved by the cabinet.

The NMC was instructed by Manpower Minister Mr. Eli Louw early this year to investigate the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment, Unemployment Insurance and Labour Relations Acts to farmworkers.

In terms of his agreement with Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola in September, Mr. Louw undertook to examine the question of extending union and other rights to farmworkers.

# Youth burnt: conflicting reports

By Shehnaaz Bulbulia

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A 15-year-old farm labourer was allegedly doused with petrol and set alight by his employer after being accused of "stealing something", according to Jacob Matakanye, director of the Messina Advice Centre, northern Transvaal.

A spokesman at Limpopo Hospital in Messina said Marshall Maphosa was being treated for second-degree burns under police guard.

Police, however, have a different version and say the youth has another name.

Northern Transvaal liaison officer Lieutenant Werner Voigt

*Stuur 13/12/90*  
said the youth, known to them as Frankie Lesuka Mukwatie, was a prime suspect in six cases of theft involving stolen cars and housebreaking.

He was burnt accidentally during an arrest by a farmer in the Tshipisi district who was welding. Mukwatie's nylon jacket was set alight by sparks from the welding machine, he said.

Mr Matakanye, who visited Maphosa yesterday, said the boy writhed in pain and cried throughout the visit.

According to Mr Matakanye, Maphosa claimed that a farmer called Jan allegedly doused him with petrol and set him alight after accusing him of stealing.

Mr Matakanye said according to the hospital registrar, police had admitted and registered the youth under the name of Marshall Maphosa on December 8.

Superintendent of Limpopo Hospital Dr J P van Zyl confirmed that a youth under the name of Marshall Maphosa was being treated for second-degree burns under police guard. He had suffered burns on his back and chest, but his condition was improving.

Lieutenant Voigt said the youth was arrested by Jan van der Westhuizen after police had alerted farmers to be on the lookout for him. The incident would be investigated.

# Unions cool on farmhands' deal

CAPE TOWN 20/12/90  
Own Correspondent (4) (288)

JOHANNESBURG. — Trade unions yesterday expressed reservations over the National Manpower Commission's (NMC's) recommendation that farmworkers not be granted the right to organise themselves in terms of the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) and the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) both cautiously welcomed NMC recommendations that basic working conditions and unemployment benefit requirements be extended to farmworkers.

The Fawu said the recommendations were "a step in the right direction", but as long as farmworkers were without the "organisational protection" afforded to industrial workers, the new provisions were no guarantee their conditions would improve.

Under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA), SA's 1,4 million farmworkers will have statutory maximum working hours, prescribed meal intervals, overtime pay, annual and sick leave, and contractual protection.

Once the Manpower Department has scrutinised comments on the recommendations it will submit draft legislation for cabinet approval.

The NMC is expected to report early next year on extending the LRA and Wage Act to farmworkers.

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# Doubts over farm labour suggestions

MATTHEW CURTIN

TRADE unions yesterday expressed reservations about the National Manpower Commission's (NMC's) recommendation that farmworkers not be granted the right to organise themselves in terms of the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) — the Cosatu affiliate charged with mobilising farmworkers — and the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) both cautiously welcomed NMC recommendations that basic working conditions and unemployment benefit requirements be extended to farmworkers.

Fawu assistant general secretary Mike Madlala said the NMC's recommendations were "a step in the right direction". But he warned that as long as farmworkers were without the "organisational protection" afforded industrial workers in terms of the LRA, the new provisions were no guarantee that farmworkers' conditions would improve.

Madlala said it had taken the establishment

of black trade unions to ensure industrial workers' rights were observed even though the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) and Unemployment Insurance Act (UIA) existed.

NUF general secretary Shaka Moletsana said the recommendations — to be gazetted tomorrow — constituted progress. But the union, which he said had a paid-up membership of about 6 000 farmworkers, was concerned that the NMC had recommended agri-industry workers be excluded from the amendments to the LRA. *6 Dec 20 12:19*

Under the BCEA, SA's 1.4-million farmworkers will have statutory maximum weekly and daily working hours, prescribed meal intervals, overtime pay, annual and sick leave, and contractual protection.

When covered by the UIA, farmworkers will enjoy unemployment, maternity, illness, adoption and health benefits accruing to dependants of deceased contributors. Farmworkers and

their employers will contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Once the Manpower Department has scrutinised comments on the recommendations, it will submit draft legislation for Cabinet approval.

However, Manpower Department acting director-general Jogie Kastner noted yesterday that despite the NMC recommendations, farmworkers would still be without the legal right to strike or join trade unions, and would enjoy no minimum wage provision.

The NMC was expected to report early next year on whether the LRA and Wage Act should be extended to all farmworkers. The NMC would propose that workers on farming units employing more than 100 staff be covered by the new labour legislation, and that agri-industry workers be included with all farmworkers in new legislation likely to be passed in 1992.

Business Day incorrectly reported yesterday that the NMC had recommended that the LRA be extended to include farmworkers.



## NOTICE 1076 OF 1990

## DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER

BASIC CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1983  
(ACT No. 3 OF 1983)

(4)

## FARM WORKERS AND MINEWORKERS

## 1. Background

The Minister of Manpower announced during the debate on his Vote in Parliament on 27 April 1990 that the inclusion of farm workers under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1983, would receive attention during 1990 and that an appropriate amendment Bill would be submitted to Parliament during the 1991 session. Thereafter it would depend upon the Parliamentary processes when the Bill would be translated into legislation.

The National Manpower Commission (NMC) was requested to make fully substantiated recommendations regarding the following:

(a) The Government's policy is to intervene as little as possible in the relationship between employer and employee. On the basis of this policy the Government would like to promote collective bargaining as much as possible. On the other hand, the Government also wishes to protect certain basic rights of employees. For this reason the Minister requested substantiated proposals on how, in the opinion of the NMC, the above-mentioned principles could best be reconciled in legislation. In particular, the Government would like to see that employees should be able, as far as possible, to negotiate basic conditions of employment, which could include grievance and disciplinary procedures, with their employers and that the result of the negotiations should be binding upon the parties. In this respect the Government would also like to create the possibility that the different industries in agriculture could formulate codes which would be binding upon all employers and employees in that industry within specified geographical areas.

(b) The extent to which and manner in which the conditions of employment of employees in agriculture can be regulated.

(c) Taking into consideration the distinctive circumstances of the agricultural and forestry workers, how best the practical problems, which the NMC may identify in the application of any proposed amendments, may be overcome.

(d) Substantiated proposals on the formulation and structuring of possible amendments to the Act.

(e) The provisions regarding the conditions of employment relating to work on certain public holidays and Sundays will probably soon be removed from the Mines and Works Act, 1956. The NMC was requested to advise the Minister on the manner in which the protection which employees currently enjoy under section 9 of the said Act in the above-mentioned respect can be accommodated in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

## KENNISGEWING 1076 VAN 1990

## DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG

WET OP BASIESE DIENSVOORWAARDES, 1983  
(WET No. 3 VAN 1983)

## PLAASWERKERS EN MYNWERKERS

## 1. Agtergrond

Die Minister van Mannekrag het tydens die debat oor sy Begrotingspos op 27 April 1990 in die Parlement aangekondig dat die insluiting van plaaswerkers onder die Wet op Basiese Diensvoorwaardes, 1983, gedurende 1990 aandag sal geniet en dat 'n wysigingswetsontwerp hieroor gedurende die 1991-parlementssessie ingedien sal word. Daarna sal dit van die Parlementêre prosesse afhang wanneer die wetsontwerp in wetgewing omskep kan word.

Die Nasionale Mannekragkommissie (NMK) is versoek om volledig gemotiveerde aanbevelings oor die volgende te doen:

(a) Die Regering se beleid is om so min as moontlik met die verhouding tussen werkgewer en werknemer in te meng. Op grond van hierdie beleid sou die Regering kollektiewe bedinging so ver as moontlik wou bevorder. Daarteenoor wil die Regering ook sekere basiese regte van werknemers beskerm. Daarom het die Minister gemotiveerde voorstelle verlang oor hoe die NMK meen bogenoemde beginsels ten beste met mekaar in wetgewing versoek kan word. In die besonder sou die Regering graag wou sien dat werknemers sover moontlik met hul werkgewers oor die basiese diensvoorwaardes, wat griewe- en dissiplinêre prosedures kan insluit, moet kan onderhandel en dat die resultaat van die onderhandelings bindend vir die partye is. In hierdie verband sou die Regering ook graag die moontlikheid wil skep dat die verskillende bedrywe in die landbou kodes kan daarstel wat bindend is vir alle werkgewers en werknemers in daardie bedryf binne bepaalde geografiese gebiede.

(b) Die mate waarin en wyse waarop die diensvoorwaardes van werknemers in die landbou gereël kan word.

(c) Hoe om, met inagneming van die eiesoortige omstandighede van landbou- en bosbouwerkers, die praktiese probleme wat die NMK mag identifiseer by die toepassing van enige voorgestelde wysigings, ten beste te bowe te kom.

(d) Gemotiveerde voorstelle oor die formulering en strukturering van moontlike wetswysigings.

(e) Die bepalings rakende diensvoorwaardes wat verband hou met werk op sekere openbare vakansiedae en Sondae, sal waarskynlik binnekort uit die Wet op Myne en Bedrywe, 1956, verwyder word. Die NMK is versoek om die Minister te adviseer oor die wyse waarop die beskerming wat werknemers tans kragtens artikel 9 van daardie Wet in bogenoemde verband geniet, in die Wet op Basiese Diensvoorwaardes opgeneem kan word.

**2. Instruction**

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By direction of Mr Eli Louw, Minister of Manpower, the recommendations of the National Manpower Commission on the inclusion of farm workers under the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1983, and on the manner in which the protection which employees currently enjoy under section 9 of the Mines and Works Act, 1956, could be accommodated under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1983, are published in the Schedule hereto for general information and comment.

**3. Comments invited**

(a) All interested parties are hereby invited to submit **written** comments on the NMC-report as soon as possible. Comments should be forwarded to the **Director-General: Manpower, Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001, for attention Mr Len Olivier, Telephone (012) 310-6452.**

(b) Comments should reach the Department not later than 1 February 1991.

(c) The comments, together with the recommendations of the NMC and the reaction of the Government thereto will be translated into a draft Bill by the Department of Manpower. This draft Bill will be published for comment in the *Gazette* as soon as possible. Thereafter a final Bill will be drawn up by the Department of Manpower for submission to the Government.

(d) Comments on paragraphs 1 (a) to (e) above also, would be appreciated.

(e) Where comments are offered on the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act **state clearly to which section, subsection or paragraph of the Act the comment has reference.**

(f) The name, telephone number, fax number and address of a person who may be contacted in regard to the comments should also be stated clearly.

The report of the NMC was received by the Department on 30 November 1990 and it had to be translated before it could be published on 21 December 1990.

**2. Opdrag**

In opdrag van mnr. Eli Louw, Minister van Mannekrag, word die aanbevelings van die Nasionale Mannekragkommissie oor die insluiting van plaaswerkers onder die bepalings van die Wet op Basiese Diensvoorwaardes, 1983, en die wyse waarop die beskerming wat werknemers tans kragtens artikel 9 van die Wet op Myne en Bedrywe, 1956, geniet, in die Wet op Basiese Diensvoorwaardes, 1983, opgeneem kan word, in die Bylae hieronder vir algemene inligting en kommentaar gepubliseer.

**3. Kommentaar gevra**

(a) Alle belanghebbendes word hierby versoek om so spoedig moontlik **skriftelik** kommentaar op die NMK-verslag te lewer. Kommentaar moet gestuur word aan die **Direkteur-generaal: Mannekrag, Privaatsak X117, Pretoria, 0001, vir aandag mnr. Len Olivier Telefoon (012) 310-6452.**

(b) Die kommentaar moet die Departement nie later as 1 Februarie 1991 bereik nie.

(c) Die kommentaar, saam met die aanbevelings van die NMK en die Regering se reaksie daarop, sal deur die Departement van Mannekrag in 'n konsepwetsontwerp verwerk word. Hierdie konsepwetsontwerp sal so gou as moontlik in die *Staatskoerant* vir kommentaar gepubliseer word. Daarna sal die Departement van Mannekrag 'n finale wetsontwerp opstel vir voorlegging aan die Regering.

(d) Kommentaar oor paragrawe 1 (a) tot (e) hierbo sal ook waardeer word.

(e) Waar kommentaar gelewer word oor die bepalings van die Wet op Basiese Diensvoorwaardes, **moet duidelik gemeld word op watter artikel, subartikel of paragraaf van die Wet die kommentaar betrekking het.**

(f) Die naam, telefoonnommer, faksnommer en adres van 'n persoon met wie oor die kommentaar geskakel kan word, moet ook duidelik gemeld word.

Die NMK se verslag is op 30 November 1990 deur die Departement ontvang en moes vertaal word voordat dit op 21 Desember 1990 gepubliseer kon word.

**SCHEDULE****NATIONAL MANPOWER COMMISSION****EXPLANATORY NOTES IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS IN ORDER TO PLACE FARMING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE BASIC CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT ACT, No. 3 OF 1983 (BCEA)****1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Minister of Manpower announced during the reply to his budget vote on 27 April 1990 that the inclusion of farming activities under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, No. 3 of 1983, (BCEA) would receive attention and that an amendment Bill in this regard would be introduced during the 1991 Parliamentary session. In pursuance of this announcement the Minister requested the National Manpower Commission by letter on 14 September 1990 to investigate the extent to which and ways in which conditions of employment in agriculture could be regulated, how practical problems in the application of any legislative amendments could best be overcome, and what formulation and structure possible amendments should assume.

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# TAU: labour proposals not in farmworkers' interests

THE interests of farmworkers would not be served by National Manpower Commission recommendations to be published today that labour legislation be extended to them, Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president A A B Bruwer said yesterday.

Commenting on the proposals to include farmworkers in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and Unemployment Insurance Act, he said "the good relationship which exists on farms between employer and employee cannot be regulated by law" *8/24/21/21/90*

Amendments to the two Acts, set to be promulgated in the next parliamentary session, will regulate the conditions of employment of all farmworkers — hours of work, sick pay, overtime and annual leave — and afford them and their dependants, through employer and employee contributions, benefits from the unemployment insurance fund. There are an estimated 1,4-million farmworkers in SA who support at least 5-million dependants.

Bruwer said agriculture differed "radically" from other industries in that hours of service could not be applied uniformly.

"No legislation can govern these times," he said in a statement.

To link agriculture's divergent activities

MATTHEW CURTIN

to specific working hours and to enforce it through legislation would eventually be to the detriment of the consumer.

The TAU was also concerned farmers would have to make significant financial and administrative contributions so that the laws could be implemented.

As for the recommended unemployment provisions, Bruwer said there were several thousand unemployed already on SA's farms. Farmers provided retired workers, women and children with food and accommodation, and in most cases medical care, free of charge.

He said the proposed amendments might "have the result that these people will now have to find other homes if farmers have to make a further financial and administrative contribution to employment insurance". Labour harmony on most farms was evidence farmers did not exploit workers for their own ends.

Cosatu and Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers have maintained SA Agricultural Union lobbying resulted in the NMC recommendation that agri-industrial workers be excluded from amendments to the Labour Relations Act, a task the NMC had originally undertaken to oversee.



# Killer drought hits maize crop

## The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The worst drought in 60 years has resulted in the maize industry's worst fears being realised this Christmas.

Official Maize Board estimates — announced at the weekend — for the next crop show that the country will have to import almost two millions tons of maize to meet local demand.

The estimate is that just under five million tons will be available plus 900 000 tons which was surplus from last year's harvest. Normal domestic consumption is 7,2 million tons.

### HIGHER COST

The Wheat Board earlier announced that its crop would be down by 500 000 tons.

An added problem for the Maize Board, however, is that export orders have had to be frozen and the board has been negotiating to re-purchase these orders — in some instances at a higher cost than the original sale — to meet consumption demands.

Negotiations are also taking place with Zimbabwe for 400 000 tons to be exchanged for motor vehicles and spare parts.

It is expected by the industry that a large amount of maize will be bought from the United States and, possibly, Canada. Both these countries have, however, earmarked supplies for eastern Europe and Russia.

The drought has been particularly devastating in the western Transvaal and north-west Free State production areas, in the northern and central Trans-

vaal, and in the Eastern Cape.

Despite some late rains, farmers have not been able to plant their summer rainfall crops in time to meet the seasonal deadline.

The Maize Board said in a statement at the weekend that 2,6 million hectares of maize had been planted — a million hectare less than last year.

'Searing heat in the so-called maize triangle — which stretches from the eastern Transvaal highveld to the other two production areas and accounts for 40 percent of the country's yield — has continued almost unabated since April.

Temperatures recorded have been between 25 and 35 deg C on most days, and some districts, particularly in the west, have had little rain to beat the drought.

The result has been that fields are bone-hard, grazing is almost non-existent in many districts, and thousands of rands have had to be spent by farmers each week in a bid to feed their livestock.

The drought has also affected the living standards of thousands of people on the plateau.

Hundreds of black farm workers have been laid off, with many leaving the lands for larger urban areas in search of jobs.



# Change round the corner on the country's farms

Nov 23/12/90

New eras are not always heralded by long periods of preparation. Sometimes they are inclined to creep in noiselessly, and occasionally quite suddenly.

Understandably it has therefore, taken most of South Africa's 60 000 white farmers some time to accept that their traditional relationship with their farm workers is about to undergo an irreversible change. And many of them are worried about the possible consequences.

The enormous pressure brought to bear on the Government by trade unions and other organisations for the extension of all labour laws to agriculture appears to have succeeded. It is now in the bag that several of the relevant Acts are to undergo this extension during the 1991 sessions of Parliament.

Most farmers fear that the implementation of the modifications proposed will not only further imperil their already precarious existence but also

the livelihood of their workers, numbering with their families at well over 5 million people.

One of the main Acts in contention is the Labour Relations Act, the consolidation of which is a foregone conclusion, will make provision for the inclusion of farm labourers.

## Critical

Farmers on the whole are not in principle opposed to trade unions, but they argue that, unlike commerce, industry and mining, farming is a business almost totally dependent on seasons and the weather. It cannot be subjected off temporarily when subjected to a strike or go-slow or stayaway action, and switched on again when dis-agreements have been settled. If such action, for instance, were launched at a critical production phase, such as ploughing

a crop after the first rains or harvesting fields of ripe wheat, a whole season's efforts may be wiped out in a matter of days.

The farmer may face jeopardy, in which event all his workers could become unemployed with a disastrous ripple effect on their families.

A case in point is the recent four-month strike by 1 200 citrus workers at the Zebedee Estate. Admittedly this is an isolated case and the estate one of the biggest citrus-growing enterprises in the world, has been able to survive it, but you can imagine the consequences if similar actions were to be taken on the average maize, wheat or fruit farm. It could simply end in a no-winners all-lossers situation.

The other labour laws of relevance are the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and the

**Agricultural correspondent GEORGE NICHOLAS examines how impending changes to the Labour Relations Act could affect farmer-worker relations in the farming industry.**



Wage Act. Their application to agriculture will involve some practical problems.

Among prominent agriculturalists who have expressed strong views on various aspects of the future farm labour legislation issue is outspoken Chris du Toit, who farms just outside Paarl. "There are few countries

today in which farm workers are grouped with all other workers and subjected to all labour laws," he says.

"Throughout the world, recognition is given in statutory labour legislation to the uniqueness of agriculture as an employer. "People in South Africa who claim that farm workers have

no legal protection against exploitation simply seek sensation and they do not care for the real interests of these workers by the common law, which prevails over all other laws.

"The Wage Act that determines minimum wages is unacceptable to agriculture. It negates all the principles of a free economic system, and I simply cannot see how it can be applied to farming.

"The Labour Relations Act, catering for commerce and industry totally ignores the complexity and different nature of primary agriculture.

"Claims by trade unions that they speak on behalf of farm workers are preposterous. In the past three years the Farm Workers Union has succeeded in recruiting only 707 members on farms. Attempts to enforce this Act in agriculture will be

## Precious

This policy, adhered to through many years throughout the country and in the absence of legislation, has resulted in excellent labour relations on the farm. This precious relationship should not now be undermined by political and other actions, Mr Erasmus says. A Natal farmer, Dave Wil-

counter-productive. It will benefit neither employer nor worker," added Mr du Toit.

Pieter Erasmus, farming near Middelburg in the Cape, says although not many farmers have had any formal training in personnel management, the overwhelming majority of farmers have been doing their utmost to provide the best possible physical comforts and working conditions for their workers.

Erasmus agrees. He takes pains to emphasise that formal labour-relations legislation needs sensitive handling so as not to disrupt the harmony which exists between the farmer and farm employees.

"Some years ago the Natal Agricultural Union issued a document to guide farmers on the road to good labour management practices," he says. "Those farmers who have applied the principles outlined will find any transition painless, but those who have done nothing may suddenly find themselves faced by unrest and dissatisfaction. Fortunately there are not many of them.

Mr Williams says farmers do not wish to see the introduction of any legislation, such as the Unemployment Insurance Act, that increases the paperwork burden on the farm and in the civil service, especially at a time when the Government is facing financial constraints due to the social demands of the new South Africa.

*(bll)*  
**Comment on  
 impact of *(lll)*  
 Acts sought**

Staff Reporter *Stev 24/12/90*

National Manpower Commission (NMC) acting chairman Dr Frans Barker has invited submissions regarding applications of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and the Wage Act to farm workers.

This follows instructions by Manpower Minister Eli Louw to the NMC in June to investigate, report on and make recommendations in regard to expediency of the LRA and Wage Act as applicable to farm employees.

The NMC should report to the Minister before the end of April, Dr Barker said.

Farm workers are at present excluded from collective bargaining structures and the dispute-settling mechanisms of the LRA.

This implies that the industrial court has no jurisdiction over farm workers and that the term "unfair labour practice" does not apply to them.

In addition, farm workers may not strike legally.

Dr Barker said the NMC had not yet formulated a point of view regarding the Acts, and the invitation for submissions was to guide the NMC in this regard.

"The NMC has already made certain recommendations to the Minister regarding the Basic Conditions of Employment Act of 1983, the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1966, and agri-industries. The Department of Manpower is publishing these recommendations simultaneously for comment," he said.

The NMC had constituted, as part of its investigation, a farm workers committee that represented employer and employee organisations involved in agriculture, as well as various legal representatives, he added.

Dr Barker said the committee had compiled a working document that contained background information and alternative approaches regarding the possible application of these Acts to the agricultural sector.

AGRICULTURE - LABOUR

1991

MARCH - DEC.

## Zebediela retrenches 499 farmworkers

MORE than 490 members of the Nactu-affiliated National Union of Farmworkers have been retrenched in accordance with an agreement between the union and management at state-owned Zebediela Citrus Estate, Pietersburg.

A union statement yesterday said agreement was

VERA VON LIERES

reached that 499 employees — all over the age of 63 — would be retrenched.

They would be paid one week's wages for every year of service.

The union said the parties also agreed to an across-the-board increase

of R80, bringing the monthly minimum wage for permanent workers to R270 from April 1.

The agreement follows a four-month strike by 1 200 workers which was settled in December.

The company also agreed to reinstate dismissed strikers.

16/11/79 5/3/79

CML 7/4/91 5/3/91

# Claims over <sup>(4)</sup> frostbite injuries

Staff Reporter

THREE men who were frostbitten while working on board a Taiwanese fishing trawler "Kwang Mao" yesterday brought claims in the Supreme Court totalling R302 420 against the trawler.

Between February 11 and August 2 1990, Mr Vuyani Bhele of Khayelitsha, Mr Jeffrey Maswana of Nyanga East and Mr Ntandoyenkosi Nginda of Khayelitsha, worked in the refrigerated hold of the "Kwang Mao", allegedly packing fish in ice without protective clothing.

They are claiming for past loss of earnings, future medical expenses, estimated future loss of earnings and general damages for pain, disfigurement and loss of amenities.

Mr Bhele is claiming R96 297 for frostbite injuries to his hands and feet which have caused permanent damage and alleged assault.

## Disabled

Mr Maswana is claiming R93 960 for permanent damage to his hands and feet as a result of frostbite. He was also allegedly assaulted.

Mr Nginda is claiming R112 163. He has also become disabled as a result of frostbite injuries and injuries from allegedly being assaulted.

By failing to give the men protective clothing the "Kwang Mao" was allegedly in breach of an agreement in which they undertook to provide boots and gloves.

Even though the men complained that they were frostbitten, they were allegedly compelled to go on working in a refrigerated environment for long periods.

The hearing continues.

Mr Justice D G Scott is on the Bench. Mr M Wragge instructed by Bernadt, Vukic and Potash is appearing for the plaintiffs. Mr P Hazel instructed by Field and Silms is appearing for the "Kwang Mao".

## Boycott plan for Sasolburg

RESIDENTS of Sasolburg's Zamdela township launched a boycott of white businesses yesterday in a bid to win the reinstatement of striking workers fired by the giant oil company Sasol three years ago.

The 100 000-strong community is attempting to win back the jobs of 367 workers.

Their dismissal in 1987 was confirmed by the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein. The ruling reversed an Industrial Court ruling that the strikers be reinstated unconditionally. (4)

The Appellate Division's ruling triggered accusations by township representatives that the SA judicial system tended to favour employers against the workers.

"The Zamdela community thus took a stand that action should be taken," the Sasol Strike Support Co-ordinating Committee said in a statement announcing the boycott. (Sapa 1/3/91)

The boycott was intended to "force" white businesses in Sasolburg to pressure Sasol One and Natref to reinstate the workers, it said.

Sasol spokesman Jan Krynauw said the company did not wish to comment on the boycott. — Sapa.

# Govt urges farm labour pact

Political Staff *sw 6/2/91* (4)

CAPE TOWN — Minister of Manpower Eli Louw has sent a strong signal to the country's farmers and farm workers to start their own negotiations for an agricultural labour accord.

And he also warned that denying farm workers the right to form trade unions would not guarantee stability. Indeed, in the long term, the opposite might be true.

Speaking at a meeting of the Institute of Personnel Management in Stellenbosch last night,

Mr Louw said the labour scene in South Africa last year had been dominated by the accord between the major union and employer bodies.

Their negotiated accord had proved a vital and successful lesson to other sectors.

Looking ahead, he said labour relations in agriculture would become an increasingly prominent issue.

While farm workers enjoyed many basic rights, there were some rights that did not apply to them.



# Dancing workers protest against gill-netting

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 250 dancing and chanting fish factory workers staged a lunch-time protest next to the Civic Centre yesterday against Taiwanese gill-netting and in favour of compensation for frost-bitten sailors.

Police closely watched the demonstration on Festival Square.

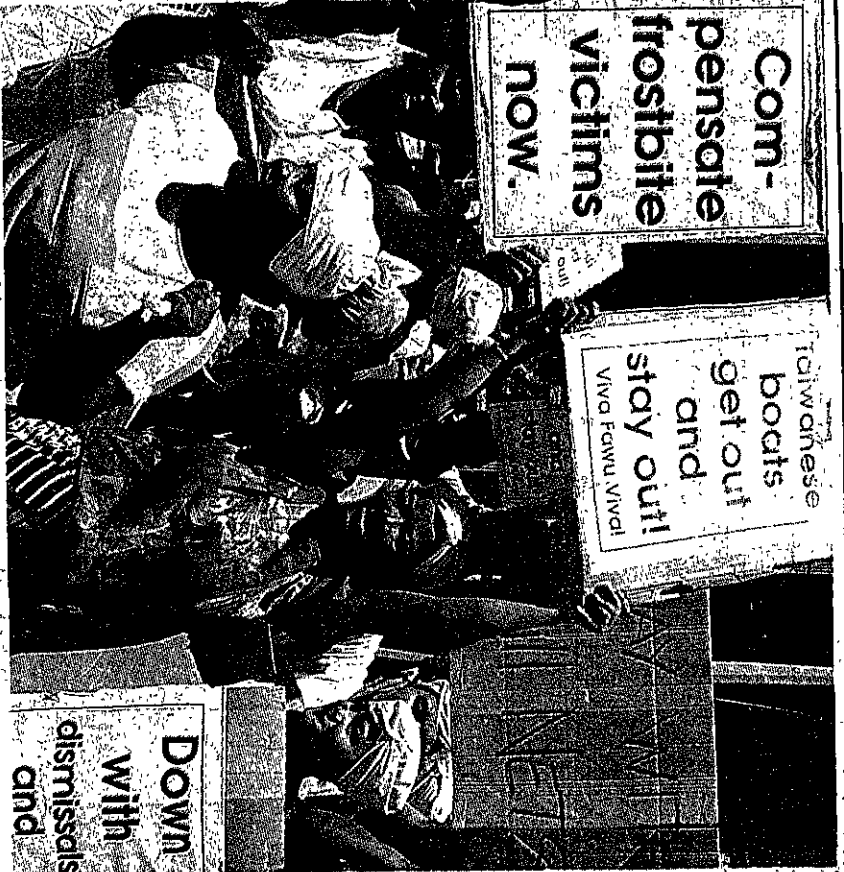
Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) executive member Mr Nosey Pieterse was later given the assurance by Taiwanese consul Mr Tom Chou that the workers' demands would be passed to Taiwan's ambassador in Pretoria. Mr Chou's seventh-floor office is in a building adjacent to the square.

Meanwhile, police are to charge Mr Pieterse with allegedly failing to meet magisterial conditions imposed on the demonstration.

The District Commissioner of Police for Cape Town, Colonel Philip Delpert, confirmed this after personally monitoring the demonstration.

He said a docket alleging failure to comply with the conditions, which included that no more than 50 demonstrators be allowed to gather and that they stand five metres apart, would be opened.

Mr Pieterse said the demonstration by Irving and Johnson workers and Fawu members was held to demand compensation for the 40 local fishermen who had lost fingers working in the cold-rooms of Taiwanese gill-netting ships.



**FROSTBITE** ... About 250 fishing industry employees demonstrate outside the Taiwanese embassy yesterday in protest at colleagues' frostbite injuries on board Chinese trawlers.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

## Workers challenge DP chairman

w/Man 8/2-14/2/91

By GLENDA DANIELS

DEMOCRATIC Party national chairman David Gant is at the sharp end of an industrial court case in which he is accused of unfairly dismissing strikers and "hiding behind" controversial provisions of the Labour Relations Act.

The case has been brought by 20 of 420 workers dismissed after a three-day wage strike last year at the Lourensford Estate near Somerset West, of which Gant is managing director. The estate is a combined farm and sawmill.

One of their complaints is that Gant would not negotiate with an elected worker committee called the "ANC Committee".

It has been reported that the farm manager refused to convey workers' demands to Gant unless they changed the committee's name.

Commenting on the strike Gant said: "I decided to dismiss the 420 workers on the basis of the continued strike, the

fact that they had taken the law into their own hands and on account of intimidatory practices."

Gant later reinstated 60 of the strikers. (4) ~~150~~

According to lawyers, Gant has argued that as farmworkers, the strikers fall outside the scope of the LRA and are not entitled to seek relief in the industrial court.

The workers maintain that in terms of various court decisions they are factory employees and therefore covered by the Act.

The workers have argued that the dismissals are unfair in that no specific charges were put to them, no inquiry was held and they were not given the chance to examine witnesses.

The DP has supported the Saccola Accord between unions and employers, which recognises the right of all workers to protection under labour law. The case has been postponed.

# Row over burnt youth, 15, taken 200km by police

APR 11/12/91 (4)  
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The superintendent of Messina's Limpopo Hospital and the police have denied that a badly burnt 15-year-old youth was taken from the hospital and driven to Pietersburg, 200km away, in a police van without a doctor's permission.

The teenager, still in bandages, spent a night in Pietersburg Prison and was admitted to hospital only the next day after his lawyer threatened to apply to the Supreme Court.

Limpopo Hospital superintendent Dr J P van Zyl said he had authorised that the boy be transferred to Pietersburg for treatment because of "too much interference by reporters" at Messina.

The teenager, a farm worker, attracted large media interest after his employer, Mr Jan van Westhuizen, allegedly doused him with petrol and set him alight in December.

"It is not that I have anything against the boy. I just do not want the hospital to become a place for such publicity," said Dr Van Zyl.

He said the youth was not critical and could "walk around" at the time of transfer.

Police spokesman Colonel Johan Mostert said Dr Van Zyl asked the Messina commander to facilitate the boy's transfer because of "the actions of certain reporters and radicals who disrupted the hospital and thus threatened the safety and health of other patients."

He said investigations into a case of assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm had been completed and the case docket forwarded to the State prosecutor for action.

# Lawyers to fight for farm workers

Labour Reporter AR645 12/2/91  
LAWYERS are to fight in the Industrial Court for the reinstatement of 38 seasonal farm labourers dismissed from two Villiersdorp packing sheds after a two-day stayaway.

Twenty workers from Villiersdorp Uie Verpakkers and 18 from Gunter's Packing Shed were dismissed after taking part in a march to the municipality last week to protest against shack demolitions on empty municipal land near Nuwedorp township.

According to the workers' legal representative, Mr Roger Chennels, the case would be heard in the Industrial Court before the end of this month.

A dispute had been declared between the employers and the workers, he said.

Mr Chennels said: "The question is whether co-operative packing shed workers, who are seasonal workers, are entitled to protection from the Industrial Court.

"We believe that they were unfairly dismissed and are entitled to protection. If we get them reinstated, we will be giving protection to seasonal farm labourers for the first time."

The workers, who were employed for about eight months a year, earned between R50 and R75 a week, Mr Chennels said.

Mr Das Maree, the owner of Villiersdorp Uie Verpakkers, said: "The workers were dismissed for not coming to work for two days last week. Other labourers have been employed because the packing shed and production operation must carry on."

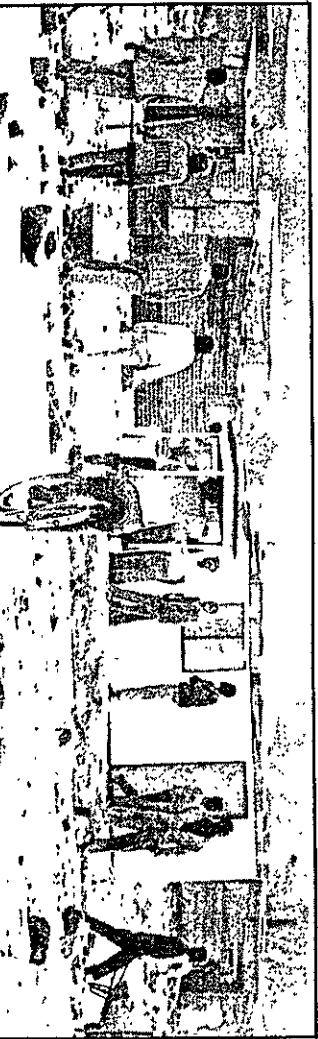
He said workers knew they would be dismissed if they stayed away from work.

# The cost of killing apartheid

SW 13/2/91

(4) SW 13/2/91

Dr Azar Jammine of Econometric estimates it will take R20 to R30 billion every year over the next decade to start closing the gap in black/white living standards. MICHAEL CHESTER reports.



Housing shortage... The shortage of formal housing alone stands between 800 000 and two million. But still to be counted are 7,4 million black people crowded into 460 000 squatter shacks — an average of 16 to a shack.

**N**OW that the death knell has tolled on apartheid, under international as well as internal pressures, the main focus has turned to the political chess tournament between partisan alliances.

Beyond the political rhetoric, however, vital questions are being posed that bring much of the blister down to earth. How much cash will have to be ploughed into socio-economic programmes to bring about the transformation to the promised land of the 'New South Africa'?

Where will all the funds come from? Who pays the bills? How soon — especially in view of the way expectations have been pitched so high? The answers coming out may not always be palatable to reformers in a rush.

For example, one of the first shocks for the politicians was an assessment from the SA Chamber of Business (Saco), which calculated the basic costs of remedies to racial inequities at R32 billion.

Saco has cautioned that it would be hopelessly beyond economic reach to provide all the remedies at a single stroke. Far better, it has argued, would be to face blunt economic shocks and seek agreement on socio-economic programmes a year — based on the provision of 250 000 modest new homes

the next 10 years to meet the need of affordability. The deeper the economic researchers probe, the bigger the problems that emerge — and the higher the cost of solutions. From new masses of research, Dr Azar Jammine, head of the reputable Econometric think-tank, puts the overall costs at R20 to R30 billion every single year over the next decade to start closing the gap in black/white living standards.

It makes the R2 billion special fund handed over to former Urban Foundation boss Jan Steyn to launch the Independent Development Trusts last year with the task of settling the whites in motion toward black upliftment — look like a drop in the ocean. Econometric looks first at black housing. The shortage of formal housing alone stands anywhere between 800 000 and two million — and that covers no more than black families with incomes large enough to cope with the high demands of a formal building society mortgage. Still to be counted are 7,4 million black people crowded into 460 000 squatter shacks — an average of 16 to each shack. Even the provision of basic housing structures to eliminate shortages by the turn of the century would cost over R5 billion — based on the provision of 250 000 modest new homes

every year from now until the year 2000 and allowing for high population growth. Next comes the acute shortage of electric power lines to black homes. A nationwide count, taking rural as well as urban areas into account, shows a phenomenal four out of every five households are still without electricity. That is about 20 million South Africans without even an electric light — let alone a fridge, cooker or TV set.

Based on conventional construction costs, to link all the households to the power grid would take R14 billion — R14,4 billion a year if tackled in a 10-year programme. Health services have also left black families way behind. Dr Jammine points out the shortage of hospital beds for black families is so acute that even if all 11 700 unused beds in white hospitals were made available to all population groups it would hardly make a dent in shortfall — though it would cost an additional R700 million a year just to provide the extra staff.

The full scale of the problem comes into perspective with estimates showing that infant mortality in Soweto, at 80 to every 1 000 newborn babies, is no less than four times higher than the average white rate — and is even worse in rural areas. The astronomical cost of solutions is one huge question mark. Next come the education disasters caused by apartheid. Econometric estimates no less than 45 percent of the black population have not been taught to read or write.

Among black workers in actual employment, 30 percent have never been to school at all, 56 percent never went beyond primary school. Only 31 percent had at least some sort of secondary school education. The shortage is put at 33 000 classrooms. If mobilised to take in black pupils, the 7 400 white classrooms standing empty at a recent count would cover no more than one-fifth of total requirements.

The new studies quote Government estimates that spending on black education alone to bring about black/white parity would need to soar from a current R5,4 billion to at least R21,7 billion. The Human Sciences Research Council calculated that if spending on black and white education had been levelled out in 1990/91, the overall cost would have been R37 billion. Dr Jammine says the crisis in education over the past 15 years has already left in its wake what he calls "a lost generation of young blacks".

He refers to United Nations research that ranked all countries with a population of more than one million in what it called a "human development index". In terms of gross domestic product per capita, even bringing white affluence into the count, South Africa was slotted as low as 48th down the ladder. Even worse, when items such as literacy and life expectancy were added, South Africa slumped to 62nd. The only countries ranking any lower were the 48 other countries in Africa and a handful of impoverished Asian and Central American countries. In terms of literacy, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Lesotho and Botswana all ranked above South Africa. When all the factors are combined, Econometric comes to the conclusion that the only conceivable route is to spread an

action programme over the next 10 years. Even then, the bill would be a staggering R20 to R30 billion a year — equal to a 30 to 50 percent increase in the annual national budget. Optimists who believe a magic wand may be waved to call a halt to unrest and tensions on the sub-continent may point to the vast potential savings that could be made by slashing expenditure on defence. Also at hand may be huge savings by the elimination of the duplications and triplications of all the bureaucratic machinery that has been needed to sustain the apartheid system. Dr Jammine estimates all those possible savings at around R8 billion — a significant figure but nowhere near large enough to solve budget headaches. So where does the balance come from? Econometric reckons it would be utter disaster to shove the onus on higher taxation, which the ANC has listed as a choice target. The magnitude of the increases that would be needed to fund the whole programme, it feels, would cause chaos. It would require a 100 percent jump in personal income tax collections, or else a fivefold leap in company taxes, or else a tripling of the general sales tax rate. The result, it argues, would be devastating. The entire economy would be crippled — and the vital reservoir of skilled labour would sink at an alarming rate with an explosion in emigration. Nor do the researchers see any economic sense in turning to the alternative of trying to borrow all the cash needed to

cover a Government budget deficit running at R20 to R30 billion a year for a decade. The astronomical interest burden alone would inevitably force the Government to resort to the printing presses to turn out more and more rand notes — and sooner or later plunge the whole economy into hyperinflation. Equally disastrous, argues the research unit, would be tinkering with nationalisation experiments. On that, it believes, all the ANC needs to examine the track record of nationalisation around the world. Weighing all the alternatives, Dr Jammine chooses privatisation of more state-owned assets as the possible best route — especially if planned to ensure a fair share of business enterprises goes to the black community and to ensure an end to the syndrome of the concentration of too much financial power in too few hands.

He answers critics of the privatisation option in a section of the new book "MacGregor's Economic Alternatives": "Where privatisation such an inequitable way of improving economic growth, why is it that it has been adopted as a course of action by countries the world over? This has been the case not only in the industrialised world but more recently in Eastern Europe and South America and not least in many African countries north of the Zambezi. "Is South Africa really so different that we cannot learn from other people's mistakes?"

"Do we really have to continue to remain out of step with the rest of the world as we have done over the last 40 years?"

Sowetan reunites missing child with father

# 'Slave boy'

*Sowetan 15/12/91*

4

*298*



# horror

**AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD boy who was allegedly kidnapped by a farmer five years ago was reunited with his father this week.**

The Boksburg farmer may face charges that include kidnapping, child stealing, attempted murder, child abuse and assault.

**BY THEMBA MOLEFE**

police said yesterday.

The boy may also not be identified for his protection.

Police child protection unit investigators said not only the farmer but also members of his family may be charged following the boy's disappearance from his eastern Transvaal home

● To Page 2

his is the boy who was allegedly abducted by a Boksburg farmer and kept as a slave. The boy has been masked to protect his identity. He is seen with his father who was reunited with him in Soweto this week. Picture: MOFFAT ZUNGU

# 12-year-olds may be allowed to work

Star 16/2/91

CHILDREN from 12 to 15 years old may be legally employed on South African farms if recommendations submitted by the National Manpower Commission are enacted, Philip Masia of the South African Farmworkers Education Project said.

A draft Bill on basic conditions for farmworkers, drawn up by a sub-committee comprising representatives from Cosatu, Nactu, the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) and the National Manpower Commission among others had been submitted for discussion at this parliamentary sitting.

## Pocket money

SAAU had argued at the sub-committee hearings that child labour should be permitted so that children could work for pocket money, and claimed that "such labour is positive for the child's development and financial well being".

Cosatu and Nactu had vehemently objected to this. "Chil-

(4) **SHAREEN SINGH**

dren have the right to play and learn and do their homework after normal school hours. Why should SA's farm children be treated differently?" Mr Masia said. He pointed out that children as young as 10-years-old were being "slave-driven" on SA farms.

Labour legislation applying to other sectors currently prohibited the employment of children under the age of 15, he said.

A reference to toxic substances was also very vague in the recommendations submitted to Parliament.

It stated, for instance, that children should not be asked to work with toxic substances or carry the weight of more than a quarter of the child's body mass.

But SA uses deadly pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, banned in most first world countries. He also asked how a child would determine he was carrying the correct weight.

# Farmworkers down tools

ABOUT 1 500 Sapekoe Tea Estate workers in Politsi, Tzaneen, downed tools yesterday to demand an end to alleged harassment of union members.

Spokesman for the National Union of Farmworkers in Tzaneen Mr Simon Mahashi said yesterday the strikers were insisting that management disclose the reason for summoning a shop steward to a hearing.

Mahashi said the Politsi workers had joined the union recently. Since then management had engaged in acts of intimidation of union members.

A spokesman at the plant yesterday declined to answer when asked about the reason for the work stoppage.

4

By MATHATHA TSEDU

According to Mahashi, the stoppage followed the summoning of worker Mr Peter Rambau yesterday.

Rambau went to the hearing with the entire workforce at the plant. *Sowetan 3/4/91.*

When management refused to conduct the hearing, the workers said they would not return to work until the reason for the hearing was disclosed.

Workers at Sapekoe farms earn a minimum of R108 a month, Mahashi said.



Star 3/4/91

# Evicted farm workers homeless

By Sharéen Singh (4)

About 1 000 farm workers, who were evicted from Sapekoe Tea Estate, Tzaneen, on Monday had nowhere to go and were occupying the National Council of Trade Union's offices, a spokesman for the organisation said yesterday.

Management had called in the police to evict the workers who had been on strike since last week, spokesman Moses Mahasha said. He alleged police used teargas, rubber bullets and dogs to evict the workers and a few were injured.

Police spokesman Captain Cas Jones, confirmed the use of rubber bullets to disperse

workers who were "dancing in the road" and refused to move. Teargas and dogs were not used, he said.

The dispute was sparked off last week when management tried to question a shop steward of the National Union of Farmworkers about union activities, he said.

## Refused

Workers demanded that management talk to the shop steward in the presence of other elected union representatives and give an undertaking not to victimise union members. Management apparently refused to agree to the workers demand, resulting in the strike.

Workers had also ex-

pressed concern that management was isolating union activists and was refusing to recognise their union.

The union had written several letters to management requesting a meeting to discuss union recognition but no response had been received, Mr Mahasha said.

Union representatives phoned management last week to try to resolve the strike but management said it would resolve the matter with the workers concerned, he said.

The union was proceeding with legal action to reinstate the workers.

Sapekoe Tea Estate management could not be contacted for comment last night.

## Labourer found dead (4)

POLICE are investigating the possibility that a farm labourer was beaten to death with a pick-axe handle after his body was discovered at Langebaanweg near the air force base. *Sowetan 5/7/77*

A motorist discovered the body of Mr Frikkie Bester (46) on Sunday. The body had severe injuries on the right eye and on the lips.

Bester lived in a Spoornet house in Langebaanweg.

His family last saw him alive at his home on Saturday.

Police were investigating a claim by an alleged eyewitness that he saw Bester being beaten with a pick-axe handle on Saturday.- *Sowetan Correspondent.*

# Old man Nthane's dignity is restored

Sowetan 11/3/91

4

**OLD** man James Nthane started working at Zebediela Citrus Estate in March 1942 after arriving from his home country Malawi.

At the age of 74 in 1989, Nthane was still working and earning R5,45 a day or about R120 a month.

His impassioned plea for more pay and pension, delivered at a meeting of the National Union of Farmworkers, touched many hearts.

He stood then with his bent back, with the aid of a stick. Today at 77, Nthane still uses his stick but walks somehow taller. His step has also improved.

The reason for this is not far to seek. Nthane is now pensioned and lives in an old-age home from where he will not be evicted until he joins his forefathers in another world, thanks to the union.

## Signed

The old-age home is one of the innovations demanded by the NUF when it negotiated a wage, retrenchment and conditions of service agreement which was signed in Pretoria this week.

Whereas the minimum pay in 1988 was about R90 a month on a nine-hour shift a day, the new minimum from April 1 will effectively be R350 following an across-the-board increase of R80 and a minimum of R270.

Where Nthane complained of lack of compensation for injuries on duty and provision of transport for ill or injured workers, the company will now provide free transport twice a day to Groothoek Hospital.

Workers will also receive a 70 percent medical aid subsidy, use the company's hall for union meetings and retrenched workers will receive preference when new jobs are available.

FOCUS



By MATHATHA TSEDU

The joy that greeted this agreement was well-deserved for it was a historic agreement in the farming sector of this country's economy.

With the Labour Relations Act still excluding farmworkers and domestics, the Zebediela workers and their union have been pioneers in their fight for the recognition of their union and their rights.

It has been a long, bitter and hard fight that saw workers bitten by dogs and assaulted with sjamboks when allegedly being forced to go back to work.

Workers were injured and many hospitalised. A threat to evict the strikers was defused when the union took management to court challenging the eviction.

As a result, management opened negotiations with lawyers representing the workers and eventually agreed on a R30 increase across the board.

The company also agreed to negotiate a new contract of employment following accusations that the existing one was

being used to victimise workers.

The contract was to have been completed by October 1989 but when August came and this was not so, with management having implemented a unilateral wage increase of R30, the workers downed tools on August 8.

This strike was to become the focal point of an unprecedented campaign for farmworkers' rights throughout the country and overseas.

The fact that the estate is owned by the Department of Development Aid under the trusteeship of State President FW de Klerk became a strong rallying point for campaigners.

De Klerk was called upon to show his true colours by improving the "slave conditions" at Zebediela.

The City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, which had embarked on nonstop pickets of the South African Embassy in London for over three years to press for the release of political prisoners, resumed weekly pickets for the workers.

Their activists staged sit-ins at South African Airways offices in central London and were arrested.

To draw more publicity, they staged another sit-in at the offices of the *Guardian* newspaper, a protest action in which they were joined by the secretary general and publicity secretary of Azapo, Mr Don Nkademeng and Mr Strini Moodley respectively.

Workers also staged a historic march to De Klerk's office in Pretoria, to demand that he negotiate with their union over wages and conditions of service.

The march coincided with the launch of a national campaign to boycott oranges and orange derived drinks.

An increasingly frustrated management, in an attempt to break the strike, was granted a

court order by the Potgietersrus Magistrate's Court, allowing it to evict the strikers.

The evictions started on a rainy day and properties, for what they were worth, were extensively damaged.

The union challenged the eviction order and the magistrate who had granted it agreed with the defence team, headed by Advocate Dikgang Moseneke, that the order was illegal.

The company had to carry the strikers back and in the process evict its security staff who had moved into some of the vacated houses.

The strike lasted four months and ended on December 8 with management agreeing to an interim wage increase of R30 and opening wage talks by January 23.

The housing conditions on the estate had also been a major focus of attention.

Their toilets were a row of holes in an unpartitioned hall. Thatched roof houses with leaking roofs and water taps situated near the smelling toilets were highlighted in many local and overseas publications.

In response, the company announced that more than R2,5 million was to be used to upgrade housing, toilets and the provision of electricity.

New toilets had already been planned and a model was unveiled during a tour of the estate by journalists.

When the strike ended, all returned to work. The meeting to accept the offer was held in the company hall, the first time that had happened.

It was an insignificant matter but one that showed how much each side had learnt from the relationship since 1989 when management's first reaction to trouble was to call the police.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Deon du Plessis. Newsbills by Sydney Matlhaku. Sub editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn  
All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.  
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\*Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000 Nom-de-Plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

### **Zebediela retrenches 499**

■ The Zebediela Citrus estate, hit by a lengthy wage and recognition strike last year, has retrenched 499 workers — close to half its workforce. (4)

Details of the retrenchments were negotiated in recent talks between management and Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers, which won recognition after the strike. A monthly pay rise of R80 across-the-board and a minimum of R270 was also agreed.

A joint statement said the retrenchment criteria were LIFO, voluntary redundancy and age in excess of 63 years. Zebediela has agreed to provide single-quarter housing for 20 old-age retrenched with nowhere to live.

The four-month strike at the Pietersburg estate, the second in a year, was reported to have cost the company millions of rands. (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)

## Frostbite fishermen settle out of court

CAPE TOWN 8/3/91 Staff Reporter (4)

THE owners of the Taiwanese fishing trawler Kwang Mao have agreed to pay three city fishermen a total of R87 624 in an out-of-court settlement for frostbite injuries they sustained while working on the trawler.

The three men, Mr Vuyani Bhele, Mr Ntandoyenkosi Nginda, both of Khayelitsha, and Mr Jeffrey Maswana of Nyanga East, sued for injuries they received while packing fish on ice without protective clothing.

They brought claims in the Cape Supreme Court totalling R302 420.

Legal representative Miss Sandy Liebenberg said that counsel for the Kwang Mao offered a settlement.

The Kwang Mao will pay R25 000 of legal costs incurred.

# Children labouring for R5 a day on potato farm

By Therese Anders  
Highveld Bureau

Children — some as young as 13 — are being recruited from Lesotho, Transkei and Natal to dig up potatoes on an estate. Transvaal farm workers are on four-month contracts to work in the fields. Farm Dorstfontein, near Bethal, said he paid the children a 12-hour day. Most of the children R5 for spoken to by The Star said they

had received their full pay of R110 in February. However, Hlophle (20) and Luroky (16) who said they had only worked for a month's work, claimed they were only paid R5 for a month's work. The two, from the farm last year, joined the work force at Dorstfontein after Mr Hirschowitz told them that "slave-like" conditions that if any money was owed to the two workers, they could collect it at the month end.

The Star visited the farm last week and spoke to six child labourers between the ages of 13 and 16. Only two had any education and the highest level reached was Std 2. They said they had been recruited in January by a Dorstfontein in January near their homes in Guthing, Lesotho and Sticks, Transkei. The Lesotho youngsters travelled over the Tele Bridge and South Africa with the border documents, but had no passport. The Lesotho youngsters said they did not have passports or travel documents, but had walked over the Tele Bridge and South Africa with the border documents, but had no passport. The Lesotho youngsters said they did not have passports or travel documents, but had walked over the Tele Bridge and South Africa with the border documents, but had no passport.

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Mr Hirschowitz said he never seen their four-month contracts were up and were employed children as long as they were over 12 years old and were forced. "They get good money and good food. The fact that our labour comes back year after year means that conditions are good here," he said. "Nobody is locked up or forced to stay. They are free to come and go. They are free to work on South African farms late an age at which children were allowed to work."

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(L)

Staff Reporter

A KHAYELITSHA fisherman who is claiming nearly R100 000 in damages from a Taiwanese fishing trawler for frostbite injuries, yesterday claimed in the Supreme Court that the captain and crew members assaulted him several times.

Mr Vuyani Bhele, who worked on the Kwang Mao between February 11 and August 2, 1990, is claiming R96 297 for frostbite injuries to his hands and feet as a result of allegedly not being provided with protective clothing while he packed fish in ice.

Two other fishermen, Mr Jeffrey Maswana of Nyanga East and Mr Ntandoyenkosi Nginda

# SA fisherman *CAT 7/4/5 6/3/91 (4)* 'caned, beaten on trawler'

of Khayelitsha, are claiming R93 960 and R112 163 respectively for similar injuries.

Mr Bhele said the captain caned him on more than three occasions for reasons like entering the wheelhouse with dirty feet, "working too slowly" and not throwing the fishing line balls properly into the sea.

"Once he was teaching me to drive the boat and I was standing looking at the dial and I felt a blow.

"The captain was kicking my legs from behind and I fell. I stood up and he kicked me again. I ran away and he called me back.

"My body was paining. He was always hitting us," said Mr Bhele.

Mr Bhele also described how he was beaten by Taiwanese crew members. One said he had been given permission by the captain to beat him because he was a "slower worker".

Twice Mr Bhele was beaten by a Taiwanese crew member called Half-Tiger for catching the wrong type of fish and not throwing them back into the sea.

"Half-Tiger made me bend over and hit me on the buttocks with a cane.

"I did not defend myself against one man because if I did that, all of them would attack me," said Mr Bhele.

The case continues. Mr Justice D G Scott was on the Bench. Mr M Whagge, instructed by Bernack, Vukic and Potsehl, is appearing for the plaintiffs. Mr P Hazel, instructed by Field and Sims, is appearing for the Kwang Mao.

Boy in messina had been referred back to the police by the attorney

4  
Sowetan  
6/3/91

# Struggle pays off for farm workers

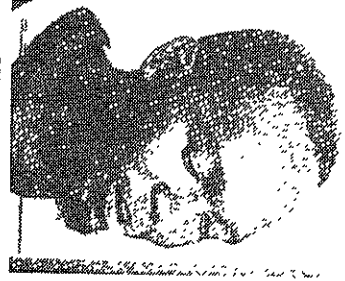
By MATHATHA TSEDU

ZEBEDIELA Citrus Estate and the National Union of Farmworkers have signed an agreement following a long struggle by the workers.

Monday's agreement is the first of its kind in the South African farming sector.

In terms of the agreement - signed by ZCE director, Mr GRB Greyling, and the general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana - workers will receive an R80 across the board increase from April 1.

The two parties have also agreed to a minimum wage of R270 a month. This effectively means that workers will from April 1 earn a minimum wage of R350 a month. This is more than double the minimum wage of



MPHAHLELE

R156 a month the workers earned before and during the strike last August.

Other agreements include:  
\* A 70 percent subsidy on medical aid;  
\* Use of the company's recreation hall for union meetings; and  
\* Free transport to be provided twice a day for hospital visits.

The agreement also provided for the retrenchment of 499 workers, mainly volunteers and pensioners over the age of 63.

Retrenched workers from outside the country who arrived at the estate more 50 years ago and who have nowhere to go are to be given accommodation with their spouses at an old-age home.

All the retrenched workers will receive:  
\* A week's wages for every year of service;  
\* A month's notice pay;

\* Bonus to be paid on pro rata basis from December 1;  
\* Leave pay and pension benefits; and  
\* Retrenched workers will be given first preference when new vacancies are created. The union's head office will also be informed of any such vacancies.  
The workers joined NUF in 1988 while still earning a minimum of R90 a month, according to Nactu's regional coordinator, Mr Moss Mphahlele.



Jubilant farm workers look to the streets after the signing of a historic agreement this week.



# Frostbite on ship: Fish packers claim R302 000

AR645 5/3/91

By JOHN VILJOEN, Supreme Court Reporter

THREE fish packers who got frostbite while working aboard the Taiwanese vessel, Kwang Mao, are claiming damages totalling R302 420 from the owners.

Mr Vuyani Bhele and Mr Ntandoyenkosi Nginda of Khayelitsha and Mr Jeffrey Manswana of Nyanga East claim in papers before the Supreme Court that the ship's master ignored their complaints of frostbite and forced them to continue working in refrigerated holds.

Mr Bhele is claiming R96 297, Mr Nginda R112 163, and Mr Maswana R93 960.

The men said they were employed by the master of the Kwang Mao in February last year.

According to the terms of their employment, the master undertook to provide proper protective clothing and all necessary medical and safety equipment on board.

The men said that from February 11 to August 2 while the vessel was at sea they worked in the refrigerated hold packing fish in ice, among other tasks.

## Inadequate kit

They claim the master did not provide them with fur-lined leather gloves or with "waterproof outer-gloves with knitted woollen or equivalent inners" or waterproof aprons. Neither were they given waterproof industrial boots.

Their complaints of frostbite were ignored and they were forced to work in a refrigerated environment, they claim.

They were allegedly forced to work in the refrigerated holds for long periods without breaks, exposing them to conditions in which frostbite injuries were likely to occur.

When they reported frostbite on their hands and feet to the master, their injuries were not properly treated when this could have prevented or minimised their injuries.

They claim the owner's alleged breach of contract — or alternatively negligence — has disfigured them, caused them pain and suffering and loss of earning capacity.

They also allege that crew of the vessel assaulted them when they were at sea.

Mr Justice D G Scott is on the Bench. Mr M Wragge, instructed by Bernadt, Vukic, Potash, Abel and Getz, appears for the three men. Mr P St C Hazell, instructed by Field and Simms, appears for the Kwang Mao.

## Farmworkers' hours on agenda

GERALD REILLY and VERA VON LIERES <sup>4</sup>

PRETORIA — The National Manpower Commission has agreed to incorporate an SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) request that farmworkers' working hours be extended from 46 to 48 hours a week in proposed amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act. *B. van*

An SAAU spokesman said the commission had also agreed that for four months each year the 48 hours could be extended by another six hours. However, the 12-month average had to work out to 48 hours. *16/5/79*

Commission acting chairman Frans Barker confirmed the commission had recommended the extra two hours.

The SAAU stressed to the commission the need for flexibility because of varied activities on farms.

The spokesman said some of the SAAU's requests to the commission had been accommodated but some issues, such as Sunday work, remained unresolved.

A Bill proposing the extension of the Act to farmworkers is due to be considered by Cabinet this week.

McLaren get a look at the Las Vegas strip from the Cosatu Universe '91 title.

## New deal envisaged

### for SA farm workers

union-employer proposals on basic rights for farm workers.

CAPE TOWN — The Basic Conditions of Employment Act could be extended to farm workers by the end of the current parliamentary sitting, Manpower Ministry spokesman Johan Muller said yesterday.

He was commenting after a three-hour meeting between Manpower Minister Eli Louw and Cosatu, which included discussing the extension of the Act to farm workers.

This extension is expected to be submitted to the Cabinet tomorrow. The Basic Conditions of Employment Act does not cover minimum wages and the right to organise trade unions or to strike.

Mike Madlala, a member of the Cosatu delegation, said he

could not comment on the proposals in the Bill until he had seen it.

The "very candid" discussions with Mr Louw included the relationship between the National Manpower Commission (NMC) and the Department of Manpower, said Mr Madlala.

Three weeks ago Cosatu, which agreed to conditional participation on the advisory body, threatened to withdraw from the NMC because the department had ignored joint

union-employer proposals on basic rights for farm workers.

"Our concerns were partly addressed, but at this stage it is not possible to comment until we have seen the State's proposals in black and white," Mr Madlala added.

The Bill, once referred to the Cabinet, has to be examined by State legal advisers before being submitted to the standing committee and eventual voting in Parliament.

Mr Muller said the standing

committee could decide to hear further evidence on the extension of the Act to farm workers.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act governs minimum worker rights such as hours of work and holiday and sick leave.

The rights to organise and joint trade unions, bargain wages and strike are enshrined in the Labour Relations Act.

The extension of the LRA to farm and public-service workers and the homelands is subject to a separate inquiry.

Cosatu also envisages a re-structured NMC which serves as a negotiation forum between organised labour, employers and the State, with agreements being implemented by Parliament as law. — Sapa.

Picture: Associated Press

# Farm workers may be included in Act soon

CAPE TOWN — The Basic Conditions of Employment Act could be extended to farm workers by the end of the current parliamentary sitting, Manpower Ministry spokesman Johan Muller said yesterday.

He was commenting after a three-hour meeting between Manpower Minister Eli Louw and the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) on union demands that farm workers be drawn into the ambit of the Act.

A Bill proposing the extension of the Act to farm workers was expected to be submitted to the Cabinet tomorrow. He described the talks as constructive.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act does not cover minimum wages, the right to organise trade unions or strike, which are enshrined in the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

Cosatu delegation member Mike Madlala said he could not comment on the proposals in the Bill until he had seen it.

The "very candid" discussions with Louw included the relationship between the National Manpower

Commission and the Manpower Department.

Three weeks ago Cosatu, which has agreed to conditional participation on the advisory body, threatened to withdraw from the NMC because the Manpower Department had ignored joint union and employer proposals on basic rights for farm workers.

"Our concerns were partly addressed, but at this stage it is not possible to comment until we have seen the state's proposals in black and white," Madlala added.

Cosatu was also tentatively considering some form of representation on the standing committee on manpower and education, he said.

The Bill, once referred to the Cabinet, has to be examined by state legal advisers before being submit-

ted to the standing committee and eventual voting in Parliament.

Muller said further submissions on the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farm workers could be made to the standing committee.

The legislative process could be completed by the end of the 1991 parliamentary sitting, he added.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act governs minimum worker rights like hours of work, holiday and sick leave.

The extension of the LRA to farm and public service workers and the homelands is subject to a separate inquiry.

Madlala said yesterday's meeting also covered the "broad restructuring of the NMC" and the extension of the Unemployment Insurance Act to farm workers. — Sapa.

# Court rejects application

THE Pretoria Supreme Court has dismissed with costs the application by 829 Sapekoe Tea Estate workers who were evicted from their compound three weeks ago.

In a judgment handed down by Mr Justice EL Goldstein, the court found that the workers were not covered by provisions of the Labour Relations Act and had to resort to common law for relief.

Goldstein said common law did not, however, give workers the right to withhold their labour.

The right to collective

By MATHATHA  
TSEDU

bargaining, which formed the central theme of the workers' application against their dismissal and eviction, was not "recognised anywhere at common law" and was not part of the contract of employment.

## Refusal

The refusal by management to talk to workers about their grievances, which led to the strike, "was of a short duration and it could not be said it justified the

drastic action of the applicants in embarking on the strike", the judge said.

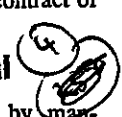
The strike by the Tzaneen-based farm-workers was therefore unreasonable and unlawful.

It followed allegations that management was harassing members of the National Union of Farm Workers.

Workers downed tools and were dismissed and evicted from the compound.

Union officials said yesterday they intended to appeal against the court finding.

30/11/11



# Aid shock for E Cape farmers

*CAP 7/17/91*

PORT ELIZABETH. — Drought-stricken Eastern Cape farmers sat in stunned silence yesterday when Agricultural Development Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said there would be no handouts for uneconomic farmers.

He told a meeting at Jansenville — held to discuss the plight of the region's farmers — that every farmer would have to pass a long-term survival test.

The agricultural value of the farmer and his farm would be evaluated when assistance was applied for.

Speakers said financial assistance was needed urgently to save commodities and farmers from ruin.

Some farm workers said they would work "just for the food", as long as they could remain employed.

LABOUR

# Farmers face world boycott over new Bill

**S**OUTH AFRICA'S farmers could face an international boycott campaign if controversial Manpower Department proposals for the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers pass into law.

Congress of South African Trade Unions campaigns co-ordinator Lisa Setfel warned that a boycott and an approach to the International Labour Organisation were under discussion in Cosatu.

Branding the department proposals "unwarranted interference" in the making of labour law and calling for the department's "wings to be clipped", Cosatu also warned this week that it might rethink its involvement in the National Manpower Commission.

Setfel said a decision to withdraw would be based on "broad considerations of the NMC's direction". Manpower Minister Eli Louw has pledged to

231 word 19/4-25/4/91.

4

The furore over Manpower Department proposals for the legal protection of farmworkers raises a key question: Should government be the final arbiter in labour law? **By DREW FORREST**

push through the BCEA amendments this parliamentary session. This will require the legislative process to begin within a week, department officials say.

Underlying the uproar is the issue — central to negotiations on all fronts — of whether the government should be the final arbiter on change. Cosatu wants the NMC revamped so that its negotiated compromises are legislated intact.

The department proposals diverge significantly from NMC recommendations — the product of hard bargaining between unions and the South African Agricultural Union — and are

clearly less favourable to workers. "If our compromises are going to be overruled, what's the point of remaining in the forum?" Setfel asked.

Cosatu is also furious that in motivating the Bill, the department has offered little or no explanation for deviating from the NMC document.

Sources suggest that the government, on the defensive over the Land Reform Bills, is reacting to pressure from the powerful farmers' lobby.

Alleging widespread anger within the NMC, they also say long-standing tensions between the commission and the department are intensifying, and that key department officials oppose the restructuring of the NMC to give it greater powers.



Lisa Setfel ... warning

he knew of no international equivalent for the statutory negotiating body demanded by Cosatu. "This is a political decision, and we will accept it," he said.

Manpower director-general Joel Fourie stressed that in addition to NMC views, government had to take into account individual submissions invited on the Bill — including those from Cosatu and the SAAU.

"These raised new issues which the NMC may not have discussed." Fourie said he had no view on the future role of the NMC, although restructuring would have to be "viable and acceptable to all".

He commented, however, that although restructuring would have to be "viable and acceptable to all".

## PROPOSALS, CONCESSIONS – BUT THEY WERE IGNORED

w/mant 1914 - 25/4/91.  
THE Manpower Department has accepted only minority recommendations of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) — notably those backed by organised agriculture — in draft amendments extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers.

So says lawyer Dawie Bosch, a member of the NMC's farmworkers' sub-committee. In three key respects, he added, the department had replaced unanimous NMC recommendations with tougher provisions:

- "Farming" had been broadly defined, in conflict with court guidelines, to include all shop and factory workers on farms. Such workers would not enjoy the more generous BCEA rights for other sectors.

- Farmers could unilaterally approach the manpower minister for conditions replacing the Act, and the minister could grant these without consultation. The NMC proposed that such orders could only be made on a joint approach by farmers and workers.

- The amount by which working hours could be extended without overtime, with workers' consent, had been increased by six hours a week (four hours in the NMC proposals) for a maximum of four months a year (the NMC proposed three months).

The department also proposes a maximum 12-hour working day without overtime (10 hours in the NMC proposals).

Cosatu made concessions on hours and the NMC recommended that in time, farming should comply with other sectors. The department omits this.

Bosch said the department had ignored other unanimous or majority NMC proposals, including:

- Piece-workers should receive the same daily wage as permanent workers.

- Labour brokers should be registered and considered employers under the BCEA.

- Wages in kind should be included in calculating overtime and leave pay.

- Workers should have the right to civil action for breaches of the BCEA. This is severely circumscribed in the department's Bill.

- Workers should be shielded from dismissal in anticipation of new law and from unilateral changes in working conditions.

Bosch said the department had improved on the NMC in one respect only: it rejected limited child labour between the ages of 12 and 15.

"This is a simple issue and easy to campaign about," he commented.



# Tea estate strikers *Sowetan* 15/4/91. 'desperately need clothes, medicine'

THE 1200 Sapekoe Tea Estate strikers evicted from their Tzaneen compound two weeks ago desperately need medication and clothing.

General Secretary of the Community Health Awareness Programme (CHAP) Dr Simon Mashilo said this on Saturday after visiting the Makoti village hall where the workers are being housed by the union.

Mashilo said all the workers had flu as a result of the lack of warmth in the hall where they stay.

*Sowetan* visited Makoti last week and found most of the workers coughing. They sleep on a cement floor and have

**By MATHATA TSEDU**

very little clothing.

National Council of Trade Unions official Mr Motswalo Mazenda Mahasha said the workers were evicted from their compound on Easter Monday after a strike over allegations of harassment of union members.

Mahasha said the union last week filed an application in the Pretoria Supreme Court for the reinstatement of the workers. (L) (S)

A decision is pending.

Readers wishing to make contributions should telephone Groothoek Hospital on (01529) 43132.

# Parliament to consider new deal for SA farmworkers

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Trade union leaders — celebrating the promulgation of the Labour Relations Amendment Act — will now push for labour legislation to be extended to South Africa's 1,3 million farmworkers.

Workers employed on the country's 65 000 farms are covered only by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act, and are regarded as being among the most exploited of the labour force.

Legislation to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) and the Unemployment Insurance Act (UIA) to agriculture is in the pipeline. Minister of Manpower Eli Louw has indicated that the proposed legislation will be dealt with during this year's parliamentary session.

However, labour experts do

not expect new legislation this session.

This follows the promulgation of the Labour Relations Amendment Act, which was made law by President de Klerk on April 10. The Act contains wide-reaching features and has been hailed as a victory for workers after a three-year fight.

In December, the Government called for comment on proposals by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) to extend certain legislation to farmworkers, paving the way for significant improvements to their working conditions.

## Recommendations

The proposals are based on the work of a special technical sub-committee, which included delegates from Cosatu (Congress of SA Trade Unions), the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), the Rural Foundation, the Labour Party, the NMC and two lawyers. Some of the key NMC recommendations on the Basic Conditions of Employment Act include:

● Maximum working hours for farmworkers of 48 hours a week and 9,5 hours a day.

● To accommodate the seasonal nature of agriculture, farmers and farmworkers should be able to agree on four hours a week in addition to normal hours for up to three months annually without overtime pay.

● Payments in kind, use of land larger than a certain size, consumer goods, food and accommodation should be included in the calculation of wages.

● Workers doing piece work should be paid a minimum wage equivalent to that of permanent workers doing similar work.

The NMC could not reach consensus on the employment of child labour. The majority of committee members recommended that farmers be allowed to employ children between 12 and 15 to do light work with various provisos, including no work during school hours and registration of child labour with the Department of Manpower.

Star (5/4) 91

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# Taiwanese payout helps seamen avoid exploitation

By GAYE DAVIS, Cape Town <sup>12/4 - 18/4/91</sup>  
THIS week's payout of more than R1-million by Taiwan to 32 South African seamen maimed while working on Taiwanese fishing trawlers has sent a strong message to foreign trawler owners: you can't exploit South African workers with impunity.

Seamen employed by foreign trawlers fall outside the Labour Relations Act.

"Like farm and domestic workers they're at the bottom of the pile," said attorney Angela Andrews of the Legal Resources Centre. Seamen worldwide were bound by contracts and faced imprisonment if they jumped ship because of working conditions.

However, a combination of militant union pressure and the one redress offered by maritime law — the impounding of boats — has been highly effective in the current dispute.

The Cape seamen sought legal advice after suffering frostbite injuries while packing fish in on-board ice-chambers without adequate protective clothing. Some lost fingers.

Subsequent legal action, in which Taiwanese trawlers were attached, severely embarrassed Taiwan.

One vessel, whose licence has since been withdrawn, sailed out of Table Harbour in defiance both of a court order and injunctions from the Taiwanese government.

A Food and Allied Workers' Union campaign highlighted the seamen's plight and linked it to public outrage over Taiwanese gill-netting. Protest action included placard demonstrations, a refusal to handle fish caught in gill nets, pickets at the Taiwanese embassy, public meetings and marches.

Andrews said she believed the settlement would "change the perception of fishermen as people who can be exploited and abused with



**You can't exploit me ... The Cape frostbite case has sent a message to foreign trawler operators impunity".**

The highest individual sum received in the pay-out was R100 000, awarded to two workers, while Fawu is trying to trace a further six who will share R159 750.

Handing over a cheque for R1 063 942 this week, Taiwan's ambassador to South Africa, I-cheng Loh, said most of the money came from the government, with a portion paid by the fishing companies involved.

By SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

TRADE union leaders — celebrating the promulgation of the Labour Relations Amendment Act — will now push for labour legislation to be extended to South Africa's 1.3-million farmworkers.

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Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw has indicated that it is likely that the proposed legislation will be dealt with during this year's parliamentary session.

### Hailed as victory

This follows the promulgation of the Labour Relations Amendment Act of 1991, which was made law by President De Klerk on Wednesday and comes into operation on May 1.

The Act contains wide-reaching features and has been hailed as a victory for employers and employees after more than two years of intense negotiations between employer body Saccola, the government and the two union federations, Cosatu and Nactu.

In December the government called for comment on proposals by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) to extend certain legislation to farmworkers, paving the way for significant improvements to their working conditions.

The proposals are based on the work of a special technical sub-committee, which included delegates from Cosatu, the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), the Rural Foundation, the Labour Party, the NMC and two lawyers.

According to the labour journal I R Data, it seems that the NMC does not intend extending the legislation to agriculture on a "blanket basis", but to restrict jurisdiction to "agri-business" — the sector where processes are more tertiary like processing, refining or packaging.

The logic is that this type of farming operation could be defined as a "factory without a roof".

However, workers in corporate agricultural concerns like forestry and fruit packing have been unionised for some time now with agreements being negotiated to a certain extent.

Even though these workers are not

covered by the Labour Relations Act and therefore do not have the right to strike legally, there have been strikes in these sectors.

"And these have not been dealt with any differently from a strike in industry," I R Data reports.

If the Basic Conditions of Employment Act is extended to agricultural labour, there will be important, far-reaching implications for Western Cape and other farmers — even those who have complied with the Labour Relations Act to a certain degree.

According to I R Data this is because the Act is, in essence, protective legislation governing matters including hours of work, leave and basic minimum wages.

"Hours of work are traditionally difficult to regulate in agriculture because of the seasonal problems such as planting and reaping and the ability to combine these with the right weather.

"Livestock, too, cannot be subject to controlled hours due to the unpredictability of illness, lambing, calving and the necessity to move water at short notice," I R Data says.

### Key recommendations

Some of the key NMC recommendations on the Basic Conditions of Employment Act include:

- Maximum ordinary working hours for farmworkers of 48 hours a week and 9,5 hours a day.
- To accommodate the seasonal nature of agriculture, farmers and farmworkers should be able to agree on four hours a week in addition to normal hours for up to three months annually without workers getting overtime pay.
- Payments in kind, use of land larger than a certain size, consumer goods, food and accommodation should be included in the calculation of wages. A list should be published stating the value of various types of goods and employers should not be allowed to make deductions from workers' wage packages without consent.
- Workers doing piece work should be paid a minimum wage equivalent to that of permanent workers doing similar work.
- The NMC could not reach consensus on the employment of child labour: in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, other than on a farm, it is illegal to employ a child under 15. The majority of committee members recommended that farmers be allowed to employ children between 12 and 15 to do light work with provisos, including no work in school hours and registration of child labour with the Department of Manpower.

# Hope for farmworkers

New deal sought after historic labour laws passed

Mk 5/12/4/91

CITY



NATIONAL

# Frostbite payouts 'clear signal' to exploiters

By SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

THE payment of more than R1,3-million to 32 frostbitten seamen "must send a clear signal" to foreign companies that they will no longer be able to exploit South African labour, the Food and Allied Workers' Union has said.

Union general secretary Mr Mandla Gxanyana said companies which "trampled" on workers' rights would not be allowed to get away with it.

## 'RESIST EXPLOITATION'

"The compensation is a victory for the workers, although we sadly realise that no amount of money can restore their fingers."

But the compensation should spur other workers to "resist exploitation and abuse".

The compensation followed negotiations between the Republic of China Embassy, the Legal Resources Centre, union officials and lawyers repre-

senting the victims.

A total of 43 seamen — whose fingers had to be amputated after they got frostbite while working on Taiwanese squid fishing trawlers in 1989 and 1990 — claimed compensation from Taiwan.

A cheque for R1 063 942 was given to the Legal Resources Centre this week and the embassy is holding R159 750 for five of six missing seamen who could not be contacted by the Legal Resources Centre.

Attempts by the union to trace the missing men had been unsuccessful, Mr Gxanyana said.

He appealed to the following workers to contact the union:

Mr D Nig who worked on the Chuan Fu Number 1; Mr S Libazi of the Yeon Dar Number 101; Mr J Erasmus of the Chia Meng Number 1; Mr E Mdoda of the Chang Yu Number 1; Mr A Fukula of the Bao Ren Number 16 and Mr M Swati of the Kwang Mao.

## 6 frostbite victims

**'must claim'**

Star 10/4/71

CAPE TOWN — Six South Africans who suffered frostbite while working on Taiwanese trawlers and did not share in a R1,3 million settlement for 32 others have been asked to come forward.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) yesterday claimed the six potential claimants had had amputations resulting from their injuries.

Five of the six men identified by Fawu were entitled to share in a compensatory amount of R159 750 if medical examinations verified their claimed injuries, Taiwan's Ambassador in South Africa, I-cheng Loh, said on Monday.

Welcoming the settlement, Fawu general secretary Mandla Gxanyana said: "Fawu believes this agreement must send a clear signal to those foreign companies who exploit SA labour and trample on workers' rights, that they will never get away with it."

The union was aware of "many others" who had suffered similar injuries and called on them to approach Fawu and Cosatu.

Mr Loh said the six former fishermen were entitled to additional payments under a new scale of compensation.

They had to present themselves to the consul-general of Taiwan in Cape Town before July 15. — Sapa.

# R1,3-m paid to frostbite victims

Star 9/4/91  
The embassy of the Republic of China has agreed to settle the claims of 32 South African seamen who suffered frostbite while working on board Taiwanese fishing vessels in 1989 and 1990.

The embassy said today that a total amount of R1 327 942 would be paid jointly by the boat owners and the Taiwanese government.

The amount to be received by each seaman varied according to the degree of injury and the number of fingers amputated. The two sailors with the most severe frostbite would receive R100 000 each.

Amounts of R2 000, paid in advance to each of 26 seamen

before Christmas last year by the Taiwanese government, would be subtracted from the individual final settlements.

The pay-out follows an agreement reached between the government, the Legal Resources Centre and legal representatives of the 32 seamen.

Taiwanese ambassador I-cheng Loh, presented a cheque for R1 063 942 to the Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town today. Of this amount, R5 000 will go towards reimbursing the centre for expenses relating to the vessel, Chin Chia Ching. The remainder is to be paid directly to the frostbite victims.

Forty-three seaman registered with the centre or legal

representatives after suffering frostbite while working on squid fishing vessels in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands.

Of these, five chose to pursue their cases independently in the courts, and were therefore excluded from the settlement, the embassy said.

Three seamen, who worked on the vessel, Kwang Mao, settled out of court on March 7, while two others employed by the Hsin Ho Chun 201 were still waiting for court dates.

The embassy said the Legal Resources Centre had been unable to contact six other seamen, most of whom had received some kind of payment from the boat owners. — Sapa.

# Land grant boost for workers on farms

CAPE TOWN — Black farmworker Moltano Mtantalala has lived in a tent with eight children since he lost his job and his home in a Christmas row over time off.

Now, in a breakthrough that could affect the lives of up to 10 million black farmworkers in South Africa, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu has persuaded a Cabinet Minister to give Mr Mtantalala (62) his first permanent home — one he "can die in".

Archbishop Tutu told reporters in Cape Town this week that Local Government Minister Hernus Kriel agreed at a meeting with Mtantalala and several clergymen to make a grant of land and funds to about 500 displaced farm workers in the eastern Cape.

## Taken aback

Anglican Bishop David Russel said the concession was the first acknowledgement farmworkers had the right to a permanent home without being totally at the mercy of employers.

"I was wholly taken aback at the very specific and very helpful response from the Minister," Archbishop Tutu said. "This is a victory. An important milestone in human relations in South Africa and in the creation of the kind of atmosphere we want to see in this country."

Bishop Russel, who has battled for decades to win minimal rights for South Africa's nine million to 10 million black farmworkers, said the concession set a crucial precedent.

"At present, a black farmworker has no rights at all. With a minimum of notice, effectively overnight, he can be fired, evicted and rendered a criminal even if he was born in the house he is being made to vacate."

South African labour law does not allow farmworkers to form unions and

## Concession a victory, says Tutu

BRENDAN BOYLE

does not impose a minimum wage.

A worker can be dismissed with a day's notice after decades of service and can be jailed for trespassing if he does not immediately leave his home when told to do so by a farmer.

Bishop Russel said Mr Kriel agreed to make plots of land and basic water and sewerage facilities available to farm workers thrown off farms in the Kei Road region as a result of a recession or of labour disputes.

"We are not saying that farmers don't have any rights, they do. But there are millions of farmworkers who do not have the right to be anywhere and they must be protected," he said.

Mr Mtantalala said he had worked on farms in the Kei Road area about 40 km from East London all his life.

He said he was given 24 hours' notice in December when he had a row with his employer about whether the staff should have 24 hours or 48 hours off for Christmas.

"Now I live in a tent with my (six) children and two children of my sister, who is dead. There is a toilet right by the door of the tent so when we eat we have to go somewhere else.

"We want a place where we can stay, where we can die. I am pleased with the Minister's promise, but you are not happy until you have something in your hand," he said. — Sapa-Reuter.

6/4/91

SKW 8/4/91

(4)



## LABOUR BRIEFS

### Tea workers fired in <sup>(4)</sup> recognition dispute

■ About 1 500 striking farmworkers have been fired at Sapekwe Tea Plantation, near Tzaneen, in a dispute centring on alleged victimisation of a unionist and recognition of Nactu's National Union of Farmworkers.

The NUF's Phosakuwa Mashele claimed the strike started on March 27 after a shop steward was summoned by management and asked why he was organising on the estate.

He said workers were fired last Monday and evicted from plantation premises by police using sjamboks, dogs and teargas. Seven workers had been treated in hospital.

*W/mad  
1/4 - 11/4/71*

# Farmer is terrorising us — workers

By Montshiwa Moroke

Farm-hands and their families in the Ventersdorp district have alleged that a right-wing farmer is conducting a wave of terror, but they are too scared to go to the police or speak about it.

Reporters who went to the area to get first-hand information have come against a wall of silence and fear.

The Star visited the area after former mineworker and retired farmworker William Radebe Mashiya (70) laid a complaint of assault with the police against AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche.

A western Transvaal police spokesman confirmed last week that a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm was being investigated against Mr TerreBlanche.

## Assaults

Mr TerreBlanche has denied being guilty of any assault.

Krugersdorp lawyer Aubrey Khanyile said Mr Mashiya has alleged he was assaulted at the farm Klippladrif in Ventersdorp.

Also allegedly assaulted on that day by the two khakhi-clad men was a young visitor at Mr Mashiya's home, Mate Matika, who at the weekend made a statement at the Ventersdorp police station.

Mr Mashiya said police arrived at his house on Saturday morning and asked him to show them Mr Matika's home because they wanted to obtain a statement from him.

He also said he would go to the police station tomorrow,

where he is expected to attend an identification parade.

More than a dozen people, including women and children, have allegedly been harassed and assaulted by a farmer, after he had allegedly raided their homes on the farm.

There are many stories about a farmer and others who have burst into homes, accused people of stealing livestock, and then assaulted everyone in the house and broken property.

Several names of people who were allegedly assaulted were mentioned to The Star at the weekend. But when approached, the people would not say a word because they said they feared reprisals from their bosses.

Those who have allegedly been assaulted are afraid they may lose their jobs and homes, even though they do not stay on the properties of the farmer who is allegedly terrorising them.

An elderly woman, who was allegedly ordered to face a wall, place her hands on the wall and was then assaulted, said she was terrified to talk.

"I fear this man more than I fear lightning," she said, still in pain after the attack.

The Star spoke to the woman after the funeral of Ramashi Ishmael Lentsho on one of the farms on Saturday. It is believed Mr Lentsho became ill after his farm was visited and members of his family harassed.

However, members of his family remained silent when asked about his illness.

One said: "The people won't talk about their ordeal because they're afraid. Being beaten up by farmers has become a way of life. These people regard the white man as God."

## 19 injured in fight at apple farm hostel

Crime Reporter *AR6 US* *15/11/91* *(4)*  
NINETEEN people were injured on a Gra-  
bouw apple farm after fighting broke out  
among workers at a hostel.

Police said some of the men had been  
drinking.

The injured were taken to the Hottentots-  
Holland Hospital and discharged after treat-  
ment for knife and knobkerrie wounds.

When police arrived, the fighting was over  
and no action was taken.

# Rubber bullets used on 1 200 estate strikers

SEVEN striking farm-workers were seriously injured when police fired rubber bullets and used sjamboks on about 1 200 people at Sapekoe Tea Estate near Tzaneen on Monday.

A spokesman for the National Union of Farm-workers, Mr Simon Mahasha, said the workers were yesterday teargassed by police while marching to the union office in the town, a distance of about 30km.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Cas Jones said police had fired rubber bullets to disperse workers who were refusing to leave the compound on the estate.

He said he was not aware that teargas had been fired at workers yesterday morning.

Mahasha said the injured people, mostly women, were treated at Kgapan Hospital.

He said some had been transferred to Ritavi Hospital yesterday when their conditions deteriorated.

The workers downed tools last Wednesday in protest against alleged harassment of union members by management.

Management has refused to comment on the strike, saying all responsible officials were not available.

Mahasha said the workers, who were stay-

By MATHATHA  
TSEDU

ing in the compound, had been evicted and were now destitute.

Union officials were until late yesterday trying to find accommodation for them at churches in Nkowankowa township, about 50km from the estate.

Mahasha said the workers, who earn a minimum of R108 a month, had recently joined the union.

## Hearing

They had alleged that management had been questioning union members about union activities.

The matter came to a head last Tuesday when Mr Peter Rambau was summoned to a hearing.

The other workers stopped work, and insisted that the hearing be conducted in the presence of all workers or that management disclose the reason for the hearing.

When management refused, the workers downed tools, Mahasha said.

The company has dismissed all the workers and company officials had been "forcing" workers to sign dismissal forms on Monday when police fired rubber bullets and sjambokked them, Mahasha said.

LABOUR

Weekly Mail Reporter 28/6-4/7/91  
THE Basic Conditions of Employment Bill, tabled in parliament last week, goes some way towards a better deal for farmworkers — but is still not entirely acceptable.

This is the view of Dawie Bosch, labour lawyer and member of the National Manpower Commission's (NMC) farmworkers' sub-committee.

According to the Department of Manpower, the Bill is likely to be legislated in February next year despite hopes that it would go through this session.

The new Bill includes many of the NMC proposals omitted by the Manpower Department in controversial draft legislation earlier this year.

It provides for a 48-hour working week which can be extended by four

# New Bill gives better deal for farmworkers

hours a week over a period of three months. The department had proposed a 54-hour week over a period of four months.

Overtime has been set at three hours a day and not more than 10 hours a week. Sunday work will be paid at double normal wage rates with a day's paid leave if the work has exceeded five hours. In a significant move, the Bill provides for piecework to be paid at normal rates.

But, says Bosch, "although most of the areas of consensus (in the NMC) are covered, some have been watered down".

The NMC recommended "reasonable notice" to provide more than the statutory notice of two weeks for farmworkers. "The department has introduced very specific circumstances for extended notice and has weakened the clause," said Bosch.

A key NMC recommendation was the introduction of civil remedies for breaches of the Act. The Bill allows for civil remedies — but stipulates that parties to a civil claim must sign a certificate removing the Manpower Department's responsibility to investigate.

Strict regulations aimed at governing the granting of exemptions from the Act were laid down by the NMC, among them a provision that the manpower

minister should provide reasons for granting exemptions and should publish those granted. The Bill leaves the granting of exemptions to the minister. Significant absences are anti-race and sex discrimination clauses proposed by Cosatu and a proposed ban on dismissals in anticipation of new law. A clause preventing farmers from forcing farmworkers to buy at their shops has also not been included.

The posting of summaries of legislation in four languages on all farms, a unanimous NMC proposal, is omitted from the Bill. Also excluded is a Congress of South African Trade Unions proposal for the streamlining of depart-

ment enforcement procedures. Explaining these omissions, a Manpower Department representative said the Bill was rushed through before parliament recessed. Only the most important clauses were included.

He said the Bill was likely to be significantly changed by the parliamentary standing committee.

● The Unemployment Insurance Act Amendment Bill, extending UIF to farmworkers, was also tabled in parliament last week. It makes provision for the Act to be phased in over 12 months, to "inform and prepare employers and employees properly".

However, the Bill also makes provision for the farmworkers to become contributors as soon as the Act is passed, should they so wish.

South 27/6-3/7/91. (4)

# Assaults on workers: Farmers, police sued

LAWYERS in the Boland and Karoo are bringing several civil claims against farmers and the police for assaults on farm workers amounting to almost R500 000.

Following the criminal conviction of a Stellenbosch wine farm manager, Rudolf Rix, for 18 months last year after he had beaten a labourer to death and assaulted two others with a pick-axe handle, the families of the victims are claiming R46 888 for Mr Andrew Thompson and R47 772 for Mr Godfrey Williams.

A civil claim of R8 500 has been issued against Mr Sven Humboldt, a staff member at the Koopmanskloof Estate, who allegedly shot an eight-year-old child in the back with a shotgun.

Another Stellenbosch farmworker who was allegedly attacked by a Rottweiler on the Bonne Esperance estate, is claiming damages from the farmer, Mr I J du Plessis, and his foreman, Mr J Carstens.

Mr Koos Jacobs said he was "viciously mauled" on his lower legs and suffered three fractured ribs after he was kicked in the chest by Carstens.

A Karoo farmworker has laid charges against his employer and civil proceedings have been issued in which

R90 000 is being claimed after he was assaulted and forced to dig his brother's grave on the farm.

The incident happened after Mr Willem Vorster's brother died in a tractor accident. The farmer, Mr Dries Wiese, allegedly took Vorster into the veld where he assaulted him and then forced him to dig the grave.

Two civil proceedings have been instituted against policemen after alleged assaults.

Mr Gert Olifant, of the Karoo town of Loxton, is claiming R30 000 after being strangled by two policemen to "within an inch of his life" during their investigation of a petty crime.

The policemen allegedly struck, head-butted then strangled Olifant until he lost consciousness. He was charged but acquitted after the policemen contradicted each other.

Lawyers are claiming R45 000 from the Minister of Law and Order after the shooting of a Stellenbosch resident by Sergeant Charles Venn.

According to witnesses, Venn shot and killed Mr Gerrie Booysen after he hit him with his car, and an argument ensued about Venn's driving.

A police investigation into the matter has been completed and the docket is with the Attorney General.

# Move to protect farm-workers

AKG 3/5/91

By SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter  
FAR-REACHING proposals to extend protective labour laws to the country's 1.3-million agricultural workers have been handed to the government.

Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw is studying a 16-page report by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) which was published in the Government Gazette yesterday.

A unique proposal for dealing with strikes during crucial periods of the farming process is included in the recommendations along with those on collective bargaining, the minimum wage and settling disputes.

The report reflects the views of trade union federations Cosatu and Nactu together with those of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU). Other union and employer groups took part in discussions.

Draft legislation to include farm workers is expected to be drawn up towards the end of August, and would affect six-million people, including the workers' dependants.

The majority of NMC members supported extending legislation to farm workers while the SAAU, which represents the farmers, was reluctant to do so and expressed reservations about several of the key recommendations.

The SAAU said it was "not convinced of the need for a formal labour relations dispensation at present" and expressed fears that peaceful agricultural labour relations could be "badly disturbed" by a new dispensation.

It was therefore "hesitant" to extend the Labour Relations Act to the farming sector at all.

All members agreed there should be an extensive information campaign to inform agriculture about the Act's requirements.

The NMC recommended that:

- "No-strike" agreements should apply during peak farming periods because of the "biological" nature of agriculture. Disputes which arose during this period would be resolved through compulsory arbitration.

- A code of unfair labour practices be drafted to apply to agriculture.

- Provision should be made for establishing small labour courts, similar to small claims courts, under the arm of the Industrial Court to deal with minor disputes. These courts would be based in major towns and empowered with regional jurisdiction.

- A system of collective bargaining, the duty to bargain and the recognition of trade unions apply to agriculture.

The SAAU said there should be no "outside interference" by trade unions at the initial stage of dispute settlement

# NMC tables proposals on farmworkers

w/ Mail 30/5 - 6/6/91  
By DREW FORREST

THE National Manpower Commission has recommended the extension of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) to South Africa's 1,3-million farmworkers — subject to amendments which include Small Labour Courts, statutory mediation and further regulation of the right to strike.

The recommendations, part of the NMC's wide-ranging investigation into farmworkers' legal position, are published for comment in the *Government Gazette* today.

The report makes it clear that the SAAU is "not fully convinced" of the need for a formal labour relations dispensation in farming, fearing that the statutory recognition of unions could disturb the "special" relationship between farmers and their workers.

The majority view is that separate Acts would cause uncertainty and suspicion, leading to constant pressure for inclusion under the LRA, and would be difficult to administer. However, a range of amendments to take account of special conditions in farming are proposed, including:

- The inclusion of mediation and arbitration among statutory dispute-settling mechanisms. Mediation should be concluded within 30 days, or longer by agreement, before Industrial Court action or a strike.
- Small Labour Courts (SLC) with regional jurisdiction, to deal largely with disputes of right, where no professional representation would be allowed and from which no appeal would be possible. Complainants would have the option of using these

or the Industrial Court.

Though most NMC members rejected a Cosatu call for a restructured NMC to be involved in appointing court officers, a procedure for the removal of incompetent officers drew broad support.

The NMC accepts the right to strike and lock out in agriculture, but suggests regulation to take account of the sector's unique features. These include its seasonal character and the fact that payment in kind, including housing and land use, will be difficult to withhold during industrial action.

The NMC recommends no-strike agreements banning strikes and spec-

ifying compulsory arbitration or other remedies for certain periods of the year. To guarantee enforcement, enabling legislation would be needed.

Another suggestion is the right to court interdicts banning strikes for a certain time because of special circumstances — including a threat to the viability of a farm, or a danger to health and safety or property.

There is general agreement on the need for the NMC to develop an unfair labour practice code, which most members hold should apply to all sectors. The SAAU suggests a code should be a precondition for inclusion of farming under the LRA.

## Commission split on farm wage

w/ Mail 30/5 - 6/6/91  
By DREW FORREST

SHARP differences of perspective within the National Manpower Commission — notably between the SA Agricultural Union and black unions — clearly emerge in the NMC's split recommendation on the application of the Wage Act to farming.

In its report, gazetted for comment today, the commission merely records three conflicting views.

Cosatu and Nactu call for the inclusion of farming under the Act, conversion of the Wage Act

which sets statutory minimum wages in unorganised sectors, to a tripartite body representing business and labour.

Stressing that only 17 per cent of farmworkers are organised, the commission

between pay in farming and other sectors. They also support unionising farms and collective bargaining.

In contrast, the SAAU favours a separate wage act for farming, which would be administered by the Agricultural Union.



## Commission split on farm wages

w/mail 395, 6/6/91  
By DREW FORREST

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Cosatu and Nactu call for the inclusion of farming under the Act and the conversion of the Wage Board, which sets statutory minimum wages in unorganised sectors, into a tripartite body representing the state, business and labour.

Stressing that wages comprise a mere 17 percent of expenditure in agriculture, the unions point to the gap

between pay in farming and other sectors. They also say difficulties in unionising farms are an obstacle to collective bargaining.

In contrast, the SAAU and conservative employer body Cofesa call for the Act to continue excluding farmworkers. They say minimum wages will fuel inflation and unemployment, adding that 30 percent of white farmers are near insolvency.

The inclusion of farmworkers under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and Labour Relations Act will provide for wages to be set in bargaining, they argue.

A third view holds that the extension of the Act should be delayed for two years and that voluntary wage guidelines for farming should be drawn up in the interim.

# NMC tables proposals on farmworkers

By DREW FORREST

*w/ Mail 30/5 - 6/6/91*

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The majority view is that separate Acts would cause uncertainty and suspicion, leading to constant pressure for inclusion under the LRA, and would be difficult to administer. However, a range of amendments to take account of special conditions in farming are proposed, including:

- The inclusion of mediation and arbitration among statutory dispute-settling mechanisms. Mediation should be concluded within 30 days, or longer by agreement, before Industrial Court action or a strike.

- Small Labour Courts (SLC) with regional jurisdiction, to deal largely with disputes of right, where no professional representation would be allowed and from which no appeal would be possible. Complainants would have the option of using these

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ifying compulsory arbitration or other remedies for certain periods of the year. To guarantee enforcement, enabling legislation would be needed.

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There is general agreement on the need for the NMC to develop an unfair labour practice code, which most members hold should apply to all sectors. The SAAU suggests a code should be a precondition for the inclusion of farming under the LRA.

# Farm labour laws heading for shake-up

Blouay 30/5/91

(4) ~~(1)~~

VERA VON LIERES

THE National Manpower Commission (NMC) has recommended far-reaching changes to agricultural labour law, including a unique proposal for dealing with strikes during key periods of the farming process.

The recommendations on collective bargaining, dispute settlement and the minimum wage are contained in a 16-page report due to be published in the Government Gazette today. The report has been handed to Manpower Minister Eli Louw.

Draft legislation to include farmworkers is expected to be drawn up towards the end of August. It would affect 1,3-million farm workers — or 6-million people including dependents.

Parties to the report include Cosatu, Nactu and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU). Other union and employer groups also participated in discussions.

The SAAU expressed reservations about a number of the key recommendations, saying it was "not convinced of the need for a formal labour relations dispensation at present". It expressed fears that labour relations in agriculture, now peaceful, could be badly disturbed by a new dispensation.

The SAAU said it therefore remained hesitant about extending the Labour Relations Act to the agricultural sector at all.

The NMC recommends that, because of the "biological" nature of farming, "no-strike" agreements should apply during peak farming periods. During such periods, disputes would be resolved through compulsory arbitration.

However, it was considered undesirable to totally outlaw strikes in agriculture as this would destroy collective bargaining.

In another key move, the NMC recommended that provision should be made for establishing Small Labour Courts — similar to "small claims" courts — under the ambit of the Industrial Court to deal with minor disputes of right.

Small Labour Courts would not be courts of record and no professional representation would be allowed. They should be in all major towns and should have regional jurisdiction.

The commission further recommended that a code of unfair labour practices be drafted to apply to agriculture and, probably, other sectors.

Acting NMC chairman Frans Barker said this would introduce clarity.

Such a code should have "legal effect" and it should be possible to present it as evidence in court.

The commission agreed that there should be initial attempts to settle disputes at farm level, failing which there should be access to an industrial council, a conciliation board, mediation or arbitration.

The SAAU felt that at the initial stage of dispute settlement there should be no "outside interference", such as by unions. However the majority of the NMC disagreed.

Barker said another key recommendation was that parties should be able to go directly to mediation or arbitration with-

□ To Page 2

## Farm labour

Blouay 30/5/91

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□ From Page 1

out first approaching a conciliation board. The majority of the commission's members felt it was desirable that the LRA be extended to cover farmworkers rather than to have a separate law governing agricultural collective bargaining.

Barker said the commission failed to obtain a unanimous decision on recommendations around a minimum wage system governed by the Wage Act — where a state-appointed Wage Board determines minimum wages and conditions of employment. Some — especially the unions — supported including agriculture under the ambit of the Wage Board; others — including the SAAU — supported the status quo in terms of which agriculture is excluded. While it was not the majority view, the

NMC finally recommended that the status quo remain in force and the issue be reconsidered in two years' time.

In the interim, the Wage Board should make recommendations about acceptable minimum wages which would not become law but would "serve to orientate the farming community" towards the idea, the report states.

A spokesman for Louw said the NMC's recommendations were "an important step in the process of attaining widest possible consensus" on agricultural labour law.

He said Louw "would seriously scrutinise any recommendations representing employer and employee views".

## Farm workers in the <sup>(4)</sup><sub>(16)</sub> new LRA?

### Special Correspondent

IT appears as if the long struggle by trade unions to bring farm workers and public sector workers under the protection of labour legislation will eventually bear fruit.

Acting National Manpower Commission (NMC) chairman Dr Frans Barker says the recommendations on the inclusion of farm workers under the Labour Relations Act have been completed and submitted to Manpower Minister Eli Louw. They will be published for comment in the Government Gazette of May 30. CIP/MS 26/5791

According to Barker, the NMC recommendations call for farm workers to be included under the Labour Relations Act, but with the stipulations applying to them adapted in certain circumstances.

"The majority determination of the NMC is that employers and employees should be allowed to solve their own differences as far as possible. We have also recommended that small labour courts be established to assist farmers in solving differences which may arise."

As far as the inclusion of domestic workers in labour legislation is concerned, the investigation should be completed by June 18, when the NMC will submit a report to the Minister.

As with farm workers, a minimum wage will probably have to be determined on a regional basis.

For Cosatu the inclusion of workers in the public sector under the protection of labour legislation remains an important issue.

Labour statistics illustrate that this inclusion would be of utmost importance to trade unions.

In 1989 only one per cent of all lost man-days derived from the public sector, but last year the figure jumped to 24 per cent of all lost man-days. The prospect for even more strikes within the public sector appears likely.

However, it must be remembered that the NMC recommendations on the inclusion of workers in the public sector under the Wage Act and the LRA are recommendations only. The power of final decision-taking rests with the Minister.



□ **OVERWHELMED:** Mrs Sarah Sambo receives a cheque of R54 000 from the Editor of the Sowetan, Mr Aggrey Klaaste.

## ④ Sun shines again for farmworker's widow

Weekend Argus, Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG.— The widow of farmworker who died after being assaulted by two white farmers over the accidental death of two puppies in 1987, has received R54 000 from the London-based Sun newspaper.

Mrs Sarah Sambo almost collapsed after being handed the money by Aggrey Klaaste, editor of Weekend Argus's sister newspaper, The Sowetan, at a ceremony held at their offices in Johannesburg.

The money was collected by readers of the Sun following the publication of reports about her husband's death in 1988 and 1989.

### Bare-footed

Mrs Sambo's husband Eric died after being assaulted by the farmers on a farm near Levubu on December 12 1987. Jacobus Vorster and Petrus Jacobus Leonard were found guilty in 1988 of culpable homicide by Mr Justice J J Strydom.

Vorster received a suspended prison sentence, and was ordered to pay Mrs Sambo R130 a month for five years. Leonard was fined R500 (or

three months' jail). *Argus 25/5/91*  
According to evidence, Mr Sambo, employed as a tractor driver, was assaulted by the men after he had driven over two dogs that had been lying under the tractor.

The bare-footed Mrs Sambo travelled from HaMashau in Venda to Johannesburg under the impression that she was only to consult lawyers over the impending civil lawsuit against her husband's killers.

She arrived at The Sowetan's offices, dressed in her traditional Venda outfit and was given the money which she handed to her attorney to be invested.

She will receive monthly interest payments. She said the money would be used for her childrens' schooling, clothing and food.

She said the Azanian People's Organisation had informed her that they were raising funds to build her a house.

She said sand donated by a contractor, as part of the building project, was due to be delivered this week and building was expected to start soon.

# No justice for blacks - angry dad

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

AN angry farmworker stormed out of the Zeerust Regional court this week after a farmer who shot dead his 12-year-old son was found not guilty on a charge of culpable homicide.

"There is no justice for blacks in this land," a bitter Frans Tlhokwe said outside the court. "It is strange that I made a statement to the Groot Marico police but not called to testify."

Magistrate J Carsten earlier ruled there was not enough evidence to convict farmer Hendrik Frederick Mathee, whom he said had not intended killing the boy.

The Klerksdorp branch of Lawyers for Human Rights is also unhappy about the verdict and will investigate the case.

Mathee pleaded not guilty. He said that on July 16 he tested his gun while sitting on the stoep with his wife.

He said the first shot was fired successfully, but the gun jammed when he tried to fire another shot.

He put another bullet into the chamber and aimed at a patch of soil near a small dam. He saw no one before pulling the trigger. But when he fired he saw Jan Tlhokwe, who was near the dam, fall.

He rushed Jan to the Groot Marico police, who told him to take the boy to the Zeerust Hospital.

# Killings: Farmer free

16/2/76 24/1/91



2/2/76

# Man fined for killing worker

(4) W/mu 22/2 - 28/21

By BEVERLEY GARSON: Grahamstown

A DAIRY farmer from Alexandria in the Eastern Cape was last week given a three year suspended sentence and a fine of R10 000 in the Grahamstown Supreme Court for killing one of his farm labourers.

Barry Christopher England (39) was found guilty of culpable homicide for killing Mantombi Adam on October 25 1989. He pleaded not guilty to murder charges at the start of the trial but later changed his plea to guilty of culpable homicide.

The court found that England had shot Adam shortly after discovering that she and five other female workers had failed to finish milling cattle feed before they stopped for breakfast.

Giving evidence during the trial England said he felt bad about killing Adam and "never in my wildest dreams did I think I would hit her". He said when he fired the shot he aimed at a bush and had no intention of killing anyone.

Passing sentence, the judge said he found it difficult to understand why England had used a firearm and found no justification for its use. — Ana

# 1000s lose jobs in fishing industry

South 21/2 - 27/2/91

4

By Waghied Misbach

THE crisis in the fishing industry is likely to continue this year with about 7 000 workers being affected.

Last year more than 2 000 people were retrenched, while an equal number was placed on short time.

At present, about 2 000 workers are employed directly in the industry and about 5 000 in related industries, according to Mr Richard Ball, chairperson of the Tuna Association.

Ball said the fishing industry was in a "dreadful state" due to, among other reasons, poor fishing conditions and gillnet fishing still taking place outside territorial waters.

"All fish industries are being affected, including lobster, traditionally the mainstay of the industry," he said.

He said the tuna industry was in a particularly poor state. Gillnet fishing, environmental factors and the inaccessibility of the tuna-rich areas in Namibia after independence, are contributing factors to the poor state of fishing in this country.

At St Helena Bay Fisheries on the West Coast, the fishing quota has been cut by 50 000 tons, says Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) spokesperson, Mr Gert Koenana.

A company spokesperson, Mr Jan Olivier, confirmed the quota has been cut, but said no workers were in danger of being retrenched.

Investigations in collaboration with Fawu to provide workers with short time work was continuing.

Olivier could not elaborate on the reasons for the cutback.

Koenana said the company retrenched 60 workers last year.

Meanwhile a working committee, with representatives of Fawu, environmentalist groups, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the government's Department of Environ-

ment Affairs, has been formed to investigate tightening legislation around gillnetting practices.

A meeting of the working committee will take place on Monday.

The Minister for Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar, said at a meeting with the unions and environmentalists this week that he was "looking into means to make legislation strict around the use of the gillnets.

The minister said it had been brought to his attention by environmentalist Mr Nan Rice that some trawlers drop the gillnets in the ocean before entering South African harbours and then pick them up again when they leave. He said he would be looking into the possibility of having those ships prohibited from the country's harbours.

Rice, spokesperson for the Dolphin Action Protection Group, said gillnetting could not be blamed as the sole factor in the deterioration of the fishing industry.

However, gillnet fishing is responsible for upsetting the marine ecosystem by literally "strip mining" the ocean.





# New law will halt labour abuse of young children

Sowetan 20/2/91

4

LEGISLATION will be passed this year which will prevent the use of children under the age of 15 as labour.

In terms of a Bill tabled by the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, the earlier child-care laws regulated child labour only in so far as it was necessary to combat begging.

For this, and a host of other reasons, it has become necessary to include provisions in the Child Care Act of 1983.

"Time has shown, however, that child labour has to be controlled to prevent exploitation and harm to children.

"Clause 19 proposes to impose a prohibition on the employment of children under the age of 15 years, but

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN  
Political Correspondent

also provides that the Minister may grant exemptions in this regard," the Bill reads.

The Child Care Amendment Bill proposes further protection for children, especially destitute children, in terms of child care and the courts.

"The objects of the Bill are to amend the Child Care Act of 1983 (Act 47 of 1983), so as to rectify certain omissions in the Act, to remove legal uncertainty and to provide for changing circumstances," the Bill explains.

# Rural women organise

By PEARL MAJOLA

SEX discrimination is still very much a reality for women in the rural areas.

And this prompted the formation of the Rural Women's Movement by Transvaal women last year.

The movement was formed with the help of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), a subsidiary organisation of the Black Sash concerned with helping rural people faced with forced removals.

RWM aims to unite rural women and give them a platform to share their problems and work on solutions together, while assisting them to develop skills such as sewing and trench gardens.

Fighting the problem alongside these women is Lydia Kompe of Trac.

Born and bred in the rural areas herself, the issues and problems facing



LYDIA KOMPE

them are well known to Kompe.

"My concern for rural women grew when I started working for Trac.

"I found out that it is them who are first hit with notices of removals before the men, who usually work far from home," explained Kompe.

"Yet when decisions have to be made, women are not given a chance to contribute to those decisions.

"The men come home and the Kgotla, the decision-making body,

meets to discuss what needs to be done. understand the problems facing married men.

"Women are excluded from the Kgotla and are only called in to explain what the authorities said.

"The RWM was then formed to address this particular issue and then get women together to discuss other problems they face like why they have to be excluded even from issues that affect them directly," she said.

They have succeeded in getting women into the Kgotla in some villages such as Braklaagte, Mogopa and Driefontein, but Kompe maintains there is still a lot of work to be done.

"It has been a struggle because men still feel dominant and feel they will be breaking tradition if they allow women into the Kgotla.

"The RWM has the support of unmarried men who are also not allowed into the Kgotla because it is assumed they do not

"But they are saying that as adults they need to be involved when decisions that are going to affect their lives, are made," she said.

"Another issue we want to tackle is the gap between rural and urban women.

"Urbanisation has divided black women and urban women have access to facilities which are not available for rural women.

"This creates a feeling of inferiority among rural women. We have tried in the past to bring the two groups of women together on occasions like National Women's Day, but it has never worked.

"Often the medium of communication on these occasions is English which leaves rural women out because translation is seen as a waste of time by urban women," Kompe said.

# Terre'Blanche trial mystery

By DAN DHLAMINI

4  
CPN 2/6/91

that he had not received the Terre'Blanche docket. He referred us to Ventersdorp prosecutor J van Tonder.

Van Tonder, in turn, insisted that the docket was at the AG's office but, for some reason, declined to give us the date on which he had sent it.

Finally, on Thursday, Brunette said he had just received the docket which, he said, had been lying in advocate Venter's office. Venter had been out of town.

Soft-spoken Evelyn said that when her husband had told Terre'Blanche he was going to report him to the police, Terre'Blanche allegedly said the cops would do nothing to him.

She said the trouble started earlier this year when her husband declined Terre'Blanche's offer for the family's goat.

She said Terre'Blanche later allegedly accused Mashya of stock theft and beat him up. Then her spouse was jailed for three days and released without being charged.

"We are living in fear now," she said.



**UNTOUCHABLE . . . AWB strongman Eugene Terre'Blanche allegedly boasted that charges of assaulting a farm worker would not materialise. So far, he's right.**



**A PLACE TO REST:** Frank Kgang (19) rests on his makeshift bed after 11 hours of hard work every day of the week on a construction site in Dobsonville, Soweto. Kgang and 12 other men share this small shack which is "home" to them. The 13 men were recruited as labourers from Mafikeng by Mr Mmutla Bosigo, owner of Itireleng Construction. Pic: JOE MOLEFE

# Men 'paid R10 a week'

Sowetan  
27/6/91

4

A SOWETO building contractor, whose workforce is drawn from rural areas, pays his employees as little as R10 a week and houses them in a shack, a *Sowetan* investigation has found.

The contractor, Mr Mmutla Bosigo, owner of Itireleng Construction, is also accused of allegedly assaulting the 13

By IKE MOTSAPI

workers he recruited from Mafikeng. The youngest of the workers is 19-year-old Frank Kgang, who said he was punched by Bosigo for smoking during working hours.

Other workers, whose ages range between 25 and 40, said they were treated like "slaves" by Bosigo who was "arrogant and evasive" whenever they demanded their pay.

● To Page 2

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Africa's future. — Sapa.

## Bill covers farmworkers

CAPE TOWN — A Bill to bring farmworkers under the umbrella of the Unemployment Insurance Act was tabled yesterday.

It is, however, unlikely that the measure will be passed during this session of Parliament which ends on Friday. It has not been scheduled for debate.

*B10cm (1/6/19)*  
A memorandum with the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill said the agricultural sector was at present excluded from the Act.

# Bills on rights of farm hands tabled

CAPE TOWN — Rights for farmworkers regarding unemployment insurance and working hours were tabled in Parliament yesterday and most likely will be promulgated next year.

Sapa reports additional legislation for farmworkers was to be tabled next year in amendments to the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act, Manpower Minister Eli Louw said at a news conference yesterday.

BILLY PADDOCK reports Louw said the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act would be delayed because they were still being discussed in the joint committee.

The committee would not have time to submit amendments before the end of the session today, he said.

He said the most important amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act were:

That normal working hours of a farmworker are 48 hours a week and the working hours of herdsmen

are 60 hours.  
 Farmworkers' spread-over can be up to 14 hours a day;

A farmworker can work nine-and-a-half hours a day;

That farmworkers receive two weeks paid leave a year and 30 days sick leave in a three-year cycle;

The maximum normal working hours a week can be extended by agreement to 52 hours for a period of three months during a 12-month period provided there was a reduction of normal hours without loss of wages in the same period.

Legislation extending the Labour Relations Act to farmworkers had been published for comment. The closing date for submissions was August 31 which meant it would also only be tabled next year, Louw said.

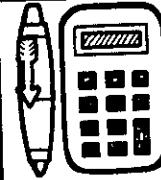
He said the National Manpower Commission had recommended that the Wage Act being extended to farmworkers, and which made provision for the Minister to institute an inquiry, should be delayed for two years.

## Call for new provincial govt

PRETORIA — The present provincial government system was unacceptable and a drastically different system of regional government had to be implemented, Transvaal MEC for Community Development and Environmental Conservation Willie Hoods said last night.

He told a Rapportryerskorps meeting the regions need not follow existing historical borders. With adjustments the present economic development regions could be used and the provincial and self-governing territories' administrations could form the core of the administrative frameworks of future regional governments.

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# Farmworkers may benefit

FARMWORKERS in South Africa could get full labour rights by next year.

Currently estimated at 1,3 million, farmworkers do not benefit from the four main labour laws - the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act.

Amendments to these

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN  
Political Correspondent

laws have been submitted to include farmworkers, the Ministry of Manpower said yesterday.

When the Acts are passed, farmworkers will, in terms of the Unemployment Insurance Act, qualify for payment in the event of unemployment

after a period of contributing to a fund.

When the Basic Conditions of Employment Act is amended, the normal working hours for a farmworker will be 48 hours a week, and those of herdsmen 60 hours. Farmworkers can work nine hours and 30 minutes a day.

The amended Bill also provides, among others,

that a farmworker will get two weeks paid leave a year, and 30 days sick leave in a three-year cycle.

The new Labour Relations Act provides for the settlement of disputes between farmworkers and employers.

The Wage Act has been amended in such a way that it does not prescribe a minimum wage.

## Farm labour unemployment benefits sought

*Star 19/6/91*  
Farm labour reform was taken a step further yesterday with the introduction in Parliament of new legislation to extend unemployment insurance benefits to the agricultural sector.

The Government has been under pressure to extend labour protection and union rights to SA's agricultural workforce.

The Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill phases in unemployment insurance benefits for farm workers over a year.

One of its features is to see that seasonal workers qualify for membership of the fund after four months' continuous service with the same employer.

4 The law would provide short-term protection for farm workers against loss of income resulting from unemployment, illness, maternity and the adoption of children under the age of two, as well as providing for the payment of benefits to the dependants of deceased contributors. — Political Staff.



**R78 000  
damages  
for farm  
assault** (U)

ARG 15/6/91

**JOHN VILJOEN**

Supreme Court Reporter

A BOLAND farm labourer who was assaulted by his foreman so seriously that he will not be able to work again has won damages of R78 000 in the Supreme Court.

Mr Johannes Lottering was assaulted by Mr Chris van Wyk on Glen Oak farm, near De Doorns in the Hex River valley, on May 26 1988.

Mr Van Wyk hit 45-year-old Mr Lottering, shook him, banged his head repeatedly against a metal wall and a concrete slab, and kicked him in the face. (U 18/6/91)

Mr Lottering claimed damages of R146 000.

Ordering Mr Van Wyk to pay Mr Lottering R78 560, Mr Justice P H Tebbutt said this week that the assault had left the former farm labourer with a general restriction of his mental functions, and had curtailed his memory.

**Sex-life**

Mr Lottering, a father of five, was "totally disorientated" and had virtually no idea of time and space.

A doctor told the court Mr Lottering would never work again, and his wife said he was like a child whom she had to bathe and care for.

Their sex-life was over, she told the court.

It was clear that Mr Van Wyk's assault had caused Mr Lottering's injuries, the judge said.

# Future position of rural women

New Nation  
(Learning Nation)  
7/6-13/6/91.

4



Last week we discussed the difficulties faced by women living in rural areas. We are now ready to look at possibilities for the future.

At various workshops and meetings women from a number of areas across rural Transvaal were asked what they would like to see change in a new South Africa. Women agreed there were a number of changes needed to improve their lives:

## 1) Domestic/ in the home:

- \* better supplies of water and fuel for heating and cooking
- \* proper services and community facilities in the rural areas
- \* equal power with men in the household which would mean a change in marital powers
- \* women's position should not be directly linked to men - for example in matters of land or political recognition
- \* women should have the right to a place to stay
- \* old women should be guaranteed some form of security in their homes

## 2) Political power:

- \* women should be given representation on the kgotla
- \* many people don't necessarily reject chiefs, but feel that chiefs must support women's organisations
- \* the chief's wife should join women's groups or projects to show to the community the chief's support.

On the problem of organising women, a woman from the Northern Transvaal said:

**They (women) say let it be supported by the chief then we will be free to come. Some of them say, well, we are not married, we are afraid to get involved. We may be deprived of some of the things that we may need from the chief. As soon as the councillors give way, then we will have a lot of women.**

Women from some rural communities in the Transvaal who have been involved in struggles against forced removals and incorporation into bantustans came together last year to form a loose structure called the Rural Women's Movement. The structure hopes to bring rural women together to discuss problems, to strengthen each other and to help build women's organisation so that their demands can be met.

## 3) Land

- \* Independent access to land is essential - it may not be the only factor in strengthening women's position, but this will give them a chance to support themselves and help make them equal members of the community.

What other things do you consider important to improve the position of women in rural areas?

**They (rural women) are the women of South Africa, they are waiting to see what will happen in a new South Africa. They wish to reach the new South Africa. Then they would like to hear the voices of the women in the new South African law**

*This is what someone said at a workshop of the Rural Women's Movement in October last year.*

But it seems that the new land laws that the government now wants to pass do not in any way take account of what rural women think. There has been no consultation with any rural people least of all the women. And the government speaks of "upgrading" people's rights on the land - but what about women's rights to land. Will they be given title-deeds? And will the government recognise them as farmers who want land to plough, or will they only give land to men? It seems they have put only a tiny piece of South Africa's land aside for black people to farm - why did they not consult the people affected if they want this to bring "peace and prosperity for all South Africans"?

Have you heard about the government's new land laws? The government says it is scrapping all the racial discrimination around land and making new laws. Find out what the government is proposing as "land reform" and decide whether you think this will solve any of the problems we have been discussing. With a group of friends, you could discuss the following issues:

- \* The government rejects the idea of redistribution of land. Instead it insists that land must be bought by people with money. What problems can you see developing in the future with this system? How would it affect the position of rural women?
- \* The government reject the restoration of land to communities who were forcibly removed. People are demanding their right to return. How do you suggest that the situation be dealt with where more than one group of people claims the same piece of land? If people won the right to go back, how should the land be fairly distributed, taking special note of the problems of women?
- \* The government says it will "upgrade" various forms of land- occupation into freehold title-deeds or ownership of the land, but it does not recognise the rights of tenants. How should tenants' rights to a secure place to stay be guaranteed, and should women be given special protection?
- \* The new laws allow the government to allocate some land for small-scale farming. They do not say who will qualify to farm these few pieces of land. Do you think that women alone, as well as men and families should be allowed to farm the land? Discuss the reasons for what you think, and what guidelines you would draw up if you were making the decisions about allocating farm land.

This article was prepared for Learning Nation by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC). Their address is:  
P.O. Box 2827, Johannesburg, 2000.  
Phone: (011) 833-1063.

# Labour Act reforms will be law next year **Louw**

By SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

REFORMS to extend four labour Acts to agricultural workers are set to come into effect next year, said Mr Eli Louw, Minister of Manpower.

Amendments to two of the Acts — the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act — were submitted to parliament this week and are being considered by a parliamentary joint committee.

The recommendations of the National Manpower Commission on the other two — the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act — are published in the Government Gazette for comment until August 31, Mr Louw said at a Press conference.

"The objective of the Unemployment Insurance Act is to

ensure contributors do not lose remuneration in the short term when services are terminated.

"Employers and employees both contribute 90c per R100 of the employee's remuneration as premium to the fund," Mr Louw said.

The most important Basic Conditions of Employment Act amendments envisaged were:

- The normal working hours of farmworkers were 48 hours a week and 60 hours for herds-men.

- The maximum normal working hours a week for farmworkers could be lengthened by agreement by four hours to 52 hours and 10 hours a day for three months during a continuous period of 12 months — provided normal working hours be reduced by a corresponding number of hours without a wage loss in the

same 12 months. *ARC 21/6/91*

- As far as normal working hours were concerned a farmworker could work nine hours and 30 minutes a day.

- The provision of two weeks paid vacation leave a year and 30 days sick leave in a three-year cycle.

Mr Louw said labour legislation was based on a compromise between the interests of workers and farmers and did not necessarily satisfy any of the parties 100 percent.

"The final product is reasonable and establishes a dispensation both parties can live with," he said.

## Rod cancels concerts

LONDON. — Rod Stewart has cancelled two more concerts because of ill-health. — The Argus Foreign Service.



CT 2/16/94

**Political Staff**

TWO bills tabled in Parliament this week to extend labour acts to farm workers will be delayed until next year, Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw said yesterday.

He said the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act should be extended to farm workers but these had just been tabled and were still being discussed in the joint committee.

They would not have time to complete their work and submit amendments before the end of the session today, he said.

He said the most im-

# Two bills about land workers delayed

portant amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act that was tabled yesterday are:

● That normal working hours of a farm worker are 48 hours a week and the working hours of herdsmen are 60 hours.

● Farm workers' spreadover can be up to 14 hours a day.

● As far as normal working hours are con-

cerned a farm worker can work 9½ hours a day.

● That farm workers are entitled to two weeks' paid vacation a year and 30 days sick leave in a three-year cycle.

Legislation extending the Labour Relations Act to farm workers had been published for comment and the closing date for submissions was August 31 and therefore this bill would also only be tabled next year, Mr Louw said.

He said the National Manpower Commission had recommended that the Wage Act being extended to farm workers should be delayed for two years.

# Farm workers to get unemployment pay?

(A) (36)

Political Staff CT 19/6/91

FARM workers are set to be included in the ambit of the Unemployment Insurance Act if the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament by Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw yesterday, is passed.

The main aim of the bill is to ensure that farm workers who work continuously for the same employer for more than four months will be entitled to get benefits under the act.

Should Parliament accept the bill it will be phased in over the next year although any employers who prefer to do so could become contributors to the fund immediately after the implementation date.

Both employers and employees will have to pay 90 cents in every R100 of the worker's wage. For every six weeks of contributing to the fund the worker is entitled to benefits of one week at a rate of 45% of his wage. To qualify, the farm worker will have to have contributed for at least 13 weeks during the year before he became unemployed.

By DAN DHLAMINI 4

THE mystery of an assault charge laid against Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging leader Eugene Terre'Blanche by a 70-year-old farm labourer deepened this week when the Transvaal Attorney General referred the docket back to the Ventersdorp police.

Instead, the old man will now be charged with possession of dagga.

AG Don Brunette this week told City Press that he had sent the docket back to the police because he was not satisfied with aspects of the evidence.

Brunette would not elaborate on the evidence that did not satisfy him.

Terre'Blanche is alleged to have assaulted Klipplaatsdrift farm labourer William Mashia on March 9 after accusing him of stocktheft.

Mashia denies this, saying the trouble started when he refused to sell a goat to Terre'Blanche. He said he has not yet recovered from the assault.

He claimed Terre'Blanche had boasted that even if he reported the assault to the police, they would do nothing to him.

Mashia said he was arrested twice after laying the charge.

"I was arrested a day after making a statement, but was released after three days without being charged.

"Late last month five white policemen burst into my house while we were asleep and accused me of selling dagga," Mashia said.

He added that one of the younger policemen kept on asking him why he had laid a charge



**William Mashia and the goat that caused all the trouble with Eugene Terre'Blanche.**

against "baas Terre'Blanche". *CIPres 9/6/91*

Western Transvaal police spokesman Maj Ben van Heerden denied there was any reluctance on the part of the police to investigate Mashia's case.

Mashia's attorney Aubrey Khanyile however told City Press his client had been turned away from the police station when he first tried to lay an assault charge.

He said the case was only taken seriously after he had written a strong letter to the station com-

mander at Ventersdorp Police Station.

Khanyile will also defend Mashia in the alleged possession of dagga charge on Tuesday.

"My client is sickly at the moment and I have advised him to consult a doctor to check if he will be fit to stand trial. If he is not, I will ask for a postponement," he said.

Earlier Terre'Blanche reportedly denied assaulting Mashia.

He refused to grant City Press an interview.

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## Evicted farmworker wins R1 518 damages

Staff Reporter C19/6/91

FARMWORKER Mr Attie Schroeder was awarded R1 518 in Stellenbosch Magistrate's Court yesterday for damages and pain and suffering against Boland farmer Mr Stevie Smit, of Koopmansklouf.

Evidence was that Mr Schroeder, his wife and six children were evicted from their home on one of Mr Smit's seven farms, Steneveld, on September 22 last year. They spent two nights in the open guarding their furniture and possessions, which were damaged by the eviction and exposure to the elements.

Magistrate Mr D J Calitz awarded R768 for pain and suffering and R750 for damages.

Mr Schroeder was represented by Mr J van de Berg, instructed by Mr Roger Chennels of Chennels and Albertyn, and Mr Smit by Mr L Vosloo.

● Mr Chennels said after the trial: "Too many farmers still abuse the unequal power relationship which still exists on farms, dating back to feudal times. They will not get away with this in future."

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# Bringing insurance to farms

*Sowetan 19/6/91*

(4)  
*[Signature]*

**A BILL to bring farmworkers under the umbrella of the Unemployment Insurance Act was tabled in Parliament yesterday.**

It is, however, unlikely that the measure will be passed during this session of Parliament, which ends on Friday.

A memorandum attached to the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill said:

"The objects of the Bill are to bring the agricultural sector within the ambit of the Act (and) provide that seasonal workers in agriculture will qualify for membership of the (Unemployment In-

urance) Fund after a period of four months continuous service with the same employer."

Because such a large number of people would be affected by the amendments, there would be a phasing-in period of a year before compliance with the Act was required.

Employers who wanted to register and start contributing to the fund before the period had elapsed would be free to do so.

The Bill will now go before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Manpower. - *Sapa*.





# Cattle feedlot managers accused of ruling by a 'reign of terror'

1/26/91  
4/11/91

## Brothers deny firing and assaulting workers

The Argus Correspondent

**DURBAN.** — The managers of one of the country's largest cattle feedlots in Christiana, near Kimberley, have been accused of assaulting, threatening and firing farm workers.

Several former employees of Beefmaster claim that the managers of the feedlot, twin brothers Mr Gavin and Mr Rob Armstrong, "rule by a reign of terror".

One alleged incident, recounted by three former section heads, was of a 17-year-old boy, Christopher Carelse, whose face was badly burned when he was assaulted, shocked with an electric cattle prod, placed in neck clamps and then had a red hot branding iron held close to his cheek.

### 'Appalling conditions'

Fearing that the owner of Beefmaster, Mr Lourie van Reenen, would find out about the alleged incident, the Armstrong brothers then moved the boy's family — whose father, Johnny, works as a painter on the feedlot — to a remote corner of the farm. They lived there in a caravan and a shack under "appalling conditions" for more than a year.

When the Press visited the family at their shack near the "varkplaas", they were packing to move into town. Mrs Maria Carelse said she feared for her son's life as one of the Armstrong brothers had arrived at their home the night before and had threatened Christopher.

It took almost 20 minutes to convince Christopher to come out of hiding to speak to the Press and the entire interview was carried out in hiding.

### Denies assault

Mr Van Reenen denied the allegations made against his managers and Mr Rob Armstrong said he "vehemently denies" the assault against Christopher. He maintained he had no knowledge of the incident.

Following a three-week investigation of working conditions on Beefmaster, reporters traced seven former section managers, including two who have now left the country and several of whom were only prepared to talk on condition of anonymity.

Some of the allegations made against the Armstrong brothers, all of which they denied, are:

- Frequent assaults on black and coloured workers.
- Squalid living conditions of some of the 400 black workers.

- Disregard of contractual conditions of the white section managers

- Instant dismissals of staff, sometimes without severance pay

- Interference in present work places long after having left Beefmaster

In an interview just two hours before he left for London, one section manager, Mr Terry Ladbrooke, said he was given 35 minutes to pack and "get off the farm" after he was forced to sign a letter stating that he had resigned with immediate effect. He had been accused of saying "bad things about the company".

### Assault threats

He also said he saw his tractor driver being assaulted with a police baton by Gavin Armstrong after he reported that he suspected the driver was under the influence of liquor.

In a faxed statement from Hong Kong, another former section head, Gary Pugsley, said in April, 1987, he was dragged into Rob Armstrong's office where a verbal and physical fight ensued.

"During the nine months I was employed by Beefmaster, I was subject to constant threats of physical assault by Rob Armstrong and his brother, Gavin, assault black employees. This was the reason I resigned from my position as assistant accountant," said Mr Pugsley.

When questioned about their poor reputation in the town, Rob Armstrong said he was surprised by the news as he was only aware of people who held them in the highest esteem.

The former mayor of Christiana, Dennis Miller, said the complaints against the Armstrongs were "really not fair" as it was "easy to point fingers at people at the top and get away with it".

He said things on Beefmaster worked differently and "if you don't work properly and you steal, they don't take you to court, they just fire you".

"I don't believe that they are soft on people, but you can't be if you have 40 000 head of cattle to manage," said Mr Miller.

The town clerk of Christiana, Corrie Cornelius, said Beefmaster was a credit to the town and he had full respect for the Armstrongs, which would be fully supported by the other councillors.

He said the town was very dependent on Beefmaster and the Armstrongs always allowed them the use of machinery free of charge.



One of Johannesburg was one of the bathing beauties Year heat at Clifton. Pictures: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.



**BEATING THE HEAT:** When Clifton got too hot to handle, Kai Dehnke, left, of Kenilworth and Cindy Russell of Johannesburg took a refreshing shower.

## New Year fun at Clifton

**CROWDED CLIFTON:** Perfect summer weather over New Year meant the beach was the place to be and sunlovers left almost no patch of sand free at Clifton, LEFT CENTRE.

**CASTLE KING:** Tahl Evian, 10, of Johannesburg, left, built this grand castle on Fourth Beach, Clifton. Fellow-builder Tarod Lang, 9, also from Johannesburg (behind, left), has some way to go!

Pictures: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

# Farm labour law debate carries on

16/10/91

(4)

MATTHEW CURTIN

FARMWORKERS and farming communities stand only to lose from being included in the provisions of labour legislation, argue some members of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) committee investigating the expediency of making the legislation applicable to farmworkers.

Satisfactory informal and formal provisions existed for ensuring the welfare of farmworkers, and the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and Wage Act were not suitable statutes for improving the farmworkers' position.

In a recent Government Gazette, the NMC set out arguments for and against the inclusion of farmworkers in terms of the two Acts.

The views represented those of committee members, and not the commission itself, which includes SA Agricultural Union and Cosatu representatives. Each made its respective concern at and support for the extension of the legislation to agriculture clear last year.

Extending the two Acts would entrench farmworkers' rights to union organisation, give protection against unfair labour practices and set statutory minimum wages. Those on the NMC committee opposed to this said the move would undermine existing farmworkers' fringe benefits, promote unemployment and disrupt farming communities through strike action.

They argued agriculture was an "essential service" on a par with electricity and sanitary services, the disruption of which could "not be allowed".

The present system of industrial councils and industrial courts would be unable to cope with the strain of accommodating an influx of 1.4-million new workers.

They submitted the "traditionally close personal relationship" between farmers and their employees and common law provisions were already adequate guarantee of farmworkers' rights.

Proponents of extending the LRA and Wage Act argued that farmworkers were denied "access to the advantages that go with statutory recognition".

Trade union organisation in agriculture was far advanced regardless of the legislative provisions. Once extended these would foster greater unionisation and improve employer/employee communication in the sector, the standard of living of farmworkers, and provide mechanisms for addressing the disputes and grievances of farmworkers. These arguments echo the findings of the Wiehahn Commission.

The difficulties facing the NMC in recommending that farmworkers be covered by labour legislation were demonstrated in its failure to achieve a unanimous recommendation with regard to agri-industrial workers, originally scheduled to be included in amendments to the LRA.

The NMC concluded by making alternative recommendations, one of which had majority committee support, the other proposed by Cosatu.

Cosatu argued farming activities employing more than 100 workers which were of an industrial character — canning, forestry, lumber and plantation operations — should be included in the scope of the LRA.

The majority standpoint proposed the status quo be maintained until the NMC had completed its investigation of the extension of the LRA to all farmworkers.

W/Maur 11/11-7/191

## Fawu scores a first with Hall pay agreement

By DREW FORREST

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union has clinched a breakthrough pay deal with one of South Africa's largest farming operations, HL Hall and Son, near Nelspruit.

Although Fawu's farmworkers' project has other agreements, notably within the Festive Farms and Tongaat groups, the Hall deal, covering 1 400 workers, is in a different league.

And in a first for Fawu — and perhaps in agriculture at large — the agreement provides for 20 days' paid maternity leave per confinement.

Another key feature is the replacement of payment in kind, including weekly meat rations and a *mahewu* ration, by a cash wage. Fawu is adamant that payment in kind, a traditional institution on farms, is an unacceptable form of paternalism.

The switch to cash wages, according to a company statement, had made it possible to agree on across-the-board rises of between R67 and R132 a month. Fawu says the bottom wage now stands at about R220.

And in an interesting reflection of farmworkers' growing political consciousness, the agreement also provides for paid holidays on May 1, June 16 and March 21 (Sharpeville Day) in place of official holidays.

The company said it had decided some years ago "to move away from some of the paternalistic practices in the farming industry and to involve its workers in meaningful decision-making".

Fawu organiser Andries Maphala said the union had started organising at Hall five years ago, and that the company's initial response was that the Labour Relations Act precluded recognition.

The watershed, he said, was a four-day strike in May last year resulting in the mass dismissal of workers, who were later reinstated in an out-of-court settlement.

Although Fawu was not yet formally recognised, recognition talks would begin next month.

Maphala said planned changes in the legal position of farmworkers, coupled with broader political developments in the country, had sparked rising militancy on the farms. "The Hall agreement will influence many other Lowveld farms to accept us," he predicted.

Fawu claims 60 000 signed-up members on farm undertakings.

## Clashes over extension of UIF

*w/ma 1111-171191*  
SHARP conflict over the unemployment rights of seasonal farmworkers surfaced in National Manpower Commission debates over the extension of the Unemployment Insurance Act to agriculture.

Seasonal and occasional workers comprise an estimated 560 000 — 40 percent — of the farming workforce.

In a report gazetted last month, the NMC recommended that only "regular" farmworkers, excluding seasonal, occasional and casual labourers, should be covered by the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Under the current Act, workers are eligible for UIF if they work at least eight hours a week for one employer. In industries declared seasonal, workers must be continuously employed for eight months to claim.

*4*  
Apparently in response to South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) concerns, the NMC recommended a general eight-month limit on farms.

"It has automatically assumed the whole of agriculture to be seasonal, which is not the case," said lawyer Dawie Bosch.

Cosatu proposed a three-month limit, subject to viability, stressing that most seasonal farmworkers were employed for three months or less. This was vigorously opposed by the SAAU.

Bosch said he found the SAAU's approach "peculiar ... They seem to reject a three-month cut-off regardless of whether the fund can bear it.

"UIF involves very little cost and administrative inconvenience. Ironically, it will enable farmers to dismiss in better conscience."

## LABOUR

# Major resistance likely to new deal for farmworkers

*W/Mail 11/11-17/11/91*

**T**HE extension of fundamental workplace rights to farmworkers was a "definite gain" but was likely to hit major resistance from "unenlightened" farmers, a legal expert and member of the National Manpower Commission's farmworkers' sub-committee warned this week.

Dawie Bosch was commenting on NMC proposals for the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) to agriculture, published for comment last month. Amendments based on the proposals, as well as extending the Unemployment Insurance Act to farms, will be tabled during the coming parliamentary session. They will affect an estimated 65 000 farmers employing 1,3-million workers.

The document is the product of hard bargaining and compromise, largely between the SA Agricultural Union and Cosatu, which sat on the sub-committee. In a unique move aimed at securing Cosatu's involvement in the final report, sub-committee members attended full NMC deliberations and were given voting rights.

Lining up with Cosatu on most issues was Labour Party MP Piet Meyer — the LP, a largely rural party, is clearly shoring up its political interests — and Saccola vice-chairman Bokkie Botha.

Bosch said that by regulating such issues as overtime, public holidays, annual leave, sick leave and notice, the proposals recognised the need to shield farmworkers in their day-to-day work situation. Such rights were historically denied on many farms. Of equal importance was the BCEA's ban on victimisation for union activities, a potential spur to unionisation in a sector notoriously difficult to organise.

Also envisaged is a ban on the employment of children under 12 and tough controls on employment between 12 and 15. This is limited to 90 minutes on a school day or five hours at other times, with written parental permission and if the farmer registers with the Manpower Department.

In the report, Cosatu dissented from this, arguing that the BCEA's general 15-year age limit should also apply on farms. Other key compromises and changes to the current Act included:

- A 48-hour working week, with the possibility of a further four hours by agreement for not more than three months in a year, and a corresponding reduction later in the year.

Protecting farmworkers under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act is a step in the right direction but could meet resistance from farmers, reports **DREW FORREST**

The SAAU argued that the seasonal nature of farming ruled out the BCEA's current 46-hour limit.

- One day's unpaid leave in return for compulsory Sunday work, and double time for more than five hours' work on a Sunday. Sunday work is currently voluntary in terms of the BCEA.

- Reasonable notice for a fired worker on the cancellation of housing or land use rights. These commonly form part of a farming wage package.

- A ban on victimisation of workers who discuss conditions with others or refuse an order in breach of the Act.

The NMC accepted, on Cosatu's urging, that discrimination should also be outlawed, but decided that the issue required further investigation. It was also split on Cosatu's call for a ban on unilateral changes in employment and dismissals in anticipation of new law.

- The payment of piece work at permanent worker rates. This clause was resisted by the SAAU, which argued for regulation by private agreement.

- Civil remedy for breaches of the Act, which currently provides only for prosecution.

- The registration of farm labour contractors. Such registration is only provided for under the LRA.

Isolating defects in the proposals, Bosch stressed that farm labour contractors, often ordinary workers or rural chiefs, tended to be "men of straw" or difficult to trace. Registration needed to be coupled with a cash deposit, to ensure claims could be met. And farmers who used unregistered brokers should themselves be liable — a Cosatu proposal voted down by the NMC.

Bosch also stressed that the effectiveness of any new legislation turned critically on Manpower Department enforcement. Maximum penalties were small — a R1 000 fine and/or 12 months' jail, or double this in the case of victimisation or child labour abuses — and were rarely imposed.

He added that the proposed civil remedy could be beefed up by "civil fines" for breaches of the Act, in favour of aggrieved workers who otherwise had little to gain by court action.



Soon to be protected ... NMC proposals extend basic workplace rights to farmworkers for the first time

Photo: AFRA

# Worker's death raises concern over pesticide protection

By Rehana Rossouw (4)

THE death of a Montagu farm worker who used pesticides without protective clothing has raised concern about the lack of protection for South African farmworkers.

Unlike in other countries, farmers here are not compelled to supply protective clothing for workers using pesticides.

Mr Andries Sefoor, 46, collapsed on the farm Helpmekear outside Montagu on January 4 after spraying pesticide for three days.

An artery burst after he had inhaled poisonous substances.

He had been using Fenom and Topex, two pesticides used for spraying fruit trees.

His wife, Mrs Maria Sefoor, said he came home two days earlier complaining of blurred vision and a blinding headache.

"He had been working for years with poisons and had never been given protective clothing or a mask," she said.

"He told me he had complained about his headache to the farmer, Mr Hermie Kriel, who insisted that he return to work."

She said a farmworker came to her house on January 4 to tell her that her husband was in hospital.

Last Wednesday, she was informed he had died.

## Support

"I am very worried about my future. I have two children of school-going age and I don't know how I am going to support them," she said.

"The farmer's wife, Mrs Maureen Kriel said one of my children would have to leave school and work on the farm to support us."

Mr Jan Matthys, 60, was working with Sefoor when he collapsed.

"Andries said he was feeling ill and went to sit on one side," Matthys said.

"Then he collapsed and started foaming at the mouth."

Matthys said he went to the farmer for assistance and Mrs Kriel was sent back to the fields with him.

She asked him to lift Sefoor into her bakke and when he was unable to do so, went to look for help.

She returned a half an hour later and took Sefoor to hospital.

"By then, his body had stiffened, he was sweating heavily and had lost control of his bowels," Matthys said.

Mrs Kriel said she believed Sefoor's death was not a result of working with pesticides.

"Andries was the foreman on the farm and has been working with pesticides with years," Kriel said.

"I believe he was poisoned because he ate fruit that had been sprayed.

"He was spraying, mixed the pesticides and gave it to other workers to spray on the trees."

Kriel said Sefoor had not complained

about a headache to her husband. She had seen him on Friday morning when he came to the farmhouse to enquire about her husband's health.

Kriel denied that she had told Mrs Sefoor to take her children out of school to support the family.

Dr Leslie London of the Food and Allied Workers Union said that, although pesticides were registered in South Africa, there was no inspectorate to monitor the use of poisonous substances.

## Enforce

Some pesticides which were banned in other countries were registered and used in South Africa.

There was no legislation to enforce the use of protective measures once the pesticides reached the farms in South Africa.

"In the United States, for instance, there are laws which forbid farmworkers from entering the fields once they have been sprayed," London said.

"But here, I often drive past farms and see workers with backpacks spraying into the wind without any protection whatsoever."

London said every death from poisoning was preventable. Unfortunately, for every reported death of a farmworker by poisoning, there were probably another 200 which never came to light.

The symptoms of poisoning were not specific, making it difficult for farmworkers to discover who was affected by pesticides.

"The only way we can test for poisoning is to test the enzyme levels. A recent study in the farming community showed that farmworkers enzyme levels were 70 percent higher than other people's."

There are no facilities in South Africa for enzyme testing.

"Research done several years ago compared the number of pesticide poisoning cases to the register of deaths at morgues. They found the rate was under-reported," London said.



# FOCUS 3

## Worshipping the same God but worlds apart

ON Sundays in Simondium the voices of brown and white churchgoers drift across the beautiful landscape in praise of the same God.

This hamlet, eight kilometres south of Paarl, is a place of stark contradictions hidden by neat farmlands, tall trees and stately homes.

For many of the farm labourers who express suppressed emotions in the singing of hymns there is no harmony in this tranquil setting.

While they plead with God to help them endure exploitation and poverty, down the road their "masters" and "baas" give thanks.

The labourers know they must keep their mouths shut about their plight, the pittance they are paid and the appalling conditions in which they live, or they will lose even that.

This fear is a legacy that has been passed down from generation to generation.

The workers see no hope of the "new South Africa" they hear about on the radio. For them this is another promise never to be kept.

Not all the farmers in the area exploit their labourers. Many have made a huge effort to upgrade living conditions, salaries and health.

On the farms that have caring owners, the wellbeing of labourers has improved dramatically. Those who still live in squalor under a "kwaai baas" see the difference and it hurts.

FOR more than 37 years Anna and Gerr (not their real names) have worked the same farm. "My children were born in this house. It's

falling to pieces. We never broke anything — it is just so old," says Anna. "I dig in the land, prune vines and am a picker. I work for R40 a week and my husband gets R50. When he first started here he got R3 a week.

"It is my old fingers which look after the vines and pick the grapes that make my master rich. When the wine leaves the farm sometimes one bottle is sold for more than I earn in a week. This makes my heart heavy with pain. Maybe my master does not want to think about this.

"We work from 6am to 6.30pm. It's hard work and when it rains we are not allowed to stop. We have 45 minutes for lunch. The young people can manage but our bones are old and we are very tired."

IN the old days, the farmer used to give them bread. The dop system has been done away with.

"Now we get nothing and the little money we earn cannot feed us. Most of us buy our food from the one shop in Simondium but they are so expensive. One tin of condensed milk costs R1,90."

Her old dilapidated three-roomed home is in the middle of a row of others. All are surrounded by squalor. Dirtbins overflow and there is a stench from burning garbage and an open drain in front of the houses.

"The children are always sick ... many have died. The mothers try to keep the flies away from the babies but when their noses run it is difficult. The open-hole toilets stink and the

flies come to this." For about 150 people there are only two taps and even on cold winter mornings they have to queue.

IF only the baas would listen to us. If we were paid more money we would be able to look after ourselves a lot better.

"Something is gone from the hearts of our people. They have become sick with what is happening to them and what they have seen happen to their parents.

"We cannot complain to the baas, he will chase us away. Many times he has promised he will fix our houses but we are still waiting."

A clergyman who begged not to be named for fear that he would not be allowed back to help labourers, said the situation was bleak.

"The labourers work very long hours for very little money. The wages vary from R16 to R40 a week. There is no interaction between parents and their children who have to stay at home alone with no one to feed or look after them properly."

"Alcoholism is rife. Few farmers still have the dop system. Some still give alcohol on Friday nights in exchange for a R5 drop in salary. Labourers' children, some as young as 13, are also working on the lands. The need to help the family financially keeps them out of school.

"If they would stop employing them, the children might have a chance of getting an education. Within a short while of working these youngsters began drinking as well. The whole vicious circle goes around again.

“MANY of the farmers in Simondium are very conservative. For them there is only the old way of treating their workers, yet it has no place in what is happening in our country now.”

The exploited workers speak about the "new South Africa" but do not believe it will happen in their lifetime.

"They see one farmer caring for his labourers while another abuses. They see the poverty they live under and the grand homes farmers live in.

"Sadly it's the same age old story, but when will it stop? Some of the farmers know their workers' children are being fed during the week at school yet they will not pay their parents better wages."

Miss Sandra McAllister, Cape Regional director of Operation Hunger said that all the 630 pupils at the Simondium primary school are being fed by her organisation.

"Fifteen percent of these children have been stunted due to chronic malnutrition. These figures show how bad the situation is."

The clergyman said there are many social problems in Simondium such as child abuse, wife battery, assaults, stabblings and the breakdown of family units.

"I have very many good caring people in the congregation who try (to help) but they are up against problems that cannot be sorted out unless certain farmers upgrade their living conditions and salaries."

"History will continue to repeat itself and the hopelessness will remain."

# Bitter Harvest in Bitter Valley

THE sweltering summer heat which hangs over De Doorns plays havoc with the festering sores and infected ears of the township's malnourished children.

When it is bitterly cold and the rain turns the dusty streets into mud pools, the children endure the severe weather and the pain of hunger bites deeper.

For the elderly, many of whom have never left the valley, going without food for long periods is a hardship they accept.

In all the years they have worked on nearby farms they have never earned enough to save for their old age. It was impossible, they say, as they were paid so little.

Now they see the situation repeating itself. They listen as their sons and daughters complain bitterly about their low wages and their exploitation at the hands of some farm owners and employers.

When the elderly queue with the children for a cup of soup from Operation Hunger, their hearts break as they watch the trembling little hands hold out mugs, tins, jugs and bottles for their only daily meal.

ACCORDING to the Cape regional director of Operation Hunger, Miss Sandra McAllister, there is a very high rate of malnutrition in the valley.

At the F J Conradie Primary School there are 995 children of whom 948 are fed each day by Operation Hunger.

"At this school 20 percent of the children have been stunted in their development. It is a large number and is a very good indicator of a long period of chronic malnutrition.

"At Orchard Primary School, also in De Doorns, the situation is worse. This school has 672 children. We provide a daily meal to 650. They have a 35 percent physical stunting rate which is extremely serious."

A church group that is helping the community says life in the township is at an all-time low.



Right: Dompie's pus-encrusted ear



Below: He refused to speak, the pain of deprivation is etched on his small face. Friends said his father had left him and all he gets to eat is a cup of soup which Operation Hunger provides every day in the township of De Doorns.

Pictures: JOCELYN MAKER

(4)

# Trawler flees at claims of frostbite

W/B  
M/G  
14/7/90

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Taiwanese trawler Chin Chia Ching, named as one of the vessels on which Cape Town labourers had frostbite, is not returning to Cape Town and is believed to be in international waters, safe from South African detection.

Lawyers acting for two frostbite victims, Taiwanese government representatives in South Africa and the South African Air Force say the errant vessel is "as good as lost".

Before the vessel docks in Taiwan — or is traced by international agencies — a number of things could wreck the chances of compensation for two former crew who are claiming R510 000 in damages.

### Lose parts of fingers

They will lose parts of their fingers, allegedly due to being frostbitten while working in the ship's refrigeration holds.

The Chin Chia Ching could be resold on the high seas, change registration, and the captain and crew could switch vessels. It could change its name at sea, making it difficult to trace.

This would complicate if not ruin the work of city lawyers who have taken statements from 32 former crewmen who say they were victims of ruthless labour practices on Taiwanese vessels in the past few months.

### Attachment order

In the past two weeks, frostbite cases reported to the Legal Resources Centre and a city law firm have increased from 20 to 32.

In the case of the Chin Chia Ching, Supreme Court sheriffs and a team from the Legal Resources Centre served an attachment order on the master to secure the vessel as a bond for the former crewmen's claim.

Defiantly, the vessel sailed from Table Bay soon after its attachment, which cost about R5 000.

### Evaded search

After the ship fled, the Department of Foreign Affairs asked the Taiwanese government to intervene.

Taiwanese officials in Cape Town persuaded the captain by radio to return to the city. He told them he would, but he steered the ship beyond detection even by two Air Force search aircraft.

After this, Taiwanese officials approached the International Court for help, but without success.



LEFT: A Rastafarian lights a ganja chalice as part of the Rastafarian "March" through the city this morning. About 300 protesters marched through the city to demand the legalisation of ganja, and a ceasefire among the African National Congress, the Azanian People's Organisation, the police and the army.

RIGHT: Marchers display one of about 200 posters calling for the legalisation of ganja.





**RUDDEN**

# Sex charge

Sowetan 24/1/91

4

# farmer freed

A woman police officer reacted bitterly outside the Krugersdorp Regional Court yesterday after a white farmer was acquitted on charges of having had sexual intercourse with four little girls.

The magistrate, Mr P J du Plessis, acquitted Mr Bernard Rudden, of Valley Farm, Hartebees-

fontein, on the basis that the allegations made by one of the witnesses were not corroborated. He said the court had to exercise extra caution in such a matter.

Rudden had been charged for having had sexual intercourse with four little girls, all under the age of 16.

He was also charged with one count of rape.

Two of the girls were children of one of about 50 people working on

Rudden's farm.

The policewoman works in the Child Protection Unit and had interviewed the four girls.

Du Plessis said it was always dangerous to accept the evidence of one witness.

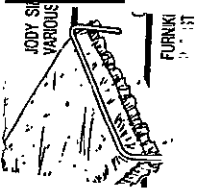
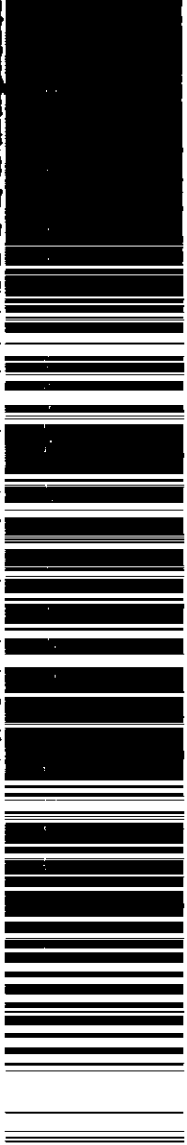
One of the girls earlier told the court that Rudden had slept with her on a weekly basis for about two-and-a-half months during 1989 and again in January last year.

Rudden denied having

made advances to the girl and told the court that he had paid for the girl's medical treatment when she contracted a sexually transmitted disease from her boyfriend.

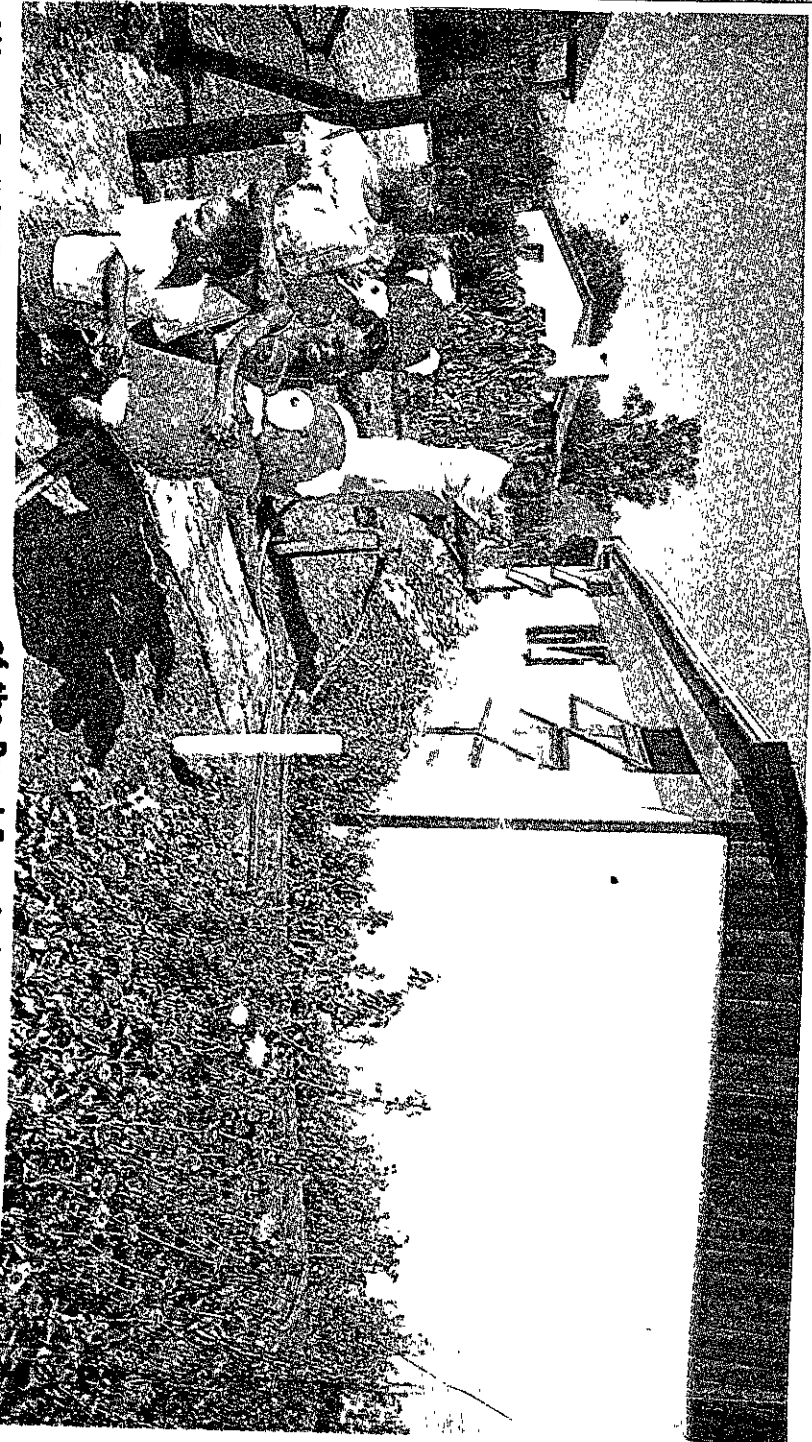
He said the girl had worked for him at one of his business enterprises, Black Love, a cosmetics company which manufactured products for blacks.

Rudden was represented by an advocate, Mrs KI Foulkes-Jones.



4

# Better times down on the farm...



Life on Redhill Farm, which is a member of the Rural Foundation ... this two-bedroom cottage has ceilings, a bathroom, a toilet and hot and cold running water.



The other side of the coin ... a farm labourer's home in the Simonsberg area. Coincidentally, the farm is not a member of the Rural Foundation.

# RURAL FOUNDATION FIGHTS THE SQUA ON A N D SQUA...

Is this an inductive justification? But since induction cannot be used to justify...?

Leaton - Smith provides a justification for regarding ever-increasing verisimilitude as the goal of science, and he provides good reasons for believing that employment of the method of science which he proposes will increase the likelihood of attaining the goal. There are crucial ingredients in any rational model of science, and both Popper and Lakatos fail on these accounts. Popper attempts to give an a priori justification of the claim that in science there is progress towards ever-increasing verisimilitude. He claims that the systematic replacement of falsified theories with as yet unfalsified theories results in theories of greater and greater verisimilitude. Unfortunately, though, since Popper places a ban on inductive arguments and positive evidence he cannot forge

L.A.W. a journers are no strangers to exploitation, grinding poverty and squalor.

And it is happening now. A Weekend Argus report only last week revealed the exploitation of malnourished, poverty-stricken labourers by white farmers in Simondium and De Doorns.

However, Mr Peter Turner of the Rural Foundation says that while the report highlighted the plight of some workers, there is another side to the story.

The foundation — started in 1982 to improve the quality of life on farms in South Africa — represents more than 3 800 farms countrywide, affecting about 81 000 workers.

### Good for business

Its members are learning that a contented workforce is good for business. Hundreds of thousands of rands have been spent during the past year to improve the living standards of labourers and their families.

Mr Turner, who is chairman of the foundation's Simonsberg Community Development Association (CDA), says he doesn't disagree with reports of farmworkers' plight.

He says those conditions do exist — but there is a very different situation on farms connected to the foundation. "We strive to develop our rural community and im-



Rural Foundation representatives Chris Botha, chairman of the Community Development Association, discuss the programme with John Arendse, left, Willie Links and Japie Rudolph, workers on Redhill Farm.

### Reports: SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus

prove the standard of living of our workers."

Farmers affiliate to the CDA and the membership fee "which runs into thousands of rands" is calculated according to the number of families on the farm.

The core group of member farmers have a manifesto which is given to farmers wanting to join the foundation.

All existing and new members must sign a two-year contract committing them to a range of labour conditions.

Within the first year, they must establish a written labour policy which includes a code of conduct; the provision of pension, medical aid and funeral schemes; limiting the working week to 60 hours; not employing people under the age of 17; not giving alcohol

in lieu of pay; providing job descriptions; and creating a disciplinary procedure.

Within two years, they must provide permanent housing with ceilings, electricity, running water, a toilet and a bath or shower.

According to Mr Turner, the Simonsberg CDA is a "dynamic, non-discriminatory, community-based organisation". Its aim is to develop

the Simonsberg area.

"We are trying to create a prosperous, self-dependent rural community by addressing their needs through the implementation of a planned development programme," he said.

The foundation employs an area developer to carry out the programme. The farmers pay 40 percent of his salary.

Simonsberg area developer Mr Chris Botha says the area has developed "remarkably" since he began working there five years ago.

Mr Botha works with all the labourers on the farms in the Simonsberg area. He gives educational lectures to labourers during work hours, tackling illiteracy and working with the youth. Culture, religion, sport, recreation, housing and education are part of his portfolio.

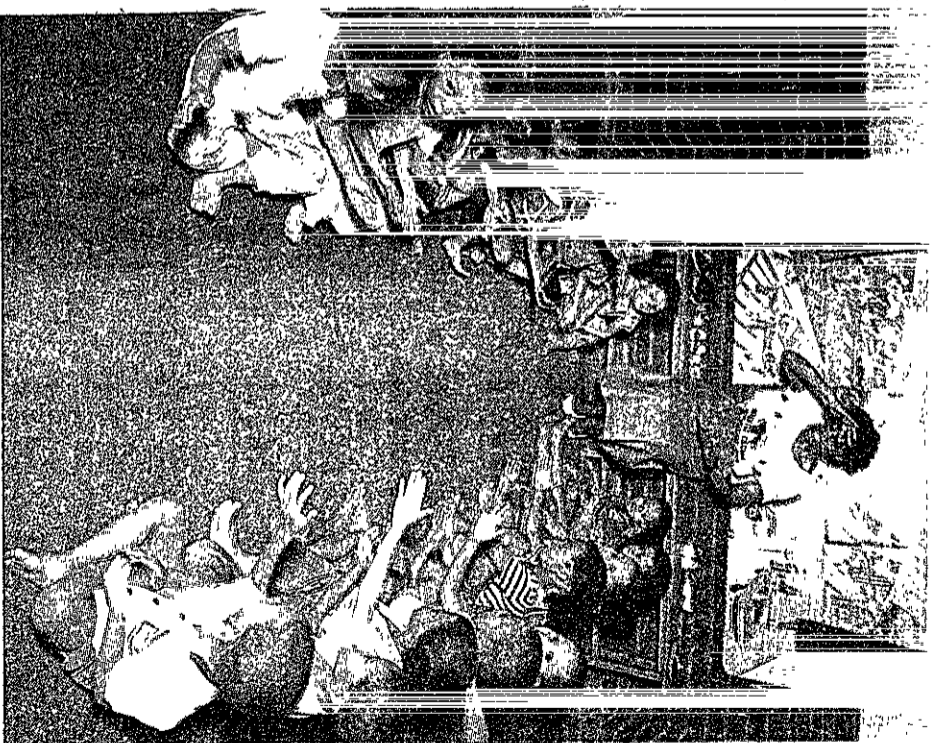
At the beginning of each year the socio-economic situation in the area is assessed. Studies of infant mortality, teenage pregnancy, literacy and income are done and a development programme is devised.

The central theme this year is to combat alcohol abuse and the infamous "dop system" — in which farmers "pay" workers with alcohol. No alcohol is given to workers on foundation member farms.

"Our main drive this year is to concentrate on the worn-out because we believe they

are the centre of the family.

We have a women's club on each farm and activities in-



Sonneblometjie crèche on Biene Donne Farm ... teacher Jorraine Thomas starts a singalong.

## Farmworkers 'trapped'

FARMWORKERS do not have access to a legal system to protect them from abuse, according to the National Land Committee.

In its publication Land Update the committee says that workers on farms are "disempowered" — trapped in a system that denies them access to the mechanisms that guarantee basic human rights and dignity.

"What happens on a few 'good' farms does not change the reality of the system as a whole," the committee said.

## 'Do-gooders' warned of backlash

Workers in rural areas believe that authority is biased against them. This constitutes "structural disempowerment".

"For all practical purposes they do not have access to a legal system to protect them from abuse."

Farm labourers are still excluded from the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Wage Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act. It is expected that about 1,3 million workers will benefit from Bills to be tabled in parliament this year.

## Money well spent

"Labour is 30 to 40 percent of the cost of running a farm. Therefore it makes sense to spend 30 to 40 percent of time and money on the workers themselves."

Many farmers who couldn't care less got away with it because many people were desperate for work.

"But those farmers are losing good labourers to others who believe in better labour practices," Mr Hill said.

"Farmers who do not look after their labourers cannot be financially successful. At the end of the day everything we do must be weighed up financially."

area.

They all have housing for their workers, with two or three bedrooms (depending on the size of the family), electricity and hot and cold water.

On Redhill farm, 11 houses — five of them new — provide housing for 22 permanent workers. Children play about happily in well-kept gardens bursting with colour.

The farm shares a crèche with the neighbouring government experimental fruit farm, Biene Dome.

All member farms with more than 10 resident children have to form a crèche within two years of joining. Grants from the Citrus Exchange and Unifruco have helped build seven crèches in the area.

"These are important. There is a significant failure rate of children in their first year of schooling on farms which do not have such facilities. Our crèches subscribe to normal pre-school standards and the teachers take courses given by the foundation," says Mr Turner.

"Mothers also are not keen just to send their children off for the whole day, so it is important for the crèches to have a good reputation."

Of the development areas, Simonsberg has the highest percentage of women who work. Of the women between 19 and 40, as many as 76 percent have jobs.

The Simondium Development Organisation — comprising local community leaders like headmasters, ministers, teachers and health care workers — has been established to act as a bridge between the farmers and the rural community.

"The need arose from a misunderstanding between community leaders and local farmers about what the foundation was doing," says Mr Turner.

### Success story

Co-opting the support and services of organised agriculture is vital to the success of the foundation.

While Eight's fruit farmers have enthusiastically embraced the foundation philosophy, leading to one of its great success stories, Simonsberg — which comprises wine, grape, table grapes, dairy, chicken and nursery farmers — has not had the same co-operation from agricultural companies.

Mr Turner says: "Unifruco has been the leader, but others like Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery and KWV have only dictated to the farmer how to run his farm up to now, not how he should conduct his labour practices. They have not been active enough in providing resources that the farmers themselves don't have."

# Girl flees from farm 'slavery' (4)

A TRADITIONAL healer has rescued a 16-year-old Mozambican refugee from a farm in Steelpoort, in the Northern Transvaal, where she allegedly worked as slave labour.

A Mukwena, would not say how he rescued Ignies Simbini, who fled from the civil war in Mozambique in March.

He took her to the Jane Furse Advice Office in Lebowa on Wednesday, a week after he says he helped her escape.

The director of Jane Furse Advice Office and ANC leader in the area, Nelson Diale, said the Northern Transvaal Council of Churches would try to find a place for Ignies in a refugee camp. — Sapa

# Farm manager <sup>(4)</sup> assaulted worker

A WORCESTER farm manager was found guilty in the Worcester Magistrate's Court on Wednesday of assaulting a farmworker.

The farm manager, Kobus Lotter was fined R150 or 30 days, in addition to 60 days' imprisonment, suspended for three years, for assaulting farmworker Mr Jacob Mokateli with his fists. *South 31/11 - 6/2/91.*

Mokateli has also laid a civil charge. He claimed he lost his hearing in his left ear as a result of the beating.

In mitigation, Lotter testified that the worker had provoked him.

Ms E Stein was the magistrate.





**ASSAULTED:** Some of the workers who claim they have been subjected to beatings

# Farmer beat us, workers claim

South 31/11-6/2/91.

MORE than 16 male workers, aged between 16 and 28, have fled from a grape farm near Koekenaap, claiming the farmer had assaulted them.

Some of the workers claim a local farmer had threatened to shoot them.

They formed part of a group of 72 workers who had travelled from the Transkei village of Mount Fletcher to South Africa to look for work.

## Recruited

The farmer had recruited them at the Municipal Court offices in Koekenaap on January 11 to work on his farm, Moria Plaas.

One of the workers, Mr Petros Totwana, 28, speaking on behalf of the group, said the farmer had promised them R40 weekly as wages and that he would provide them with food.

However, when they arrived at the farm, they had to sleep on concrete floors without blankets or mattresses in a large stable, Totwana alleges.

The value of the food bought on credit at the farm shop was subtracted from their salaries. Totwana claimed they had to buy cooking utensils as well.

At the end of the first week, Totwana received R7. Others were paid as little as R3, he said. For this pittance, the men had slaved

KOEKENAAP, almost five hours' drive from Cape Town, is a tiny town of about 250 families. During the grape-picking season from January to July, the number of workers passing through outnumbers the local inhabitants. Like a thousand other little towns scattered across South Africa, important events can happen here that pass unnoticed, reports Wagheed Misbach



**CRAMPED:** Grape-picker Mrs Ivy Matyeni with some of the ten workers who share her one-roomed house

14 hours a day — from 6am to 8pm.

The women took their babies with them when they worked in the fields. Wellington Khumalo, 16, and Makaluza Thafali, 18, claimed the farmer assaulted them.

"The farmer knocked my head against the ground several times and threatened to shoot me," Khumalo said, speaking through an interpreter. The farmer had punished him for not "working hard enough".

Thafali claimed he was assaulted after he had asked

the farmer for more food after someone had stolen his from the stable. He alleged the farmer tore his shirt as he grabbed him and punched him in the face, and told him to go back to work.

This week the farmer denied the workers' allegations.

"No one was beaten or threatened with a firearm. I am not interested in slanderous allegations.

Totwana, with another 10 workers, now live with another farmworker, Mrs Ivy Matyeni, and her three children in a room — a tiny

whitewashed structure — on a neighbouring farm.

"Somehow we all manage to squeeze into the room at night to sleep," Matyeni says with a wry smile.

According to Mr Boysie Williams, a West Coast Council of Churches (WCCC) fieldworker and a former Food and Allied Workers Union member, Fawu has yet to organise workers in Koekenaap and the surrounding areas.

A particular problem, he said, was that the workers are still racially divided in the compounds in the area.

# Teabreak<sup>(4)</sup> then death

South 14/2 - 20/2/91

By Beverley Garson  
Grahamstown

A FARMER who killed a woman worker after she took an unauthorised tea break was this week convicted of culpable homicide.

Mr Barry Christopher England, 38, appeared in the Grahamstown Supreme Court this week in connection with the death of Miss Mantombi Adam on October 25, 1989.

Adam was shot after she and five other women failed to finish milking cattle before they stopped for their break.

England pleaded not guilty to murder, at the start of the trial but later changed his plea to guilty of culpable homicide.

The court heard that the workers fled when they saw England approaching carrying a sjambok. He returned to his vehicle to fetch a rifle.

### Frighten

England fired a shot at Adam who was hit in the back. She died while he was rushing her to a district surgeon.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would hit her," England told the court.

He claimed he had aimed at a bush to frighten the labourers.

Passing judgment, Mr Justice Zietsman said the state had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that England was guilty of intentionally killing Adam.

The judge found there was a "high degree of negligence" on the part of England when he fired the rifle.

"The manner in which the accused fired the shot could have resulted in the bullet ricocheting and the accused should have realised this," the judge said.

Argument in mitigation of sentence started on Thursday. — ANA

# Fish factory cuts quota — and workforce

**EIGHTY-THREE** workers have been retrenched at a Lamberts Bay canning factory.

The workers were cut after the factory's anchovy quota was reduced by 50 000 tons.

The workers were retrenched despite

assurances by the management last week that no worker would be laid off, said West Coast Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) spokesperson, Mr Gert Koenana.

He said other fishing towns on the West Coast had also been affected.

In Elandsbaai, about 400 workers from three factories in the area are on short time.

In St Helena Bay, eight workers are on short time, Koenana said.

The companies involved could not be reached for comment.

plots accorded to each family were small. "This will create a possibility of a hazard," said Matthews.

A public meeting is being planned

Bokag recently met with the Council which is expected to respond to the

ent of the Cradock Youth Asso- we, a teacher, was a UDF leader

South 282 - 6/3/11

March 4

clashes with the

South 282 - 6/3/11

South 282 - 6/3/11

South 282 - 6/3/11

South 282 - 6/3/11



It is that time of year again when workers' strike action costs employers millions of rands in revenue and the talk in the boardroom shifts to mechanisation. But are people really being replaced by high-tech machinery or are employers just blowing off steam? **Waghied Misbach** investigates:

**MACHINES** do not go on strike, take time off or need good working conditions to keep them working happily. It is the ideal situation to increase productivity while keeping staff wage costs at a minimum, employers maintain.

But the above scenario is an employer's utopia. The reality is that South Africa has an extremely fragile economy which discounts the possibility of widespread mechanisation, experts argue.

Massive retrenchments, a natural consequence of mechanisation, would mean workers would have no income and would thus be unable to buy the products made by the machines that replaced them — a vicious cycle, experts say.

Employers reply that situation can be solved by increasing training. But the sad state of black education and the low wages of parents will ensure their children remain unskilled.

**Recession**

Figures from the Manpower Minister Mr Pietie du Plessis in 1989 indicated that by the year 2 000, there would be a shortage of 200 000 skilled workers if the two percent annual growth rate continues.

But the current recession in the economy has meant industry as a whole has cut spending on training.

On top of all that, skills training is not taking place in the crucial technical fields. Reports indicate that 10 percent of South Africa's manpower is being trained in a technical field, while 75 percent would be required to meet future manpower requirements.

The manufacturing sector, which experts consider will take over from the shrinking mining industry, has shown little growth in productivity or provided the expected jobs. This is despite capital intensity in the manufacturing industry growing steadily for more than three decades.

# Mechanisation: Bosses' Utopia?

South 28/2-6/3/91



**UNWANTED?** Farmworkers such as these must fear for their jobs with the increasing mechanisation of their industry

Experts maintain that the government has been encouraging capital-intensive, rather than labour-intensive growth.

Capital-intensive investments like Iscor (iron and steel), Sasol (synthetic fuels) and Armscor (ammunitions) were established by the government from 1924 onwards. Foreign investors also played their part. By 1975 there were almost 700 subsidiaries of American and European companies.

"The bottom line is that manufacturing has not generated growth in output or productivity, despite the increase in capital intensity, and has not created new jobs," says a report from Interfund, an influential London-based fundraising consortium.

At Iscor, 1 800 jobs will be lost at its steel plant's Pretoria works due to its

rationalisation and modernisation programme, according to reports. The modernisation programme aims to change "technologically-obsolete processes".

According to the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifed), the metal industry is expected to cut 37 000 jobs from a total of 387 000.

Strikes over wages have exacerbated the situation. In the first half of 1990, strike actions resulted in the loss of almost 1.2m workdays.

But while strike action is usually the spark, it is not the sole reason for the increasing boardroom talk of mechanisation.

Mr Colin McCarthy, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, says strikes are not the reason for employers' increasing talk of capital-intensive production.

He argues there is a myriad of factors involved, competition with cheaper overseas markets being one of the major reasons.

McCarthy says labour unrest merely accelerates unproductivity. Inflation rises because people are asking too much in wages for the same level of production. That is why South Africa's inflationary rate is 14 percent, compared to that of Europe's average of three percent, McCarthy maintains.

To counter businesses closing down, McCarthy believes trade unions and employers have to work together to increase production and thus worker's wages.

"It does not mean working harder, but working smarter."

A researcher for the South African Labour Development Research Unit

**FIG: PAUL WEINBERG**

(Said) at UCT disputes McCarthy's assumptions. "All this is being blamed on the poor worker again. Studies that have been undertaken in the informal sector of the clothing industry in parts of Cape Town have shown workers get much higher wages because the management layer of the equation has been cut out."

He argues, however, that mechanisation is part of the broader problem of unemployment in the country, where the total level of employment has risen by only six percent in the period 1980-1988.

"The growth in overall employment can be contrasted with the estimated annual increase in the number of jobseekers of over three percent.

"That means it makes it extra difficult for new job seekers to get jobs. The political implications of the problem is enormous," he said. In industries where mechanisation seems most likely to happen, it is not financially viable. In the motor industry, for example, mechanisation will be profitable only if at least 2000 cars are produced daily. The entire motor manufacturing industry, which consists of seven major companies, produce between 1 300 and 1 500 cars daily, according to 1988 figures.

**Mable**

The clothing industry is in a similar position. McCarthy says the clothing industry is still very labour intensive; mechanisation would not be viable. The agricultural sector seems to be the most hard hit of all industries in terms of loss of jobs, according to Interfund.

It reports that the Central Statistical Services (CSS) estimate that employment fell by 9.5 percent in 1988.

This sector employs the most people — 600 000 on 65 000 farms — with another 600 000 employed as casual labour.

"The employment implications of the shift to mechanised, large-scale agricultural production have been drastic," reports Interfund.

"On highly-mechanised farms, wages increased 250 percent, but the number of workers permanently employed fell."

On the Anglo American Corporation's Soeveld farms, for example, labour usage fell from 34.1 to 1.8 workers for each 100 hectares.

Everyone seems to agree that mechanisation is important for the development of the South African economy, but the government's resources are strained.

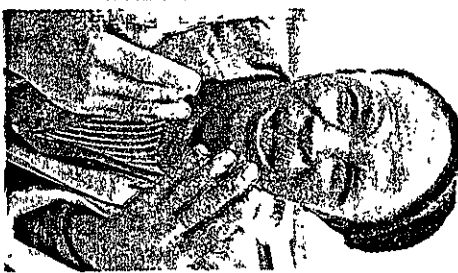
The backing in investments and technology will require billions for a competitive economy.

Already, social spending to correct the imbalances of apartheid will amount to about R75ha

# A land where the word of the white baas is law

S.T. 31/3/91

## SPECIAL REPORT BY DOMINIC JONES



SAMUEL CHAUKE ... beating scared him for life

THE OLD MAN pulled his faded overalls off his shoulders and unzipped his shorts. His buttocks were cross-crossed with welts. The scars, he claimed, of a stambok beating by a white farmer six months ago.

For more than 40 years, Samuel Chauke, 76, has been a farm labourer in the Messina district, where court cases have recently focused attention on the treatment of labourers by white farmers.

Samuel's life had been simple, but happy until October last year. He cannot remember the exact date, but he had gone to a shop on a farm at Welpe, 60km east of Messina, to fetch his wife.

"As we were leaving, a farmer arrived at the shop and told me to get into his truck.

"I refused and he took out a gun and said: 'I'll shoot you if you do not come.' I got in and was taken to a workshop on his farm. He ordered me to take off my clothes and to lie face down on a bench. One of the

farmer's workers held my hands while the farmer stamboked me.

"He never said a word while he was hitting me. After the beating, I fell to the floor and he kicked me in the chest."

"They then drove me back to the tar road.

"A man called Simon found me at the side of the road at about 9pm and took me home. He called the police and I was taken to Limpopo hospital in Messina.

## Charges

"I was in hospital for five days. The police asked me if I wanted to lay charges but I refused because I was scared he would kill me."

Since the assault his hands were weak, he said, his back ached and he struggled to breathe.

In this haphazardly-scrubland, hundreds of kilometres from prying eyes, it is claimed that some white farmers have been terrorising black labourers.

Samuel Chauke's story is not unique.

A white farmer from Welpe, Johannes Erasmus, and two of his workers, Mark Muleya and Nelson Mbedzi, are awaiting trial on charges of assaulting nine young boys between the ages of nine and 16 with a stambok.

There is also the case of a 16-year-old Venda boy who is in Garankuwa hospital, 500km from home, awaiting plastic surgery for the severe burns he allegedly suffered at the hands of Tsoelike farmer Jan van der Westhuizen last December.

Police are still investigating the case and lawyers have filed a civil claim against the farmer.

Van der Westhuizen allegedly welded the boy's hands to a metal

workbench, using strips of iron, doused him with petrol and set him alight.

Messina, South Africa's northernmost centre, is a town seemingly caught in a time warp. The new South Africa has passed it by.

It has remained largely the same for the last 10 years, except maybe that the flagging copper mine around which the place sprang up in 1904, is no longer the main contributor to the town's development.

But new enterprises — a canning factory, which is now the town's major employer, and a diamond mine 90km to the east — have brought new prosperity.

## Parades

It is an intensely security-conscious town. The police chiefs son draws sketches of stick-men in handcuts and parades through the station with his toy gun.

Armoured vehicles roar up and down National Street from the surrounding four military bases. Farmers drive landmine-proof bakkies called Rooboks, reminders of when Messina was at the forefront of cross-border incursions by bomb-bearing cadres of the ANC and PAC.

The white men are mostly panicky, bearded and khaki-clad. Sometimes they tuck guns into the sides of their pants.

The town's women wear shorts or floral summer frocks. They drive bakkies with all the nerve of Paris-to-Dakar rally drivers.

Town clerk Johan Kok found it hard to smile during a 20-minute interview. "We are changing a lot faster than many other towns," he said.

However, some things haven't changed: a sign points to "Rhodesia" and the white folks like to talk of "Europeans and non-Europeans". Politically, farmers, police, soldiers and white mine officials tend towards conservatism, while

the white-collar constituency is more nationalistic.

The council has four NP councillors and two from the CP.

The township community, however, is now reaching full political maturity along ANC lines.

Much of that has to do with the imminent return of thousands of exiles who will spend their first hours back home in the welcoming arms of the Nancefield community.

## Roots

"We helped them out and we will help them back home," said NG Church of Africa minister Lesiba Matsaung.

The roots of their political awareness, he said, were linked to three major happenings: the flow of ANC and PAC recruits through the township to Zurrubwe over the last 20 years, the terrorism trial of two ANC members in the town and the killing by police of 14-year-old Wilson Ndumandla in 1989.

Says Messina Advice Office worker Jacob Matlankane:

"The people are afraid to come to me with their problems. The farmers have told them that if they do, they will have to leave the farms."

## Feudal

"Many of the workers are born on the land they live on and know no other life. So they obey."

"Whatever the farmer says is law. He is the baas," said Mr. Matlankane, who has a small office in the NG Church in Africa's building in Nancefield township.

"Ironically, the biggest problem is taking people out of this feudal environment and trying to help them readjust to a normal life," he said.

## Foreign

The average wage for a family man is R70 a month, according to Mr. Matlankane. Farmers sometimes provided workers with a bag of mealie meal per family per month, but meal was seldom included in their rations, he said.

Organised labour and recourse to the courts in the event of unfair labour practices are foreign to farm workers in the far Northern Transvaal

# Reaping a bitter harvest in farm labour relations

South  
16/5-22/5/91

(#6) (4)

Atrocities against black workers on white-owned farms have been documented by a number of progressive organisations working in rural areas. Their findings, recently published in a report on violence on farms compiled by the Project for the Study of Violence at the University of the Witwatersrand, is a shocking record of abuse and distorted labour practices, **REHANA ROSSOUW** reports



**THE APPALLING** conditions under which farmworkers live on white-owned farms are well hidden from the public.

From within the confines of urban society, reports on farmer brutality may be regarded as "politically motivated" allegations, isolated incidents or exaggerations and distortions of what is really happening down on the farms.

"In the eyes of an outsider, the brutality which constitutes the lives of black people on the farms defies comprehension," the report on violence on farms comments.

"Incontrovertible evidence points to the fact that violence, in a variety of forms, is part of the daily experiences of labourers on the farms."

The relationship between "white master and black serf" on the farms is the embodiment of apartheid society, the report states.

Most administrative, legislative, educational, social and other facilities provided by the state in farming areas are for the exclusive use of white communities. This is despite the fact that black people constitute over 90 percent of the farm population.

The government's abdication from social responsibility for farmworkers has forced these workers into totally dependent relations with their employers.

"Farmer/worker ties are constructed around humiliating relationships of domination and subordination," the report states.

"As a result, various studies of the South African countryside and of the country's approximately six and a half million black farmworkers and their dependents on white-owned farms are littered with references to violence.

"An act of violence does not simply refer to physical beatings and assaults.

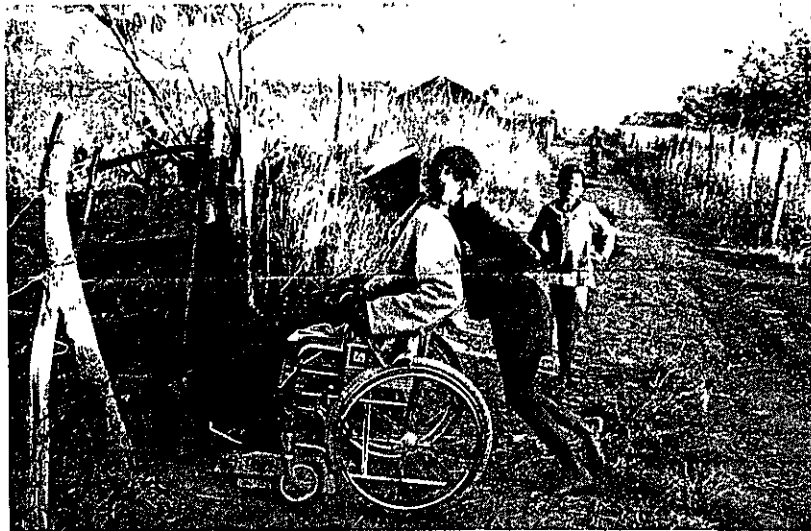
"Structural considerations and work conditions on the farms should themselves be regarded as forms of both physical and psychological violence."

Wages on farms are uniformly low. In 1986, the average earnings of farmworkers throughout South Africa, including payment in kind, was R103 per month.

Wages as low as R5 per month have been recorded.

Educational facilities are virtually non-existent.

Where farmers do provide educa-



**CRIPPLED:** Farmworker Mr Timothy Hlatswayo is disabled after being injured at work

PIC: AFRAPIX

tion it is almost always only primary schooling.

State authorities have turned a blind eye to these "appalling conditions", the report states.

The few regulations on housing, rations and medical care are seldom upheld owing to the lack of enforcement agencies.

The labour tenancy system, in which an African tenant family supplies their labour to the landowner for part of the year in exchange for the use of the farmers' land for their own farming purposes, is still found although the government abolished the system in 1980.

Attempts to substitute wage labour relations resulted in one million farmworkers and their families being removed from farms between 1960 and 1984.

Most case studies of farmworkers involve workers whose families have been labour tenants on white farms for generations.

"They are people deeply connected

to the land, who are clinging tenaciously to their rights to remain as farmers," the report states.

"Their organic ties to the land, as well as access to material income, sharply differentiates them from an ordinary wage labourer."

The report details five cases of violence against farm tenants which demonstrate the range of abuse on white-owned farms.

All the cases highlight the farmers' negligence, with farmworkers evicted from farms when they are no longer useful and not compensated when their "occupational hazards result in serious injury or death.

"A flip side of farmer negligence is the direct abuse of workers. Assaults are part and parcel of the lives of farmworkers," the report says.

"Violence is resorted to at the slightest provocation, with little or no restraint being exercised on the part of farmers.

"One wrong word uttered by the

worker is sufficient to unleash the extreme violence of the farmer.

"In a rather bizarre twist, the farmer's abusive behaviour often results in the victims being kicked off the farm."

Eviction notices are the most common form of violence against tenants by farmers.

Issued under the Trespass Act and the Illegal Squatting Act, they effectively criminalise the tenants' occupations on the farms.

In this way the state becomes an active agent in the eviction, thereby politicising the issue of rights to the land.

"Perhaps the most unforgivable violence on the farms is that meted out against the children," the report said.

"More often than not, the children of farmworker families are drawn into the labour process without any regard for their age, abilities or their schooling calendar.

The abuses they suffer are probably the most dramatic indication of the process of dehumanisation of labour on the farms."

The report argues that, directly or indirectly, the white farmer's violence is part of his contest over rights to the land.

The contest began with white colonial conquest and is continuing to-

day with white farmers protesting in Pretoria over the repeal of the Land Act.

Below the farmer's aggression lies the growing fear that his land will be taken away.

Farmworkers are also easy targets because they are excluded from the statutory legislation which is the basis of South Africa's industrial relations system.

They are excluded from the Labour Relations Act, the Wages Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and, until a few years ago, the Workmen's Compensation Act.

There is no common law right to public holidays, sick pay or even leave pay. Nor are there any legal limits to the farmworker's working hours, right to overtime pay or minimum wages.

Trade unions organising in the farming sector have not made the same amount of progress as those in industry.

The relationship between the farmer and his workers is extremely authoritarian and coercive, the report says.

"For the farmer, intensive labour exploitation is perceived as a necessary adjunct to economic survival.

"The patriarchal and racist values to which farmers ascribe further entrench their own sense of omnipotence in relation to their black workers and justify their exploitative behaviour."

The church, police and courts are, in different ways, also guilty of complicity in the brutal labour relations.

The report concludes that the cause of violence on the farms are multidimensional which means that there is no simple solution.

Including farmworkers in the scope of the Labour Relations Act will not necessarily ensure that conditions of farms will improve.

"(We) have attempted to capture the flagrant and brutal abuses of basic human rights to which farmworkers throughout the country are subject.

"The fact that such abuses occur far from the lives of most urban dwellers makes it easy to regard them as somewhat peripheral to the concerns of daily life.

"But the very act of consuming food implicates all South Africans in these problems and renders the exploitation of farmworkers an issue fundamental to the whole society."

H/UL: 22

# Farmer fined R12 000 for beating nine kids

A WHITE farmer who flogged nine black children with an electric cable was sentenced this week to a fine of R12 000, or two years in jail.

Wynand Erasmus, 37, of Messina, and one of his farm workers, Naison Mbedzi, 35, pleaded guilty before magistrate AGH Bouwer in the Louis Trichardt Regional Court to nine counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Another of Erasmus's workers, Mark Muleya, who allegedly helped with the beatings, failed to appear in court. A warrant for his arrest was issued.

Erasmus also received a three-year sentence, suspended for five years. Mbedzi was sentenced to a fine of R1 000, or one year's imprisonment, with 300 days suspended for five years.

Erasmus paid both his and Mbedzi's fines in cash.

The charges arose from beatings which took place on November 21 and 22 last year.

On November 21, Erasmus picked up two of his victims from their homes on his farm and accused them of stealing aluminium irrigation pipes, the court heard.

## Thrashed

He made the boys undress and tied them down with belts. Mbedzi and, allegedly, Muleya, held the children's legs and heads while Erasmus thrashed them with an electric cable, inflicting hideous wounds.

The next day Erasmus, accompanied by Mbedzi and Muleya, fetched seven pupils, between the ages of 9 and 16, from the nearby Skutwater farm school.

Erasmus told principal Peggy Phiri that he had permission from the farm owner, Peter Esterhuizen, to collect the boys. Erasmus took the boys to his farm, where they were made to strip and beaten.

## Drought

They were so badly hurt that some of them had to crawl back to their homes. One of the boys was whipped about 20 times and some had to spend weeks in hospital.

In mitigation, advocate Johan Els said Erasmus had acted in frustration because he had lost money



ANGER ... Wynand Erasmus

By SIPHO NCGOBO

during the previous financial year. He said Erasmus had lost R98 000 because of the drought and property worth R69 000 had been stolen from his farm.

Passing sentence, the

magistrate said Erasmus had committed a serious crime in uncontrolled anger. He said the sentence had to be a deterrent to others.

He said, however, he had

## Boys injured so badly they had to crawl home

to take into account the difficulties Erasmus faced, such as "terrorist" attacks, the drought and economic problems.

Turning to Mbedzi, the magistrate said the worker had merely been used as a tool by his employer and deserved a lesser sentence.

Accompanied by his attorney, Dion Retief, and a group of farmers, one of them with an amputated leg and wearing a green Rhodesian Light Infantry blazer, Erasmus refused to

talk to the Sunday Times.

"What had to be said has been said in court. I have nothing to say," he said.

Mbedzi said he felt his sentence was unfair.

"Erasmus is my baas. I have worked on that farm all my life. I have no education and nowhere to go. If he wants me to do something I will do it."

"This is why I helped him when he whipped the boys. I am an innocent man. I just did what the baas told me to do."

# Farm labourer beaten to death over visit to friend

By DON HOLLIDAY  
Crime Reporter

APRIL 5, 1971

THE family of a labourer whose body was found on a dirt track near Langebaan Road, believe he was beaten to death by a farmer when he asked permission to visit a friend.

But police said a post-mortem examination had failed to establish the cause of Mr. Frikkie Besters's death. His body was found by a farmer, Mr. Nicolaas Loubser, on Sunday morning. There were marks above his right eye and on his lips.

Members of Mr Besters's family yesterday alleged that a farmer and his son had beaten him to death with a pickaxe handle on Saturday after he and a companion asked for permission to visit a friend on their farm.

Mr Besters, 46, was a Spoonnet labourer living in a Spoonnet house near the Langebaan air base.

A police spokesman said Mr Besters's body might have been moved to the road after he died.

Mr Besters's son, Mr Dirk Jaars, said his father and a friend, Mr Jan Coetzee, left their home between 5 pm and 6 pm, on Saturday.

Mr Jaars said Mr Coetzee later told him and other members of the family that they walked to a farmhouse to ask for permission to visit a friend.

Mr Coetzee recalled hearing someone shout from behind him: "What are you doing here?"

He said the farmer and his son appeared and one of them struck at the pair with a pickaxe handle.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus  
**WIDOW:** Mrs. Rina Besters stands outside her Langebaan Road home with members of her family and holding a friend's baby.

## Labourer found dead (4)

POLICE are investigating the possibility that a farm labourer was beaten to death with a pick-axe handle after his body was discovered at Langebaanweg near the air force base. *Sowetan 5/7/79*

A motorist discovered the body of Mr Frikkie Bester (46) on Sunday. The body had severe injuries on the right eye and on the lips.

Bester lived in a Spoornet house in Langebaanweg.

His family last saw him alive at his home on Saturday.

Police were investigating a claim by an alleged eyewitness that he saw Bester being beaten with a pick-axe handle on Saturday.- *Sowetan Correspondent.*

# Workers are not exploited

4  
Sowetan  
11/7/91

SIR - You are referred to a letter to the Editor which appeared in the edition of *Sowetan* of 6 June 1991 under the heading "Farmworkers are exploited".

Firstly I would like to indicate that the heading mentioned above is misleading. No farmworkers are involved. The Grootdraai Dam is a Government water scheme supplying water for industrial and power generation purposes. The workers involved are therefore State employees and not farmworkers.

As an indication of the integrity of the writer of the letter, Mr July Ntsane Motloung, I wish to inform you that he has been absent from work since 22 May 1991 without having obtained permission from his supervisor or without even informing the latter of his reason for absence. The Department requires responsible behaviour by its employees as this is an important water supply scheme.

As far as the contents of the letter are concerned I wish to react as follows:

The Department cannot be held responsible for the political situation in the Standerton area, but I would like to state that the latter has no influence on departmental policy relating to conditions of employment.

His statement regarding the "tyrannical behaviour of management" is not acceptable to the Department.

Worker committees and a liaison committee attending to complaints/grievances of workers are in existence at Grootdraai Dam. Members of these committees

are elected by the workers themselves and all reasonable complaints are attended to.

Several whites at Grootdraai Dam are not Afrikaans speaking and apartheid is not practised. The departmental employment policy, in agreement with that of the State as a whole, is solely based on merit. As a matter of fact the first black worker who qualified himself as a plant operator is employed at Grootdraai Dam.

Workers are paid in accordance with salary scales laid down by the Commission for Administration and these scales are operative throughout the civil service. According to these scales both the minimum starting salary for general assistants as well as the maximum attainable salary are noticeably better than that mentioned in the letter concerned.

As from this month these salaries will be increased by 11 to 16 percent.

Apart from this, workers only pay a nominal rental of 3,5 percent of their basic salaries for accommodation, water is provided free of charge and they are subsidised on electricity costs.

Consideration is not given for a driver's licence or a matric certificate only in those cases where any of these are not specifically required as a qualification for a post.

A certificate of competence for driving a vehicle as mentioned in the letter concerned is required to ensure road safety, which includes both the driver and the vehicle as well as other

road users.

The accusation that black matriculants are not regarded as such, in contrast to their white counterparts is not understood. As mentioned above the departmental policy is based on merit and not on colour.

The statement that "the white man learns about the job when he is in the army" is incorrect and is similarly not understood. It is however true that a white employee is regarded as being on duty while undergoing his military training.

Conditions of service are laid down by the Commission of Administration and these rules must be adhered to by all Government employees. For that reason only those demands falling within the scope of the approved conditions of service can be met by the management at Grootdraai Dam.

The demands that cannot be met by the above mentioned management are referred to the departmental head office in Pretoria for further consideration.

At present a forty eight hour week is worked consisting of ten hours per day for four days and eight hours on one day. On pay days they get four hours off.

It is true that shift allowances are not being paid to shift workers at present. This also applies to white shift workers.

**REGIONAL  
DIRECTOR**  
Department of Water  
Works,  
Highveld Region,  
Pretoria.

**SFW retrenchments** (28) (4) (3)

■ Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery said this week 270 workers had been retrenched or had taken early retirement as part of a cost-cutting programme.

The company said that bottling operations had been transferred from New Germany, King William's Town and George to other centres with spare facilities, while other services had been contracted out. About seven percent of the SFW workforce had been retrenched. (man 12/7) - 13/7/9)

Reports from Sapa



JOHANNESBURG. — Wide-spread and flagrant violence by white farmers on black labour in the Transvaal since the repeal of the Land Acts. This is according to a report of the Project for the Study of Violence, commissioned by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC) and published by the Black Sash.

A high level of paranoia led farmers to regard their workers as "the enemy within", with growing affiliations of many farmers to right-wing political organisations, says the report.

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# Farm violence

## linked to fears

Political and economic emergencies confronting farmers combined with their racist hostility to workers, claims the report.

The study conducted in the south-eastern Transvaal community, says that its findings have been corroborated from other parts of the country.

Alongside the poorer areas of

the south eastern Transvaal, farms in northern Natal and areas of the Free State are also notorious for violence against workers. It says cases cited in the report is that of a worker who was assaulted and evicted for questioning a deficit in his meal allowance.

The farmer had grabbed the man, whom he knew to have a critical heart disease, and hit him

with a tight clenched fist all over his face, chest and neck. In another case, a 12-year-old girl's leg was mauled by her employer's dog.

The limb was amputated with the parents being informed. The parents were then threatened with eviction as the girl had been the only employed member of the family.

The report criticises lenient sentences given to farmers convicted of abusing workers. In the Piet Beller district, farmer Wilhelm Herрман Habe was fined R100 for assaulting his worker Ekethi Xaba, who died 15 hours after the attack.

Workers' wages were uniform, says, but recorded payments as low as R5 a month. Many workers had psychosomatic diseases brought on by excessive stress, exhaustion and monotony.

The death rate from agricultural poisoning was 20 times higher than that in countries abroad. Educational and other facilities were negligible, despite the fact that blacks constituted over 90% of the farm population.

The extensive report calls for the right to organise unions on all farms and for the protection of union members and organisers.

It also advocates a total ban on the uncontrolled use of chemicals. — Sapa



# Will racists face the law?

By DAN DHLAMINI

YET another victim of racial violence in Ventersdorp doubts whether his white assailant will be brought to book.

Labourer Johannes Seruwe, 46, who was shot in the right shoulder in May by one of his two white TPA supervisors, now fears that his case will never see the light of day.

He was shot after the threat: "I feel like shooting a kaffir" was made by one of the white men at a braai on his farm.

The first victim to suspect that his case would be swept under the carpet was 70-year-old William Mashiya.

Mashiya laid a charge of assault at the Ventersdorp police station against the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) leader Eugene Terre'Blanche in March this year.

Mashiya says Terre'Blanche's response was to boast that the police would do nothing to him.

It seems he was right, as the months go by nothing seems to be happening and Mashiya is rapidly losing faith.

Transvaal Attorney General Don Brunett has yet to decide whether or

not to prosecute Terre'blanche.

Now, Seruwe, 46, of Ikageng's "Lusaka Squatter Camp" near Potchefstroom, has expressed fears that his case is also "not being taken seriously".

Seruwe made a statement to the Ventersdorp police and has heard very little since. He told City Press that his supervisor, Jacobus Burger, and his friend and fellow TPA employee, Fanie van Eeden, "have not been made to feel that they did something wrong".

"The police should at least have arrested them," he said.

He also complained of a persistent pain below his right shoulder from where the bullet was removed.

Seruwe, who earns R593 a month, said he had no medical aid and was battling to pay the bill.

Western Transvaal police spokesman, Warrant Officer Petrus Ramatsoele, said the firearms and the bullet have been sent for ballistic tests.

"It normally takes a long time to get the results," he added.

He gave assurances that the cases were not being neglected.



**ONE MAN, ONE GOAT . . .** William Mashiya, 70, with the goat that he alleges caused AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche to beat him up.

# A Harvest of Sorrow

South Africa

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**WIDESPREAD** and flagrant violence by white farmers on black labourers is linked to a sharp increase in white fears since the repeal of the hand acts.

This is according to a report by the Project for the Study of Violence, commissioned by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee and published by the Black Sash.

South Africa's 6,5 million farmworkers are treated with little human dignity. The State, police, the courts and the Church condone or comply with atrocities ranging from humiliation, exploitation, neglect and eviction to assault, says researcher Ms Lauren Segal.

Northern Natal, areas of the Free State and in particular the poorer areas of the South-eastern Transvaal were notorious for the extent of violence on farms. Cases reported to the Legal Resources Centre included that of a worker assaulted and evicted for questioning a deficit in his usual mealie-meal allowance.

The farmer had grabbed the man - who suffered from a critical heart disease known to his employer - by the throat and choked him and hit him with a tight clenched fist all over his face, chest and neck and then pushed him against the wall several times.

Another labourer had told lawyers how he was kidnapped, padlocked to a tree and beaten by a farmer on suspicion of having stolen some metal sheets.

He had been left tied to the tree with no food or water for 11 hours and been beaten repeatedly.

A Piet Relief worker said he was assaulted when his family was evicted from their homes.

"To get access to our possessions they broke down the kitchen door. I was struck by a policeman on the back and by one of the white men on the face. We were driven off the farm and dumped on the side of the road with all our possessions."

The report said certain magistrates were notorious for their bias.

The regional magistrate of the Piet Relief district, Mr J Dacquier, found farmer Wilhelm Herman Rabe guilty of common assault and fined him R100 for assaulting his worker, Ekathi Xaba, who died 15 hours after the attack.

"The abuse of the legal apparatus by the key actors of justice is unforgivable. It becomes even more reprehensible when the link between the courts and the police is revealed. Horror stories of biased policing and police brutality abound. The state of policing in this area, lends further insight into the current national crisis around the role of the police in directly causing and perpetuating violence in South Africa," the report charged.

Political and economic emergencies confronting farmers, combined with their racist world views to justify increasing hostilities.

Workers' wages were uniformly low with recorded payments as low as R5 a month. Many workers suffered from psychosomatic diseases resulting from excessive stress, exhaustion and monotony, with a 20-times-higher death rate from agricultural poisoning than in countries abroad.

Educational facilities were negligible, with most State administrative, legislative, educational or social facilities provided exclusively for whites, despite the fact that blacks constituted over 90 percent of the farm population.

Trade unions had made few inroads in rural areas due to strong resistance from farmers and legal prohibitions such as the Trespass Act, which prohibits farm workers meeting on a farm where they are not employed.

The exclusion of workers from the Labour Relations Act meant they could not register their union under the Act.

The extensive report called for the right to organise unions on all farms and for the protection of union members and organisers; total prohibition on the uncontrolled use of child labour; written contracts to mediate farmer-worker relations; and for official enforcement agencies to monitor living and working conditions on farms.

Children of farm labourers were often forced to work on the lands, the study found.

A girl of 12 had her leg mauled by a dog belonging to her employer. The leg was amputated without informing her parents, who were consequently threatened with eviction as the little girl had been the only working member of the family.

Trac researcher Ms Aninka Claassens reported eight cases tried in the

Wakkerstroom court where blacks had died at the hands of whites.

"Half of the people were killed by the police. While the whites were found guilty of offences not one of them spent even a day in prison."

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# Unemployment in Alexandra, study finds

MORE than half of Alexandra's adult population is unemployed, according to a recent survey.

The survey by the Education for Employment Campaign (EEC) also found that the township's population had risen by about 30% during the past year to 320 000.

EEC director Dave Jackson said only one-fifth of Alexandra's children of school-going age were at school.

The remaining 76 000 children were turning to crime.

"Many unemployed people, including children, when asked how they survived, replied 'We have to steal - how else do you expect us to live?'" Jackson said.

The EEC seeks to train township residents in practical matters and is funded by the Independent Development Trust, local industries and foreign interests, including the European Community (EC).

Jackson said that 90% of Alexandra's population pinned their hopes for the

DARIUS SANAI

future on the education of their children.

But certificates of education were virtually useless if the holder could not speak English well, he said.

"There are people out there with BSc degrees who are not able to communicate properly in a factory and therefore cannot find jobs," he said.

The EEC programme aims to upgrade school facilities, provide training, counselling services and employment facilities for the unemployed and management training for community leaders.

The latter was vital to help defuse tension between rival township political groups, Jackson said.

The programme is being set up initially in Alexandra.

The EEC hopes to provide the service in other townships as well.

# Soweto 'gives most support to govt'

GOVERNMENT has a higher level of support in Soweto than any other political formation, according to a survey of township residents' political attitudes.

The report, by the University of Witwatersrand's Centre for Policy Studies, found that Soweto residents were "very moderate" and gave government a higher level of support than they did the church, trade unions, the ANC, employers and Azapo.

The survey, of 905 township residents across SA, showed 80% of respondents were satisfied with the leadership of De Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela, but in Soweto De Klerk got 20% more support than the ANC.

The ANC would, however, get the votes

JONATHON REES

of 60% of all township residents nationally in a general election.

Civic associations, street committees, the SA Communist Party and Cosatu enjoyed lower levels of identification in Soweto than in other townships.

On the East Rand, virtually all political formations had a lower endorsement than elsewhere, except for Inkatha.

Inkatha had "overwhelming support" among hostel dwellers, who gave positive ratings to both the state and employers.

Most striking about hostel dwellers, the researchers said, was that they rated all other agencies and movements, including the church, relatively poorly.

# Farmworkers victims under law report

SUSAN RUSSELL

THE exclusion of farmworkers from industrial and labour legislation made the law a weapon in the hands of farmers, according to a report published by the Black Sash and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac).

University of Witwatersrand researcher Lauren Segal, the author of the report, said the relationship between farmers and labourers operated along the lines of a medieval master-serf relationship rather than according to contractual principles.

"With no written obligations to bind him, the farmer is free to dismiss his worker for whatever reason he wishes and to decide on his own terms," she said.

"SA's 1.3-million farmworkers are not legally protected and conditions on some farming operations have revealed that there is no bottom line to how bad such conditions may be under the law."

She said farmworkers were excluded from the Labour Relations Act, the Wages Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Factories Act, and had no right to public holidays, sick pay or leave pay.

There was no legal limit to working hours or any statute compelling farmers to pay overtime and as there was no minimum age for farmworkers, child labour was endemic, she said.

Legislation which could be used against farmworkers included the Illegal Squatters Act, the Trespass Act and the General Law Amendment Act, she said.

# Bookmakers prohibited

have no official status

# Youth tells of being set alight

LOUIS TRICHARDT. — A 15-year-old black youth yesterday told the Regional Court here that a white farmer welded his wrist to an iron table before dousing him with petrol and setting him alight.

The teenager, who cannot be named because he is under age, was giving evidence against Northern Transvaal farmer Mr Johan van der Westhuizen, who is standing trial for attempted murder.

Mr Van der Westhuizen has pleaded not guilty before magistrate Mr G J J van Deventer.

The youth was in hospital for 4½ months, allegedly as a result of the assault.

The teenager told the court that after Mr Van der Westhuizen took a piece of metal and welded his right wrist to the table, he doused him with petrol and set alight the jacket he was wearing.

The youth tried to take the burning jacket off with his free hand before one of the labourers poured water over him and extinguished the flames.

He remained welded to the table for several hours before being set free. The police then arrived, handcuffed him and took him to the Messina police station. He was later taken to hospital.

Under cross-examination, the youth said he had no idea why the farmer had assaulted him.

The case continues today. — Sapa

# Mother weeps while boy tells of 'welding' to table

The Argus Correspondent

LOUIS TRICHARDT. — The mother of a 15-year-old boy broke down and wept in the regional court when her son told how he was "welded" to a steel table and then set alight by a farmer, Mr John van der Westhuizen.

The boy, Frank Mokwati, removed his shirt to show burn marks all over his body. He said he had not recovered from the injuries, despite hospital treatment.

Mr Van der Westhuizen, 30, has pleaded not guilty to charges of assault and attempted murder.

The boy said he was on his way to see his mother on December 8 last year when the farmer stopped him and asked him to help with a chore.

The farmer drove to a workshop on his farm. On arrival, the man grabbed him and punched him on the chest, head and stomach.

Then Mr Van der Westhuizen handed him to four young blacks who held him while the farmer "shocked" him with a cattle prod.

Mr Van der Westhuizen put a bent piece of iron around his one wrist, and welded it to a steel table, he said. After sprinkling petrol from a container onto him, Mr Van der Westhuizen then set his clothing alight with sparks caused by the touching of two welding irons, he added.

"I tried to take my jacket off, but let go of it when I felt my hand burning. The four others brought water and doused the flames. When I finally got the jacket half off, some of my flesh came with it", he said.

A man called Shamba cut the rest of the jacket off his body. Meanwhile the farmer had left and then returned with a policeman, who kicked him in the stomach, he alleged.

The policeman took him to his bakkie, handcuffed him to a heavy piece of iron on the back of it, and drove him to the police station.

The boy denied allegations put to him by defence attorney Mr J L C van Vuuren that he had been on the run after being sought in connection with a burglary.

# Boy who was welded to table shows court his scarred body

S1 Times 21/7/91

By JOCELYN MAKER

A YOUNG boy stripped in court this week to show his scarred body which was allegedly burnt after his wrist had been welded to a table.

When Frank Mukhwathi, 15, of Tshituni village, Venda, turned so that the Louis Trichardt regional magistrate could see the white scars on his lower back, the child's mother hung her head in despair.

Earlier, she had left the court weeping as her son told of his day of agony at the farm Hayoma.

Messina farm manager Jan van der Westhuizen has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder.

The teenager said he had been on his way to visit his mother, who worked on the farm, on the morning of December 8 1990.

## Hitting

As he turned on to the farm road, Mr Van der Westhuizen drove up in a bakkie. Four workers were on the back of the vehicle. Mr Van der Westhuizen told Frank he wanted him to help in the workshop.

"I got on to the bakkie and when we got to the workshop, he got out. As I began walking, he grabbed me by my chest. He began

hitting me on my chest and stomach," said Frank, adding that the farmer hit him about 10 times.

"He fetched a chain and a cattle prod. He chained my feet while the four men stood around. After my feet were tied, he began shocking me all over my body."

After this, Frank said, Mr Van der Westhuizen took a piece of steel which he fitted around his wrist.

"Then he fetched a welding machine. My legs were chained while he did this. He then put my arm against the table and with the piece of steel around my wrist, he began welding it."

Earlier, he showed the court the deep burn scar which had been left around his wrist.

"I had a lumber jacket on and a pyjama top underneath. He went and fetched petrol. He threw the petrol on to my jacket. Then he took the welding machine and rubbed two rods together. Fire came out of them."

"The fire caught me on my chest. It began to burn. He never spoke to me. I did not know why he was doing

this to me."

Frank said that by this time his jacket, pyjama top and body were burning.

"With my right hand, I tried to pull the clothes off my chest, but had to stop when I felt my right hand burning."

"After this, the four men threw water on me and put out the fire."

After the fire was extinguished, Frank said, he tried to pull the jacket off with his injured right hand.

## Kicked

"My skin came away as I did this. I could only get the right sleeve off; another man cut off my left sleeve. After this, the accused went to his house, came back and stood there laughing at me."

He told the court a policeman arrived shortly afterwards and kicked him in the stomach and the sides of his lower body while he was still attached to the table.

Frank said a farm labourer then cut his arm free with a steel saw.

The policeman handcuffed his burnt right hand and put him on the back of a bakkie.

He was taken to the Messina police station and then

to hospital where he remained for four months.

The accused's attorney, Mr JLC van Vuuren, said Mr Van der Westhuizen denied using petrol or a welder to set the boy's clothing alight.

A Pretoria police forensic expert showed a video to prove that the boy's jacket must have had a flammable substance poured on it to have caught alight.

The case has been postponed to September 23.

# Pawe probes 'rip-off' of film extras

ALLEGATIONS of the exploitation of farm labourers employed as extras in a film being shot north of Pretoria are being investigated by the Performing Arts Workers' Equity. It has been reported that these people, some cast in speaking parts, are being paid as little as R10 to R15 a call.

Pawe organiser Francois Venter said that, with the present state of the industry, it is difficult to establish a going rate, but it is generally conceded that the absolute minimum an extra should be paid is from R50 to R80 a call and that, if minimal dialogue is required, from R175 to R200.

"It is a matter of grave concern," he said, "that people employed in speaking parts should be exploited like this."

"The situation also has grave implications for the industry as a whole. If people with no previous experience are pulled out of the bush to do expert work, the position of professional actors will be placed in jeopardy. The situation can lead only to a decline in quality that, in the end, will reflect badly on the industry."

"It is important that a precedent be set, that the

Farm labourers paid R10 a day as extras, a foreign star in blackface — allegations are swirling round an American film being shot near Pretoria.

## RAEFORD DANIEL reports

South African film industry is not to be exploited any further under any circumstances."

The film company, Heatherwood, under producer Art Payne, is shooting a film, the working title of which is *Okavango*, north of Pretoria for American television.

The extras are being used in a "lost tribe" situation and some of them are required to speak in "an African language".

Barrie Saint Clair, production manager, said in response to Pawe: "What is the problem? There is such poverty in the rural areas, we are actually helping people."

"If the budget is X amount for salaries, we are making it go further by employing, say, 20 people instead of four, paying less but employing more."

"The trade unions have messed up the film industry in other countries and now they are starting on us."

He alleged that the extras were not employed for the full day, but observers who declined to be identified said that, after completing work before the cameras at noon, they had to hang around the set until nightfall because no transport was provided for them.

It was also reported that, while the executives were billeted in luxury hotels, the actors, including the black star of the film, had to sleep on a collapsible bed with the farm labourers.

The director of the film, Danie Odendaal, who had been fired without notice after objecting to the situation, declined to comment.

He has been replaced by Wayne Crawford, who is a member of American Screen Actors Guild.

The guild expressed concern when approached by Pawe, but said there was not much they could do at this stage.

Sharp criticism has also been expressed at the fact that the lead actress, a Canadian, Kimberley Stark, is being made up to play a black person.

"It is difficult," Venter said, "to believe that they could not find a local actress for the role. It is ridiculous that, in 1991, it should still be deemed necessary to resort to Al Jolson blackface tricks."

Gina Benjamin, a former executive member of the South African Film and Theatre Union, said that, in a Saftu survey a year ago, it had been established that R80 a call was the absolute minimum that should be paid for extras, particularly as people were paying up to 20 percent in agent's commissions. For dialogue, the minimum was R120 a call.

The SABC rate for extras, she said, was R120 with no dialogue.

Giana Pisonelli, a casting director, said: "This is disgusting. I am horrified. They haven't paid that sort of money since 1969. This is taking unfair advantage of people."

Greg Pitts, producer for CMS/Sunshine productions was incensed at the idea that extras could be paid as little as R10 to R15 a call.

"This is going back to 18-voetsak times, when we tied people to wagonwheels and whipped them," he said.



# Child labour rampant in SA - report

Star 5/8/91

By Shirley Woodgate

Child labour in South Africa, particularly in the rural areas, is increasing in the face of mounting poverty and declining economic standards, claims Johannesburg Child Welfare Society director Dr Adele Thomas.

Quoting from her major one-year study in collaboration with Professor Jack Otis, she said that though there were no local figures to back up her claims, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had estimated that, throughout the world, up to 55 million youngsters under 15 (or 11 percent of 10 to 14-year-olds) were working.

"But this figure may be conservative, and experts claim 145 million is more realistic," Dr Thomas said.

The study, released ahead of tonight's JCWS annual general meeting, revealed that South Africans were relatively unaware of the problem and that no official local studies had been done.

"The ILO estimated in 1987 that in South Africa there were more than 60 000 black child farm labourers, many in the 8 to 14-year-old bracket," Dr Thomas said.

Children may be employed at factories and farms, often at hazardous activities; sold into child prostitution or economic bondage; typically underpaid and uneducated; overworked and without any of the health and employment protections enjoyed by adults.

A more detailed look at activities revealed they were used to sell vegetables and fruit, clean taxis, push food

trolleys, do general delivery work or distribute advertisements and newspapers, collect scrap iron, or work at garages or with building contractors, as packers at stores or as farm labourers.

In one of the worst cases uncovered by Dr Thomas, a family of five lived in a single room and all worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The three children, who had never attended school, earned R10 a month, and their parents' income was R25 a month.

The son, aged 15, was "fisted and beaten" if any of the cattle he tended got lost, and on one occasion the farmer had tied wires attached to a car battery across his wrist.

Another case involved a woman who claimed she had run away from a farm with her three children after the farmer had allegedly broken her ribs during a beating.

He also allegedly lashed her children, aged 14, 12 and eight, across the legs and back if they did sloppy work. They had to work from 5 am until late afternoon without pay and often without food.

Dr Thomas said that although significant legal developments regarding child labour had occurred, the major problem was the continued lack of legal machinery to prosecute employers who broke the law.

Solutions included the implementation of rural and economic strategies to expand training and employment strategies, compulsory free education to age 16, the launch of a national study of child labour by the Manpower Commission, and a review by the Department of Manpower of its powers to enforce child labour legislation.

## Labour law to include farms

Political Correspondent  
AGRICULTURE would have to become subject to normal labour laws, as persistent exemption of the industry from labour legislation could evoke various forms of disruptive action, Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw said last night.

He told the Northern Cape Agricultural Union congress in Kimberley that amendments to this effect would be tabled during the 1991 Parliamentary session. (4)

# Labour law for farmworkers

Sowetan 8/8/91

4

NO country - least of all South Africa - can afford to ignore the strong worldwide awareness of basic human and worker rights, Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw said yesterday.

At the Northern Cape Agricultural Union annual congress in Kimberley, he said it would not be wise for agriculture to ignore the world and isolate the country "especially because of the industry's great dependence on exports to foreign countries".

Farmers were not dealing with ordinary commercial articles, but with people who were employ-

ees in their service and most of whom were "as poor as a churchmouse".

Labour legislation was being considered for the sector because Government-initiated investigations, as well as research over a number of years, indicated agriculture had to be subjected to "normal labour Acts" with necessary amendments.

He said: "The persistent denial of basic legal rights can, to the detriment of the sector, cause heavy conflict and leave agriculture without mechanisms to handle such a conflict." - *Own Correspondent.*

# Farmers cannot ignore basic worker rights, warns Louw

SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

④  
ARG 8/8/91  
NO country — least of all South Africa — can afford to ignore worldwide awareness of basic human and worker rights, Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw has warned Northern Cape farmers.

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most of whom were "as poor as a churchmouse".

Labour legislation was being considered for the sector because government-initiated investigations, and research over a number of years, indicated agriculture had to be subjected to "normal labour Acts" with necessary amendments.

Mr Louw warned that the "persistent" exclusion of agriculture from labour legislation could evoke "various forms of disruptive action".

"The persistent denial of basic legal rights, can, to the detriment of the sector, cause heavy conflict and leave agriculture without mechanisms to handle such a conflict."

Labour law was based on

compromises between the interests of employers and workers and while it would not necessarily satisfy either party 100 percent, a dispensation would be created with which both parties could live.

However, he warned that no labour legislation could guarantee labour peace.

"Sound labour relations are determined in the cattle kraals and on the cultivated fields by the relationship existing between farmers and their employees."

Mr Louw was not aware of any country in the world where labour laws in agriculture had caused any "extraordinary" problems.

By DAN DHLAMINI

FARMWORKER William Mashiya, 70, who claims he was assaulted by AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche for refusing to sell him a goat, wants to sacrifice the goat to his ancestors.

Talking to City Press after his third court appearance in Ventersdorp for allegedly possessing dagga, traditional healer Mashiya said perhaps his ancestors could help him

## Sacrifice to bring Eugene to court?

*City Press 11/8/91* (4)  
get his assailant brought to book.

Terre'Blanche is alleged to have assaulted Mashiya on March 9.

Mashiya said the trouble started when Terre'Blanche tried to buy his goat. When he refused, the rightwinger allegedly assaulted him and ac-

cused him of stock theft.

He was arrested a day after making a statement to the police, but released three days later.

In May police accused him of selling dagga.

What made him suspect his arrest was vindictive was that one policeman kept asking him why

he had laid a charge against "Baas Terre'Blanche".

Mashiya will appear again on September 10 while the Terre'Blanche case docket shunts between the Transvaal Attorney-General and the Ventersdorp police.

AG Don Brunett, who had earlier referred the docket back to the Ventersdorp police, received it back this week and will decide soon whether to prosecute Terre'Blanche.

# Farmer 'dumps' family

By DAN DHLAMINI

1989/91

4

BOIKHUTSONG township residents near Lichtenburg in the heartland of Afrikanerdom were outraged this week after a farmer kicked out a destitute family and dumped them in the open veld near the township entrance.

The Matsitla family had lived on Herman Bezuidenhout's farm for the past four years.

Dan Matsitla said after harvest time had passed, his boss' attitude changed.

Last Tuesday Bezuidenhout called him to the farmhouse, accused him of walking slowly and started punching him.

"I begged for mercy, but he told me

I was stubborn and should leave his farm immediately," said Matsitla.

He said he then laid a charge against Bezuidenhout, but this was denied by police spokesman Warrant Officer E Vermaak, who said Matsitla only reported that Bezuidenhout had thrown him off his farm.

The following day Bezuidenhout dumped all his belongings at the township entrance, damaging his furniture.

Then, Matsitla alleged, township manager Johan Weyers threatened to charge them with illegal squatting.

The family spent a cold night in the veld until a good samaritan, Anglican church warden Joseph Mgidi, offered them refuge at his church.

# Over 60 000 children are farmworkers

*Sowetan 23/8/91*

*4*

**MORE than 60 000 black children, many aged between eight and 14 years, are working as farm labourers in South Africa.**

The figure could be more than double, according to Dr Adele Thomas, director of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

She was addressing a

**By IKE  
MOTSAPI**

Press conference yesterday on child labour.

Although less publicised than the so-called conventional forms of child abuse and neglect, historically the most prevalent form of child abuse is child labour.

"Estimates drawn up by the International

Labour Organisation indicate that there are about 50 to 55 million children under the age of 15 who are currently employed as child labourers worldwide.

"Figures cited in various places go as high as 145 million and are seen as more realistic by experts.

"South Africa is one of the most notorious countries where child labour is at its worst. It is, however, important to distinguish between 'child work' and 'child labour.'

"Child work refers to work that helps the child's socialisation, maturation, educational, cultural and skill development.

"However, child labour is synonymous with child exploitation and leads to the impairment of the child's physical, emotional, educational and cultural development," Thomas said.

## rs blacks

of hypocrisy - cars were a necessity.

The managing director of OK Bazaars, Mr Gordon Hood, expressed concern that the fuel increase would lead to higher transport and distribution costs.

"We appeal to suppliers to absorb these additional costs which are inflationary and, if placed on the consumer, could negate the positive impact of the reduction of VAT."

Pick 'n Pay's chief executive, Mr Raymond Ackerman, said the majority of service stations owned by his company would remain open until midnight so consumers could fill up.

C

# 60 000 child labourers in SA, says ILO

Star 23/8/91. (4) ~~1~~ ~~2~~

By Montshiwa Moroke

There are more than 60 000 black child farm labourers under the age of 15 in South Africa, according to an International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimate.

Executive director of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) Dr Adele Thomas yesterday said the ILO conservatively estimated there were between 50 million and 55 million children under 15 working worldwide.

But it was difficult to compile accurate figures and many experts considered 145 million to be a more realistic estimate.

It was, however, important to distinguish between "child work" and "child labour". Child work referred to work that helped the child's socialisation, maturation, education, and cultural and skill developments.

At the same time, impoverished families supported child labour as a means to their own survival.

According to the Anti-Slavery Society in London, child labour went back as far as the early history of South Africa.

It was little more than "disguised slavery" and was not even questioned on farms until the second half of the 20th century.

"The ILO has recently estimated that there are more than 60 000 black child farm labourers in South Africa," said Dr Thomas.

Jackie Loffell, social work

consultant with the JCWS, said President de Klerk had signed the Child Amendment Act, which added section 52a to the Child Care Act of 1983.

This could prove to be a turning point for South African children by providing universal protection against a widespread and dangerous form of exploitation. On the other hand, it could also make little difference.

A researcher with Co-operative for Research and Education, Dichaba Mashinini, said one of the most saddening aspects of child labour was that it affected only those with a low standard of living because it was linked to discriminatory legislation.

Mr Mashinini said the attitude of employers of various capitalist enterprises was responsible for much of child labour and their "culpability" was in many folds.

"Child labour is an impediment for the development of families, yet on the other hand it generates high percentages of income for the employers.

"Many employers, especially farmers, encourage child labour in order to enhance their profits, regardless of the fact that in the South African context the current rate of unemployment is so high. If there are unemployed adults, why should children be given jobs?"

Mr Mashinini said: "When children perform stultifying and precarious duties from an early age, their chances of acquiring real qualification for skilled work are practically nil."



# 'Overworked and underpaid' in the Boere Utopia

THE WORKERS are restless in South Africa's white Utopia. The three municipal labourers in the small Boere homeland of Orania are fed up because they believe they are treated like "white kaffirs".

The trio, who were hired to clean Orania's roads and do mental tasks, claim they are poorly paid, overworked and discriminated against by the Orania settlers.

Mr Piet Luyt, Mr Christo Erasmus and Mr Beyers Kotze are paid R800 a month and get free accommodation, lights, water and schooling for their children. Now they are demanding "a living wage" with medical aid and pension benefits.

But they are also unhappy with their free accommodation — because it is a former coloured "location" outside the town.

Another grievance is that one of Orania's white building labourers, hired to repair a "knap" by the town's first settler, Mr Johan Kooi, after being accused of being drunk after a brawl.

"They have not kept their promises," said Mr Luyt, a retrained mineworker and former South African Railways employee.

And he said the "location" where the labourers would live was a workers village which had been built around the shell of the former coloured township.

The workers had not been promised medical aid as there was a nursing sister at Orania and a doctor on call who would attend them at a minimum charge, he added.

But Mr Luyt said: "We will wait and see what happens. I don't want to leave here. I agree with the idea of an Afrikaner volkstaat. But they must treat everybody properly if it is going to work."

Mr Moolman, who is seen by some townsfolk as the upholder of moral standards in Orania, admitted he had given building labourer Mr Franz Pieterse a "knap".

Said Mr Moolman: "He had had a few drinks and he was driving in the

streets. I stopped him, took away the keys to his bakkie and when he argued with me, I gave him a knap.

"I will do it again if I have to," he added.

"I left Avania because of the decline in moral standards. We can't allow that sort of thing to happen here. We are beginning a whole new way of life here.

It requires an ability to work hard and adapt for an ideal," he said.

"People who come here must be aware that the motivation for work is not for financial reward.

"Settlers and workers must be motivated by the desire for a way of life which is guided by high and just moral standards, lived among their own people."

Orania is a former Department of Water Affairs settlement of 84 prefabricated houses on the Orange River 180km south of Kimberley. It was built in the 60s for construction workers building the FJ le Roux Dam. Last year it was bought by a group of businessmen for R1.5-million.

## 'We're treated just like white kaffirs' claim angry workers

Report: EVELYN HOLZHAUSEN □ Pictures: TERRY SHEAN



DISSATISFIED... Orania labourers Beyers Kotze, Piet Luyt and Christo Erasmus who say the town has not fulfilled its promises

educated into the "culture" of the volkstaat. "It is a new way of life for all of us," he said.

Professor Henning said that, as far as he was concerned, the term "white kaffir" did not exist.

"We do not speak in those terms here," those terms here.

And he said the "location" where the labourers would live was a workers village which had been built around the shell of the former coloured township.

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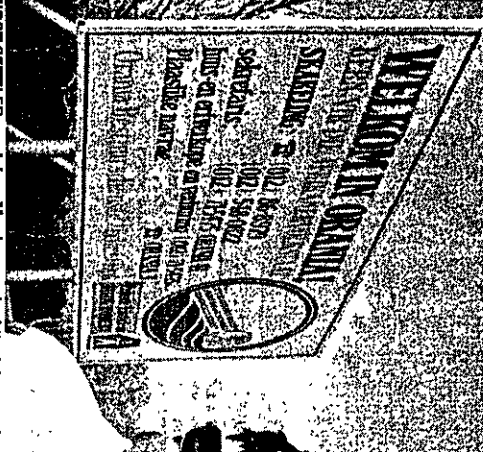
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FIRST SETTLER... Johan Moolman, who hit a labourer for allegedly being drunk

It requires an ability to work hard and adapt for an ideal," he said.

"People who come here must be aware that the motivation for work is not for financial reward.

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### Decline

He "immigrated" to Orania from Volksrust eight weeks ago with his wife, Maria, and three children, Bernd, 12, Gunder, 8, and Jean-Marie, 6. "We were told we would get medical aid and a pension and that we would be treated properly. But we have been treated as if we are just white kaffirs.

"We can't even sit down and have a smoke break or a chat. It's just work, work, work, and more work all day long," he said.

By late this week, after a hastily convened meeting between the disenchanted workers and Professor Jozef Henning, managing director of Orania Bessensdorp, the crisis had been resolved.

Volksrust founder Professor Henning a Pretoria city councillor and theoretical physicist with the CSIR, said the dissatisfied workers needed to be

### Upholder

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# WORKING FOR A BLACK BOSS!

C/Phos 25/8/91

~~25/8/91~~ (4) ~~15/8/91~~

Special Correspondent

BRUCE Ivy has no problems working for a black boss.

What's more, the 33-year-old white manager of Thembisa millionaire businessman Charlie Moloi's two farms in the Delmas district reckons his rightwing farmer neighbours have also come to accept the new ownership status quo.

Some have already come over to welcome Bruce, who grew up on a Pietersburg farm, to the area.

This week when reporters visited Witklipbank, a 120 ha grazing farm with 100 cattle and 45 sheep that Moloi bought for R360 000 from rightwinger Bill Ruthven, Bruce was at first too busy to talk.

He was putting out a fire in the small camp behind the farmhouse which had apparently started when a worker accidentally dropped a cigarette in the hay.

"One of the ewes has just lambed," he announced excitedly after this chore, showing off the unsteady lamb among two goats, a few calves and some tame guinea fowl in the camp.

Bruce is presently living in the farmhouse on Witklipbank, but also keeps an eye over the nearby 670 ha Rietvallei maize farm that Moloi recently bought from another farmer, Andries van der Walt.

The plan is to also start growing vegetables on this latest acquisition to Moloi's growing farming empire.

It is pure coincidence that Bruce is now working for Moloi. He saw a



**FARMING EMPIRE ...**  
Tycoon Charlie Moloi.

photograph of Moloi in a newspaper, and about a month ago he ran into and recognised the tycoon.

They started chatting and Moloi asked Bruce if he would like to become his farm manager.

"I told Moloi I would like that. We said goodbye, but I thought he would forget all about it," Bruce said.

A few days later the two ran into each other again and Moloi invited Bruce to accompany him to a farm auction at Delmas.

"He introduced me to the other white farmers and, out of the blue, asked me when I could start as his farm manager on Witklipbank," he said.

Three weeks ago the bachelor manager moved into the huge farmhouse with his double bed, fridge and television set. His white BMW and red off-road motorbike is parked next to the house.



**OUT OF THE BLUE ...** Former Pietersburg farm boy Bruce Ivy now manages Thembisa tycoon Charlie Moloi's two farms near Delmas.

# Outlaw child labour say callers

Sowetan 26/8/91

SOWETAN RADIO METRO



CHILD labour must be declared a criminal offence if the practice is to end, callers to the Sowetan/Radio Metro talkback show said on Friday.

Most callers also blamed the Government for allowing white farm-

By KENOSI MODISANE

ers to employ their labourers' children.

Others attributed the problem to the sociopolitical imbalances in the country.

Mr Charles Manzini of Soshanguve said: "The sociopolitical life and the

general setup in South Africa is to blame. This has often forced children to fend for themselves at a very early age."

## Blacks

Royal said: "Child labourers are mostly blacks who come from single-parent families.

Most grow up without knowing their fathers.

"This is possibly a curse from God. And it is about time blacks helped each other to bring the practice to an end. The rich should also help poor and deprived families."

William of Mohlakeng said: "The practice must be stopped once and for all. And this can only be achieved if the Government ensures that children are not exploited."

# CHILD LABOUR

Sowetan  
29/8/91

4  
1280  
1290



By IKE MOTSAPI



Child labour robs children of the childhood and they end up poor, illiterate and desperate.

## WHAT is child labour?

This question which was under intense debate during a Press seminar in Johannesburg recently.

Various speakers and specialists in the field of child labour presented their arguments and points in a bid to clarify what is child labour.

Perhaps the more acceptable explanation on the matter seemed to be the one advanced by Mr Dichaba Mashinini of the Community Research and Education Centre.

He argued: "Child labour is a phenomenon that has very serious negative implications towards the normal growth of a child.

"It has existed across centuries without legislation or humanitarian implementations to curb it.

"This practice has been visible in First World countries, though much of it has been going on in Third World countries

### Saddening

"One of the most saddening aspects of child labour is that it affects only those of a low standard of living.

"In South Africa it is linked to levels of legislative discrimination where colour plays a major role in determining the destiny of people.

"Child labour is an impediment to the development of families yet on the other hand it generates high percentages of income for the employers."

Another speaker who gave an apt example of child labour was Dr Adele Thomas of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

She said although this

aspect has been "somewhat less publicised than the so-called conventional forms of child abuse, neglect, internationally and historically and currently the most prevalent" form of child abuse was child labour.

She said: "It is important to distinguish between child work and child labour.

"Child work refers to work that helps the child's socialisation, maturation, educational, cultural and skill development.

"However, child labour is synonymous with child exploitation and leads to the impairment of a child's physical, emotional, educational and cultural development," she added.

She argued that children may be employed in factories, farms, often in hazardous activities such

of child labour is rural and urban poverty," she added.

Another speaker summed child labour up as the premature employment of children under the ages of 16 years.

The International Labour Organisation recently reported that there were in excess of 60 000 black child farm labourers in South Africa, many in the eight to 14-year-old age bracket.

### Slavery

According to the Anti-Slavery Society of London, child labour goes back as far as the early history of South Africa whereby child labour was disguised as slavery.

It was not even questioned on farms until the second half of the 20th century.

According to a report of the International Confed-

vative.

Figures cited in various places worldwide go as high as 145 million and are seen as "more realistic" by most specialists.

Thomas said one of the causes of child labour was "for economic interests often supported with or without bribes by governmental authorities."

She said: "At the same time children, and their impoverished families, support child labour as a means to their own survival.

"It is this alliance which helps explain societal tolerance for this form of child abuse," she added.

Mashinini blamed "the attitudes of employers of various capitalist enterprises" as being responsible for child labour.

He said many emp-

**'Estimates drawn up by the ILO indicate, however, that there are about 50 to 55 million children under the 15 years of age currently working throughout the world.'**

as domestics, sold into child prostitution or economic bondage, typically underpaid, overworked and without any of the health and employment protection enjoyed by adults.

"The employment of children not only adds more uneducated and unskilled adults to the manpower pool, but often reduces the employment and wages of adults.

"The underlying cause

eration of Free Trade Unions accurate figures on the number of children at work "are extremely difficult to compile - largely because employers parents - and in some cases, even children - are reluctant to supply information which could be used to suppress the illegal employment of children.

But, even ILO experts recognise that these estimates may be conser-

loyers, especially farmers, encourage and demand child labour in order to enhance their profits, regardless of the fact that, in South African context, the current rate of unemployment is so high.

He said if unemployment was so high among adults, why should children be given jobs? If education is a right, why should the doors of learning be closed to child workers?

"So the whole system generates high profits for employers because there are hardly legal protections and compensations," he said.

He said people on farms were forced to succumb to child labour when they either wanted to augment or secure accommodation for their families.

"Lack of finance, resources, facilities, unemployment, poor education in our communities are factors that contribute highly to levels of child labour," he added.

It was also agreed by the seminar that, when children perform hard and dangerous duties from an early age, their chances of acquiring real qualifications for skilled work are practically nil.

### Results

This can be a severe handicap that can prevent a child from social advancement or development.

●Because of suffering from fatigue, over-exertion, lack of hygiene and working under excessive heat and dust, they have physical problems that they carry to adulthood.

Their vulnerability is increased by malnutrition and under-nourishment, hence their permanent and mental deformities which causes them to end up being disease-prone adults.

●The premature employment cannot be measured quantitatively, but is nevertheless a serious menace to child welfare.

Society suffers because the individuals subjected to child labour cannot realise the full potential of their powers:

### Handicap

A loss results and he ends up on the bottom of the social ladder - unable to uplift himself otherwise.

●Many of the effects of child labour are demoralising and can cause the child, when he or she grows to have a negative attitudes towards life.

A call was made to all organisations, business people, church leaders, academics, trade unions, the Government, women organisations and politicians to join hands in fighting child labour.

Thomas concluded: "Today's exploited child worker, in the words of Neera Burna, of India, is tomorrow's subservient, unskilled labourer.

"Child labour robs children of their childhood and captures them, and in due course, their own children, in cycles of poverty, illiteracy and despair," she added.

# Land of the lily-white labourers

**REG RUMNEY** reports on a visit to the all-white town of Orania, where labour unrest recently reared its head

**INCONGRUOUSLY**, perhaps, hitchhikes alongside by side with Voortrekker values in the Northern Cape town of Orania, kernel of the putative new Afrikaner state of Orania.

On Sunday night, folk wander in to the public dining room of the cafe-cum-guesthouse run by burly "godfather" figure Johan Moolman. They play hymns and Afrikans *liedjies* on a Yamaha electronic keyboard someone has set up in the cafe's dining room.

Even more startlingly, Orania's school relies on sophisticated Amiga computers for its advanced programme of individual tuition for the 35 or so pupils.

Those who favour the "Volksstaat", dreamchild of Professor Carel Boshoff, pin their hopes on technology and mechanisation to solve at least in part their biggest problem — labour.

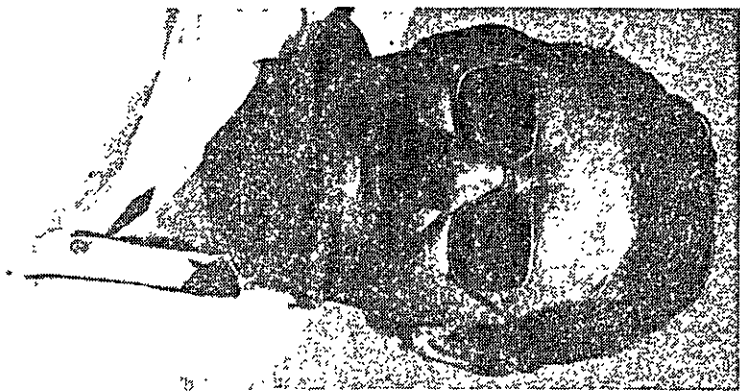
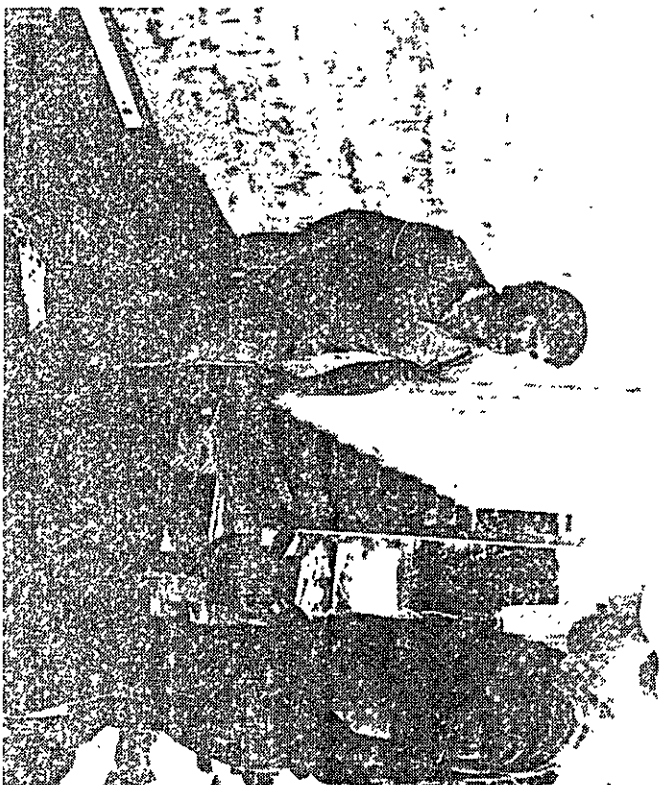
In this they are not alone. Business in South Africa has also turned on a large scale to capital investment to avoid a politicised and unionised labour force.

But how much of a problem labour is was illustrated by a dispute last week in Orania between Moolman and some of the white labourers in the town.

The white workers were much disgruntled about working conditions — and about Moolman giving one of the workers the occasional "klap".

The dispute appears to have been settled — but journalists, of whom I was one, visiting the town two weeks ago, found a simmering discontent among the labour force.

The replacement of black labour with white is a big stumbling block. Moritzgenon, where Oranje-workers planned



**Dirtying their hands ... White labourers put a brick 'skin' on a house in Orania**

to use only white labour has also flopped, at least in the eyes of the people of Orania, who use it as an example of what they don't aim at.

Even the trekkers, after all, relied on black and coloured labour. But Volkstatters I spoke to, in theory anyway, believe reliance on black labour is a decadent practice which will bring ruin on the heads of white Azanians, their term for South Africans.

In Orania the working hands will have to be lily white. Moolman's complaints about labour problems smack uncannily of those in neighbouring Azania: Moolman, a teetotaler, complains of getting calls from nearby Hopetown to come and pick up his

**drunk white labourers.** But unlike Azania, the problem is not a living wage, he insists, even though labourers get R150 a week, with board and lodging thrown in.

"The only labour problems we have in Orania is alcohol and drug abuse." There is an irony in Orania's all-white labour problems. The trend in South Africa is for greater co-operation between white and black unions. Recently, black South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union members went on strike on behalf of one of their white members.

Die-hard Marxists will take heart: at least in some cases class does seem to surpass race in importance.

**Johan Moolman ... Accused of 'klapping' a worker**

Labour, according to Moolman, will also be the weapon to remove the 265 000 people — most of whom are coloureds and the rest blacks — who live in what will be the Afrikaner Volksstaat, a huge chunk of South Africa stretching from below Kimberley through Beaufort West to the coast.

They simply won't get work, he says. Around 250 coloureds were moved from Orania "by negotiation".

Orania, which has the feel of a mining village, was built by the Department of Water Affairs to house workers building canals piping water from the nearby Orange River for irrigation. It is around 700km from Pretoria.





## Farmer sets dogs on men

By SOPHIE TEMA (4)

CHUNKS of flesh were bitten off the legs of two farm workers by a pack of fierce dogs set on them by a white farmer, say the two men.

They are Lephethesane Maqolo and Stephen Goso *CIPRESS*

Maqolo said he was punished for having arrived late from herding cattle and Goso for being away from work for a day.

Both were employed on a farm near Tamboekiesfontein, on the East Rand, but lost their jobs after the incident. *1/9/91*

Their employer was commonly known as "Sbhakela" (fist) because of his tendency to assault his workers.

Both men have sought legal advice and have instructed an attorney in Springs to bring an action against the farmer.

Maqolo told City Press the farmer hit him with a clenched fist.

"His son kicked me and held my hands behind my back while the father unleashed the pack of dogs.

"The dogs bit me all over my body but mostly on my legs. I passed out and only then did they leave me."

Goso said: "I went through a similar experience.

**ATTACKED . . . Stephen Goso shows where he was mauled by a pack of dogs. ■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE**

## Louw warns of potential labour conflict on farms

6/10/91 9/9/91  
THE continued denial of basic rights to farmworkers could lead to serious conflict in agriculture and other sectors, Manpower Minister Eli Louw said on Friday.

The expansion of labour laws to agriculture was being investigated, Louw told a labour relations seminar in Potchefstroom.

Labour legislation had remained in step with political changes for many years, but with the removal of discriminatory legislation, labour laws were now perceived as lagging behind social changes, he said. This was particularly true

VERA VON LIERES

of the agricultural field.

Collective bargaining and freedom of association were basic workers' rights that would have to be taken into account. (4)

Referring to last year's Saccola accord, Louw said it was government's duty to ensure that such an accord took into consideration national interests.

Whatever mechanisms existed for the reaching of consensus, industrial peace could not be created by legislation as labour relations were concerned mainly with human relations.

LABOUR

# Danger lurks down on the farm

④ ARG 13/9/91

**M**R Dawid Chrisjans, 35, was acting as a marker for a crop-sprayer as it swept low over a Bolland barley field spewing pesticide in its wake.

His job was to help the pilot plot the spray pattern.

Mr Chrisjans, a long-time labourer on the Caledon-Riviersonderend Cooperative farm Roodebloem, had often been a marker for the low-flying planes, but on the morning of Saturday August 31, things went horribly wrong.

As the plane, carrying more than 600kg of poison, sped along at about 55 metres a second and less than two metres above the ground, its wheel struck Mr Chrisjans's head, crushing his skull.

Transvaal pilot Mr Deon van Zyl said Mr Chrisjans was "inexplicably out of position and concealed by a summit of a hill" when he was struck.

According to reports, this was only the third accident of its kind in South Africa since crop-spraying was introduced in 1938.

But the accident highlights the perilous conditions farm workers are often subjected to.

Farmers have come under fire for using "human" markers during crop-spraying, exposing their workers to safe-

ty hazards and harmful pesticides without providing adequate protection for them.

Earlier this year a 46-year-old Montagu farm-worker collapsed and died after spraying pesticides on fruit trees for three days without protective clothing.

Unlike in other countries, farmers in South Africa are not compelled to supply protective clothing to workers using pesticides or subjected to standing in fields being doused by crop-sprayers.

According to Dr Leslie London of the University of Cape Town Medical School's department of community health, there is no legislation to enforce the use of protective measures once the pesticides reach the farms.

"There are plenty of rules, guidelines and suggestions for the safe application of these poisons but no force of law or training is applied other than legislation saying pesticides have to be used safely according to manufacturer's specifications," he said.

South Africa had extremely little knowledge of pesticide poisoning, he said.

**THE absence of labour rights for farm workers, and their often dangerous working conditions, were once again highlighted by the recent freak accident in which a low-flying crop-sprayer struck and killed a Caledon labourer. Labour Reporter SHARON SOROUR investigates.**



**WARNING:  
POISON!**

"Every year about 100 to 200 deaths from pesticide poisoning are reported but it is well-known that the actual number of fatal cases is much higher. According to a study done a few years ago, the number of fatalities in the Western Cape alone was four to five times higher, not to mention the non-fatal cases that never come to light," he said.

Although pesticides were registered in South Africa there was no inspectorate to monitor the use of poisonous substances.

In other countries, like the United States, there were laws which forbade farm workers from entering fields once they had been sprayed.

"It is not necessary to have

clothing, depending on the poison being used, like gloves, hats, rain suits and breathing masks."

On Mr Louw's farm Babylonstoren, crops were sprayed once a year and workers were "extensively" trained in using pesticides and this was repeated every time they had to spray fields.

Mr Louw said while pesticides were kept under lock and key, farmers had encountered pesticide poisoning when labourers actually abused and drank the poisons.

He said most crop-spraying pilots were competent and experienced pilots. The bottom line was that farmers had to be careful and use their common sense in handling and using pesticides.

The S A Agricultural Union urged all members to be aware of the safety aspects because there was "an inclination to ignore this when using chemicals," union spokesman Mr Kobus Kleynhans said.

Although the National Occupational Safety Association sells a booklet for R5 on the safe use of pesticides, the

Department of Manpower said there was no specific legislation regarding the use of pesticides and working conditions fell under the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel for farm workers.

Reforms to extend four labour Acts — the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act — to agricultural workers are set to come into effect next year, according to Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw.

The legislation holds out the hope that farm workers will be able to fight back.

For the first time in South Africa, they will be able to unionise and take action to improve their conditions of service, exert a greater influence on farming practices and reduce exploitation.

Among important Basic Conditions of Employment Act amendments envisaged are:

- Prescribing normal working hours of farm workers at 48 hours a week and 60 hours for herdsmen, with a proviso to lengthen the periods by agreement, according to seasonal requirements.

- Prescribing two weeks' paid leave a year and 30 days sick leave in a three-year cycle.



## 20 tuna seamen missing (4)

Star 20/9/91  
CAPE TOWN — Twenty seamen are feared drowned after a tuna trawler sank about 400 km from Reunion in the Indian Ocean on Wednesday night, an SABC report said.

A spokesman at the Air Force Rescue Co-or-

dination Centre at Silvermine in the Cape said a French warship stationed at Reunion was on its way to the area.

One of the 21-man crew was rescued by a passing ship.

The name and nationality of the trawler is not known yet. — Sapa.

... but most of these were  
and that the SABC had failed to race sponsorship agreement.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

*B10ay 24/9/91*  
**Farmer fined for torching boy**

A FARMER who set a 15-year-old boy alight was sentenced yesterday to R5 000 or two years' imprisonment after being convicted of attempted murder in the Louis Trichardt Regional Court. *(4)*

John van der Westhuizen was also sentenced to a further five years in jail, suspended for five years on condition that he paid the boy R40 000 in three instalments for physical damages.

The case was a sequel to the events of December 8 last year when Van der Westhuizen assaulted and set the boy on fire at his Hayoma farm near Messina.

The boy told the court earlier the farmer took an iron, fitted it around his wrist and welded it to a table. He then poured petrol over the boy and set him alight. He was saved by a labourer who doused the flames.

*B10ay 24/9/91*  
**CP secretary jailed for 14 days**

CP CHIEF secretary Andries Beyers was yesterday sentenced to 14 days in prison by the Pretoria Supreme Court for refusing to identify a source who claimed the National Intelligence Service had kidnapped a key witness in the Winnie Mandela kidnap and assault trial. Beyers had appealed against the sentence imposed in March by a Pretoria magistrate.

The court dismissed Beyers' appeal against his conviction and sentence, saying reasons he gave for refusing to identify his source were not valid. Beyers claimed he could not identify the source because he feared identification could harm future sources of information. He also feared for the life of his source.

*B10ay 24/9/91*  
**Warrent for Hani withdrawn**

A WARRANT for the arrest of Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Chris Hani was withdrawn in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday after he made a brief appearance. *(4)*

Hani and 19 other ANC members were arrested in connection with an alleged illegal gathering near Parliament on May 23. Eight of the accused have failed to appear and warrants for their arrest are still effective. The matter was postponed to December 2.

TEAM 5198/13/E

REPORTS: Sapa.

# Farmer charged with killing worker

Sowetan 24/9/91

**A WHITE Delmas farmer, who allegedly clubbed his worker to death with a stick early this month, has been arrested and charged with murder.**

**By IKE MOTSAPI**

Mr Pieter Botha of Waaikraal Farm near Delmas is to stand trial in the Delmas Regional Court

on November 1.

Botha's arrest and subsequent court appearance followed the death of Samuel Mahamba (43) who was clubbed to death on September 4 this year next to a shop in Delmas.

boss, is to appear in the Sundra Magistrate's Court today charged with trespassing, say Lawyers for Human Rights.

Ndzimande was taken into custody last Thursday.

Captain Ida Van Zweel, the East Rand police spokesman, said Botha made his first appearance in court on September 9 1991 and was released on R1 000 bail.

Meanwhile another farmworker, Mr Lucas Ndzimande, who was allegedly assaulted by his

# Farmer to pay burnt boy, 15

④ CT 24/9/91

**LOUIS TRICHARDT.** — A farmer who turned a 15-year-old boy into a human torch was yesterday fined R5 000 (or two years' imprisonment) after being convicted in Louis Trichardt Regional Court of attempted murder.

Magistrate Mr J G J van Deventer also sentenced John van der Westhuizen to a further five years in jail, suspended for five years on condition that he paid the boy R40 000 in three instalments for physical damages.

The first payment of R10 000 should be made on October 1 this year, the second payment of R15 000 on October 15 and the last payment a month later.

The case was a sequel to events of December 8 last year when Van der Westhuizen assaulted and set the boy on fire at his Hayoma farm near Messina.

The boy, from Tshituni village in Venda, earlier told the court he was

on his way to see his mother on the farm when Van der Westhuizen asked him to accompany him to the workshop to help him with some work.

On their arrival at the workshop the farmer started assaulting him without telling him why, the boy said.

The boy added that the farmer, assisted by four black labourers, chained his feet and used a shocking device, meant for cattle, on his body.

Later the farmer took an iron object, fitted it around his wrist and welded it to a table, burning his hand in the process.

The court also heard that the farmer poured petrol on the boy's lumberjacket and set him alight.

The boy was saved by a labourer who doused the flames with water.

The defence did not lead evidence after the state had agreed to a proposal by the defence that Van der Westhuizen be convicted of attempted murder and be ordered to pay the boy compensation. — Sapa

# Youth recounts 'welding' assault

Star 26/9/91  
By Willie Mashau  
Northern Transvaal Bureau

A boy of 15 yesterday recounted the circumstances surrounding the assault on him by a white farm supervisor.

Frank Mokwati, who was chained to a steel workshop table, doused with petrol and set on fire with sparks from welding wires, suffered second-degree burns.

John van der Westerhuizen (31) set him alight on Hayoma Farm at Tshipise in the far northern Transvaal on December 8 1990.

Van der Westhuizen was on

Monday sentenced to a fine of R5 000 (or two years) and a suspended jail sentence of five years.

He was also ordered to pay Frank Mokwati R40 000.

Frank, of Tshituni-tsha-fhasi in Venda, said yesterday that he used to work at the farm while attending school but ran away in 1989 after Van der Westhuizen allegedly assaulted him and fired shots in his direction.

He went back to the farm on December 8 1990 when his mother, Johanna Lefoka, who worked at the farm had sent for him to give him money for the Christmas holidays.

He said Van der Westhuizen found him at the farm gate and asked for his help in the workshop.

"In the workshop Van der Westhuizen assaulted me. He chained my feet and welded the chain to a cutting torch trolley.

"Van der Westhuizen later came back with about half a litre of petrol and poured all of it over my shoulders and stomach. When my clothes caught fire, he kicked me and left me engulfed in flames," he said.

When asked how he felt about the whole affair, Frank tried to speak but could not.

# Girls spray poison for only R4 a day

Clips

29/9/91

CP Correspondent

SCHOOLGIRLS are working in terrible conditions for slave wages on timber plantations where chemical poisons are handled without proper protection.

This emerged from a City Press investigation this week into conditions on pine and gum plantations outside the town of Ugie in the north eastern Cape.

The forests are jointly owned by corporate giants Anglo American and De Beers and are managed by Mondi Paper Company - which contracts out some work.

Mondi representatives, who flew to the area to investigate the allegations, this week expressed concern about the situation.

The girls - some only 14 years old - said they worked a full day for a palty R4.

City Press established that children are employed to spray dangerous weed-control chemicals. They and other workers said they were not issued with protective masks or goggles when spraying.

Local doctor RF Kyd said he could prove a marked increase in throat and chest problems dur-

ing the spraying season. Workers also complained that the poisons damaged their eyes.

Mondi said the poisons were not dangerous. The girls dig trenches and spray poisons for 14 days in a row and are then entitled to one day off.

"But if it rains in the afternoon, we are told we have to forfeit the entire day's pay," said one girl.

A 14-year-old girl said she and other under-aged children used their parents' identity documents to get work. It is illegal to employ children under 15. While older workers earn between R171 and R198 a month, the girl said she was paid only R125.

The openly hostile manager of Pagen Weed Control in Ugie, Neil Mills, denied that he employed children. But just 30 minutes later City Press found a girl, who said she was 14, toiling with one of his labour gangs.

Asked what protective clothing he issued to workers during spraying, Mills said: "Sufficient for the job."

City Press also inspected the company's worker compound on Glen Cul-ten farm where 70 work-

ers, mostly women, are housed.

There are 10 beds to a room, no privacy and just two zinc basins to do all the washing-up for 70 workers.

Washing facilities are cold showers in a draughty corrugated iron structure. Winter temperatures often plunge to below zero in the mountainous area. When City Press tried to speak to compound occupants, a woman who identified herself as Mrs Willis ordered our correspondent to leave.

Mondi manpower resources manager Dr Brian Lucas said Mondi paid its workers a minimum of R290 a month and gave workers food worth R3 a day. But this did not mean the company's contractors did the same.

Lucas said Mondi did, however, require contractors not to employ workers under the age of 15 or allow workers to use chemicals in a dangerous manner.

Lucas said Mondi would investigate ways of alleviating the social problems of the community. The Anglo and De Beers Chairmen's Fund would be asked for sup-

port.

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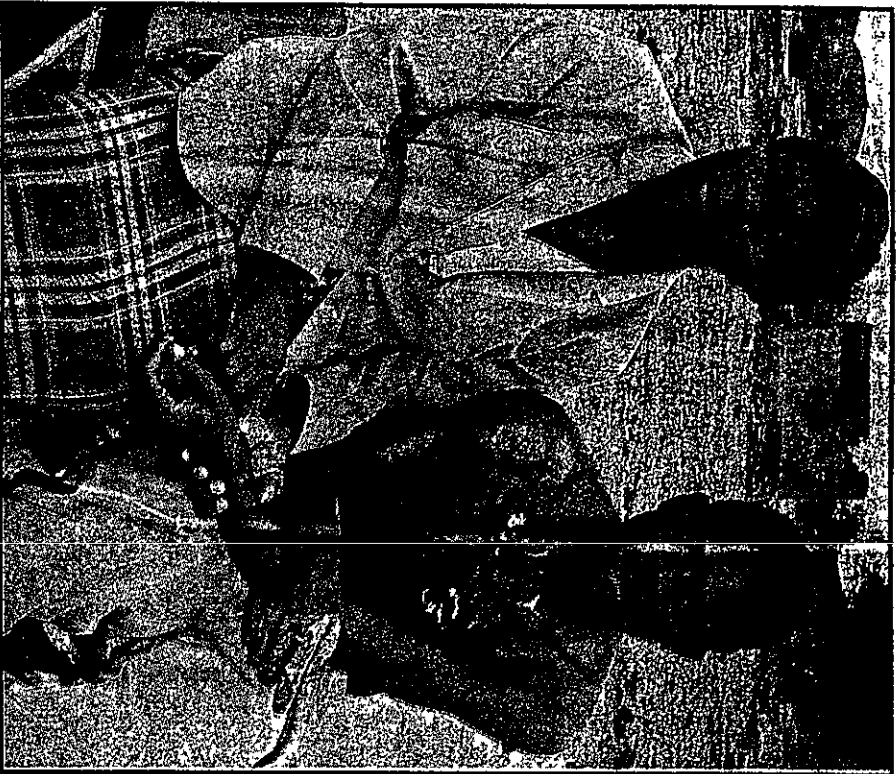
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**HORROR RELIVED...** Frank Mukwathi at home with his mother, Johanna Lefoka. Right, Mukwathi recreates the ordeal in which a farmer bound him in chains before welding him to a workbench. He was then doused with petrol and set alight. (AP Press: SIPHWE MHLAMSI)

## R40 000 'not enough'

**FRANK** Mukwathi might soon be the richest person in the impoverished village of Tshituni — but he doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

This week Mukwathi, 14, was awarded R40 000 damages by a Messina magistrate after his ordeal at the hands of an enraged farmer, John Van Deventer.

Mukwathi was bound in chains which were welded to a work bench. He was then set alight.

His story hit the headlines throughout the country, highlighting the plight of farm workers at the hands of their employers.

With a *yeen* smile, Mukwathi told City Press the money was "okay, but not enough".

He said: "It is better than nothing because this is the worst thing that ever happened to me."

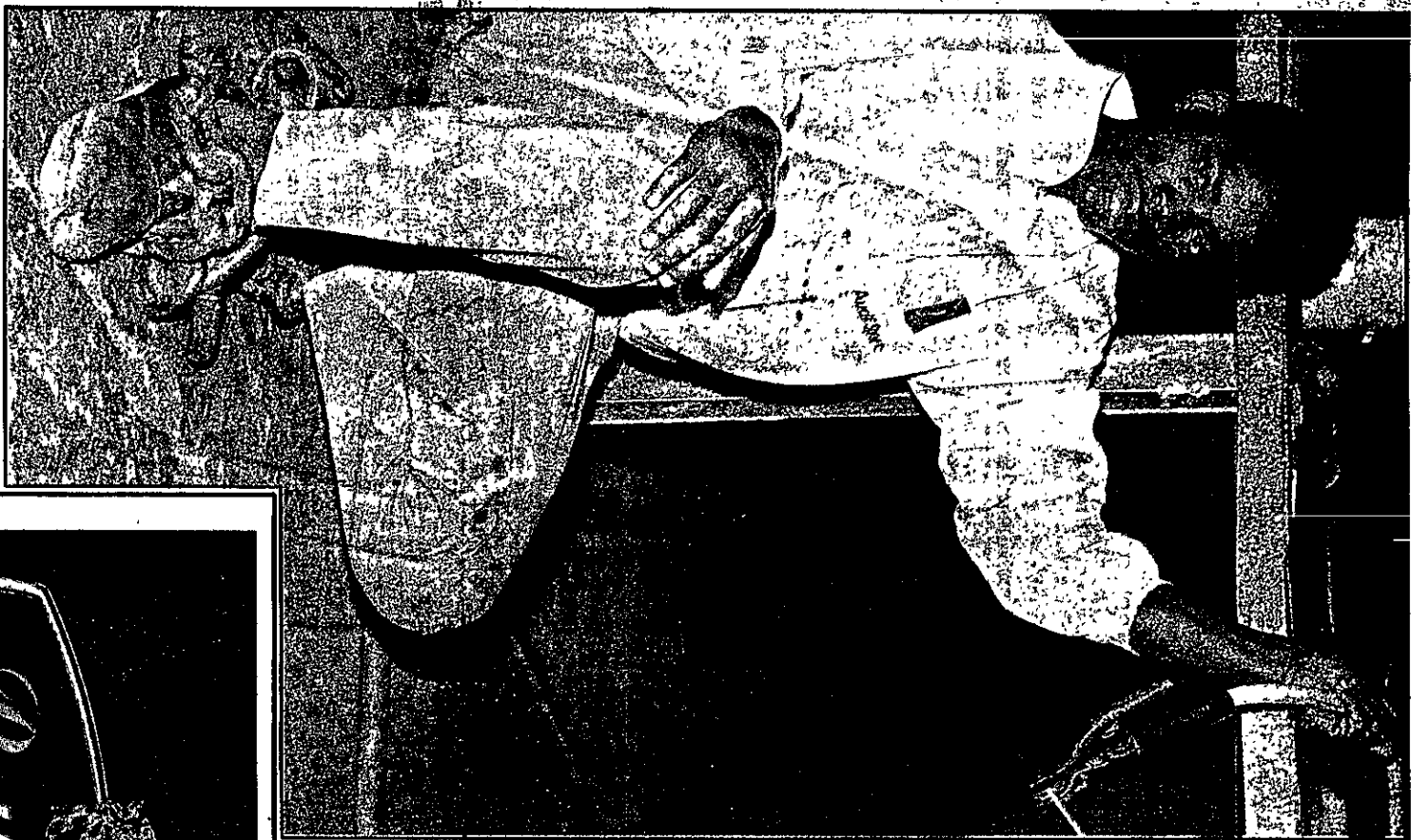
The court heard that although Van Deventer earned R2 000 a month as

manager of the farm, his only asset was his tractor cycle. (4)

In another apparently racist attack in Messina, a City Press team covering Frank's story was attacked without reason at a Messina hotel.

Reporter Morwabisi Nomadolo and photographer Siphwe Mhlambi were assaulted for chatting to, and sharing a drink with, a white man.

■ See pages 4, 5





# Start farm law now - Louw

SP welter 11/10/91  
THE sooner labour legis-  
lation was introduced to  
the agricultural sector  
with the greatest degree of  
consensus, the better the  
chance of such legislation  
withstanding the test of  
time and promoting  
harmonious labour rela-  
tions.

This was said by the  
Minister of Manpower,  
Mr. Eli Louw, yesterday  
when opening an agricul-  
tural labour conference in  
Klerksdorp.

Louw said legislation  
should not disturb current  
relations between farmers  
and their workers.

It would however bring  
about a more professional  
basis for the relations,  
which would have  
specific advantages for  
the employer, the employ-  
ee and agriculture.

In the labour relations  
field one was not just  
working with commercial  
goods but with people, he  
said.

It was an economic  
reality that a well-trained  
and knowledgeable  
worker was an asset to an  
employer, the minister  
said. - Sapa

# DARK DAYS FOR FISHING FOLK AS 2 000 FACE RETRENCHMENT

THE rapid deterioration of the fishing industry will leave up to 2 000 workers jobless by the end of this year — and there are no short-term solutions.

The country will lose millions of rands on the export market as crayfish catches decrease and entire West Coast villages — dependent on the sea for their economic livelihood — could be reduced to "ghost towns".

Last year a large number of workers were retrenched at Lamberts Bay and several smaller factories, such as Sandy Point at St Helena Bay, closed down completely.

But the panic began in March when the Saldanha Bay Canning Company, one of the oldest factories in the town, announced retrenchments.

The factory will close down most of its operations by the end of the year, leaving close to 300 workers jobless.

The Food and Allied Workers Union said the government had mismanaged fish resources.

Fawu organiser, Ms Shihnam Appolles, said over-fishing, fishing of juvenile crayfish and inadequate limits had been set on foreign trawlers entering South African waters.

She said the legislation regarding drift-net fishing had not been enforced and agents on the docks were helping foreign vessels to renege.

In a memorandum to the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Penaar, Fawu demanded that South African shipping or other agents who supply drift-net vessels should be subject to the same penalties as the vessel owners themselves.

Environmental groups supporting Fawu's campaign on marine resources said drift-net fishing could not be blamed as the sole factor in the deterioration of the fishing industry. However, such

fishing was responsible for upsetting the marine ecosystem by literally "strip-mining" the ocean.

At a meeting with unions and environmentalists, Mr Penaar said he was looking into means to make legislation stricter around the use of drift-nets.

Recent findings of the Research Institute of the Department of Fisheries suggest that fish and crayfish shortages were due to a gap in the sea's food chain.

Plankton on which anchovies feed, have seriously declined. Banks of mussels which crayfish feed on have been stripped bare. The result was that crayfish were growing slowly this year.

The response of the various interest groups to the crisis indicate that there were clearly no short-term solutions.

The government has agreed to avail an official of the Environmental Affairs Department to be part of

a working group to be set up by the unionists to monitor the enforcement of anti-drift net legislation as well as other relevant matters.

It has further committed itself to arrange through the Department of Foreign Affairs, a convention for the South Atlantic to discuss, among other things, the drift-net issue.

The union has called on the state to tax fish companies' profits to create an insurance fund for the thousands of workers who face retrenchments or drastically reduced earnings.

These demands were reinforced at Fawu's National Fish Conference in April where workers from fishing villages as far afield as Namagaland met to adopt a ten-point plan of action. Present too were workers from the fish factories of Port Elizabeth and the Transvaal.

They decided to call a joint meeting with employers across the industry to discuss their future.

# After 49 years, Hester Basson is told to pack up and leave

ST Times 13/10/91  
CM  
4

BY ZUBEIDA JAFFER

THERE are dark days ahead for fish worker Hester Basson. After serving the industry for 49 years, she will be one of many who will lose their jobs at the end of this year.

She was 13 years old when she entered the Saldanha Bay Canning Company — a barefooted young girl with her overalls hanging down to her ankles.

As the crisis in South Africa's fishing industry reaches critical proportions, "her company" — one of the oldest in the West Coast town of Saldanha Bay — will be closing down most of its operations, leaving her and nearly 300 others — mainly women — unemployed.

Life has been hard for this mother of seven but never as hard as it has been in the past few months when she sometimes worked for only four hours a week — some weeks earning a paltry R15.

## Quotas

She does not recall a time when fish was as scarce.

Up to two thousand workers in the fishing villages along the West Coast are expected to be jobless by the end of the year as the government drastically reduces fishing quotas.

The remaining 5 000 employees in the industry face short-time and lowered earnings.

For Hester Basson, things have never been as hard.

"Fish used to be in abundance. We got fish to eat but now we cannot carry a fish-bone out of the factory," she said.

"We helped to build this factory. When we were youngsters we carried buckets of water on our heads from the tanks into the factory."

She does not expect to be paid out much when retrenched.

"We are nothing in their eyes. I am just a small zero."

"If one thinks deeply, there is something that is not right," she said.

## House

There was a time when she lived in a house provided by the factory. She paid no rent.

Then the area was declared a white area, the factory houses demolished and the workers moved into council houses where they had to pay rent.

Being the oldest worker in the factory, she has established herself over many years. The rent which she pays to the council qualifies her to eventually own her house. She is one of the few in the fishing village who



HESTER BASSON  
'We built factory'

has had electricity installed in her home. This is not provided by the local authority.

An old-age pension will help her survive once her eight weeks' retrenchment pay has been used up.

Her co-workers are younger and less established. Some are taking their children out of school in the hope that they could find some work to supple-

ment the family income. Others spend the little money they have on drink.

When times were better, they worked a full week and earned between R167 and R180.

As the crisis in the industry deepens, these women fear "their Saldanha Bay" will become a "ghost town".

For those few families who have their own little boats, there is still some way out. They sell their catch among the community and earn a few cents.

But for the vast majority, there are virtually no other work possibilities.

Agitated workers wondered whether they should blame the sea, human greed or government mismanagement.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) was less uncertain about the causes.

Contributory factors include the lack of adequate legislation against gill-net fishing, little control over foreign vessels fishing in South African waters and mismanagement of the fish quota system over the years, resulting in over-fishing, the union said.

Taiwanese trawlers, said trade unionist Gertrude Myburgh, hauled in fish in their gill-nets and then tossed that which they did not require back into the sea. By then, the unwanted fish had already died, she said.

The government had also not put a stop to the catching of juvenile crayfish, resulting in a depletion of the crayfish resource. The country stood to lose millions of rands in export trade.

## Cause

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar has denied that the crisis in the industry had been caused by over-fishing.

He said the cause was probably unfavourable environmental conditions.

Foreign vessels, particularly from Japan and Taiwan, he said, fished tuna sporadically in South African waters, but from this year, only 90 Japanese and 30 Taiwanese trawlers would be allowed into South African waters.

He said Japan had been told its fishing in South African waters was being phased out.



JOBLESS ... some of the West Coast fishermen who have been retrenched  
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

# Farm workers 'are better off'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Large numbers of farm workers were far better off than workers in the metropolitan areas, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said at the weekend.

Speaking at the "mealie farmers of the year" banquet in Johannesburg, he said when peaceful rural living conditions with no transport problems in getting to and from work were taken into account, it could pertinently be asked whether farm work had not become more attractive than work in urban areas.

Stressing the importance of the mealie industry as a source of employment, Van Niekerk said farmers were only part of an industry on which more than a million people depended for a living.

A downturn in the industry would have a direct impact on the lives and survival of many families.

And unless substantial financial aid was forthcoming, the area plant-

ed to maize in the new season could shrink by between one and two thirds to about two million hectares, Nampo sources said last week.

The sources claim it is unlikely that government will agree to provide "last gasp" farmers with guarantees needed to get loans from co-ops for planting new crops.

They pointed out that if, on top of the smaller area planted to maize, the crop runs into climatic difficulties, a harvest of less than five-million tons could result.

This would mean large quantities would need to be imported to meet the 6,4-million-ton domestic need.

Last week a joint appeal was made by Nampo and the Free State and Transvaal Agricultural Unions for urgent additional aid. It was claimed that one in 10 summer grain farmers had gone to the wall.

B (Daw) 14/10/79

# Income tax 'theft' alleged by W Coast fishermen

Southern

By Rehana Rossouw

17/10 - 23/10/91

FISHERMEN from towns on the west coast are demanding that thousands of rands deducted from their salaries as tax but not reflected on their IRP5 forms be returned to them.

The West Coast Fishermen's Union, representing 1 200 fishermen in Saldanha Bay, Laiplek, St Helena Bay and Stompneusbaai, allege the money was "stolen" from their impoverished members.

Mr Thomas Cupido, a fisherman for 18 years and executive member for the union, said members were em-

ployed by skippers contracted by manufacturing companies to catch their quota of fish.

Their salaries, which varied from month to month depending on the catch, were paid by the skippers of the boats who acted as "middlemen" for the company.

"When we received our IRP5 forms in April this year, we discovered they did not tally with our payslips," said Cupido.

"Some of our members discovered that only half of the money deducted in tax was reflected on the IRP5s."

Mr Benjamin Appel found his IRP5 reflected that R 1 06,19 was deducted in the past tax year, while his payslip

during the same period showed R3943,38 was deducted. The remaining R2837,19 was unaccounted for.

Mr John Fredericks found R1254,88 not accounted for. His IRP5 showed R 3 011,16 deducted while his payslip indicated that R 1 756,28 was deducted in tax.

Cupido said the union approached the skipper of the Jacobrose, Mr André Strydom, who employed some of the fishermen who had problems with their tax.

Strydom referred them to the Receiver of Revenue's offices in Bellville and a delegation of fishermen, armed with proof of their tax

deductions, went to sort out their problems.

"The Revenue officials sent inspectors to Saldanha Bay but so far there has been no comeback."

Cupido said the union was angry that its members had been "cheated" of thousands of Rands and that there had been no prosecution of the people responsible. "During the past year some of our members have lost their homes, had their water and electricity cut and their furniture and cars repossessed," he said.

Appel, who claims he has lost more than R2000 in accounted tax deductions, said he was tired of waiting for the problem to be sorted out.

He said he was unsure whether it was the skipper of the Jacobrose or his accountant who was responsible.

"I lost my job during the year when the Jacobrose was drydocked," Appel said. "Since then I've been struggling to make ends meet. With an extra R2000 I might not have struggled so much."

A spokesperson for the Receiver of Revenue, Mr Johannes Smalberger, said the fishermen were unduly concerned as his office had launched an intensive investigation into their problem.

"I'm sure it will be sorted out soon — they must not worry, we have the situation under control."

## Farmers reject labour laws

6/10/91  
17/10/91

GERALD REILLY

(4)

PRETORIA Organised agriculture's rejection of the application of the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act to the industry will be firmly restated at the SA Agricultural Union's congress in Durban next week.

The congress will also be asked to reject the Basic Conditions of Employment Act unless significant amendments are agreed to. Farmers are concerned that the laws will "disrupt the traditional peace and sound labour relations which have always existed on SA farms".

Most SAAU unions will stress the need to slow or stop the deterioration of the physical and social infrastructure of rural areas.

# The right environment can create jobs. Or will it?

w/mail 18/10 - 24/10/91

(4) (102) (103)

EITHER we lose jobs. Or we lose the environment.

There's a temptation to sum up the great ecology debate with those two simple opposites.

But a recent *Worldwatch* paper, "Jobs in a Sustainable Economy" by Michael Renner, argues that the ever-changing interplay between jobs and the environment is far too complex to be reduced to slogans.

He throws up interesting points for economic debate.

However, the paper itself makes some questionable assumptions economists will associate with followers of the free lunch approach to economics.

Renner's thesis is the movement towards an environmentally sustainable global economy will create far more jobs than it eliminates.

"Less damaging ways of producing, consuming, and disposing of goods are consistent with the goal of full employment because they tend to be more labour intensive."

He goes on to say that governments will have to show the way. A host of government policies both encourage pollution and discourage job creation, he says. "By shifting the tax burden away from labour and toward capital and energy, job creation can be spurred."

South Africans are familiar with the perennial problem of drive towards high productivity costing bigger and bigger lumps of capital without creating more jobs. Capital productivity in South Africa is worse than labour productivity, a common scapegoat for our economic problems. The West reflects the same phenomenon.

Renner's observation that high unemployment stems from the same economic choices that cause industries to destroy the environment deserves some attention. He contends the quest for labour productivity lies at the root of structural unemployment as well as unsustainable levels of resource use and environmental destruction.

But he arrives at this conclusion by defining labour productivity increases as the substitution of capital and energy for human labour. This is not the only definition. Labour productivity can be increased in two ways. Either you can cut the number of la-

The link between economic growth and environmental conservation is complex enough to cause plenty of confusion. A new study offers some excellent arguments for going green — and a few rather dubious ones.

**REG RUMNEY** reports

bourers producing X number of widgets or the same number of labourers produce more than X widgets in the same amount of time. The second option may use more energy and capital — but it doesn't lose jobs.

Looking too narrowly at the interplay between capital and labour also creates a misconception.

Take an example closer to home, such as the pending Columbus Stainless Steel project. The project only creates 1 500 jobs for a cost of up to R3-billion. Moreover, the production of stainless steel is the kind of necessarily polluting, materials-intensive technology Renner would probably want the world to move away from.

"If environmental degradation is to be reversed we're talking about much bigger economic changes than 'tailpipe' controls like smokestack scrubbers — we're talking about fundamental changes in the way products are manufactured, used, and disposed of."

Renner goes on to argue that the mainstream industries of manufacturing, transportation, and energy will undergo pronounced change and create substantial new employment opportunities as they restructure every stage of their operations to minimise the input of natural resources and the output of pollution.

"Just as automobiles, synthetic chemistry, and throw-away products have characterised life during much of the 20th century, so will the features of a sustainable economy — energy efficient appliances and homes, bike paths, solar power plants, and recycling centres — reshape life in the 21st."

However, Renner fails to address the role of materials production in the industrial life of any country. The Columbus project, for example, will

benefit South Africa in earning much needed foreign exchange. Whether it should be subsidised by the taxpayer is another issue. And yet to be proved is that the availability of stainless steel will spur downstream production of value added products, for example, surgical instruments. Nonetheless, without foreign exchange we would have to borrow to buy the stainless steel to produce those products.

So South Africa is faced with a seemingly intractable problem. Labour-intensive projects are desirable, but they may not be internationally competitive. However, internationally competitive industries will bring in foreign exchange.

For South Africa, where pollution is not yet as much of an issue as the developed world, the question is rather how trends in the developed world will affect us.

Renner contends sustainable technologies such as windpower are not starry-eyed visions of a far-off future. The sceptical response is that if they were commercially attractive, they would already have been adopted.

But let's assume the First World does swing to labour-intensive, earth friendly industries like recycling and away from steel and chemicals production. That will hand the developing countries a gift in the form of new opportunities to build such plants. While products are becoming less materials intensive, cars, for example, still need metal, plastic and glass.

In effect, the First World will be exporting pollution abroad, just as electric cars shift pollution from cities to the power stations.

Clearly, this will help cut down on noxious emissions at home but will leave intact the greenhouse effect.

Renner seems aware of this in arguing that the world community must work "co-operatively to create new industries that will both enhance the environment and provide millions of rewarding new jobs".

Quite how this will be done is not explained, for Renner's focus is on the industrialised countries. But it sheds light on the difficulties of grand plans to combat pollution, especially those that involve international effort.

# 72 die in Natal in one week

THE Human Rights Commission on Wednesday said 72 people were killed and 88 others injured in "vigilante" attacks in Natal and the PWV region in the six days from October 7-13. *Sowetan 18/10/91*

In its latest weekly "repression" report, the Johannesburg monitoring group also said three people were killed, 16 injured and 80 others arrested throughout the country in that period.

And the situation in Bophuthatswana remained unchanged, with 43 political prisoners still on hunger strike.

One of the protesters, Mr Johannes Simelane, is in an extremely weak condition and cannot speak above a whisper.

The HRC also charged that one person had been injured in the PWV region as a result of what it termed hit-squad activity.

The number of people in detention-without-trial could be four - all in the Transkei. The commission only had confirmation of two, as the homeland authorities had strongly denied holding the others. - *Sapa*

## Cops probe death of farm worker

By MONK NKOMO

POLICE are investigating the death of a 28-year-old man who was shot dead and his brother threatened by their white employer at a plot in Waterkloof, Pretoria, this week. *Sowetan 18/10/91*

Mr Aaron Khwebana was shot in the stomach at point blank range by their boss, who accused him of owing him money and refusing to take instructions, according to his brother, Mr Johannes Khwebana.

Khwebana said he found his younger brother talking with their boss at about 8am. "Aaron told me not to go away because our boss had threatened to shoot him. He did not tell me why," he said.

A spokesman for the police in Verwoerdsburg, yesterday confirmed the incident and said they were investigating. No arrests have been made.

Both men are from Potgietersrus. Aaron had worked for the man for four years.

He is survived by his wife Sophia and four children.

The owner of the plot, who refused to give his name, said yesterday he did not want to talk to the Press.



# Cosatu rejoins govt labour body for talks

B/D ay 8/11/91

FIVE weeks after its withdrawal from the National Manpower Commission (NMC), Cosatu will today join a meeting of the body at which Manpower Minister Eli Louw is expected to announce the extension of labour law to farm workers, and disclose his views on the commission's restructuring.

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said yesterday the federation, together with Nactu, saw the meeting as an opportunity to resolve the disputes and eliminate the obstacles which led to Cosatu's withdrawal on October 1.

Cosatu's walkout was sparked by its perception that Louw was resisting the restructuring of the commission into a more authoritative body, and was delaying the extension of labour law to farm, domestic and public sector workers.

"Our withdrawal was not a matter of principle. However, we did not want to participate further in the NMC until there was a clearer timetable," Naidoo said.

He said while Cosatu was to attend today's meeting with existing commission members, this did not mean it had reversed its withdrawal. Nactu says it has never officially joined the commission.

Naidoo said the commission's work was part of a negotiating process established as a consequence of the tripartite Laboria Minute. "We are committed to that process, and are going into the meeting to try to eliminate obstacles and set about the business of getting better labour legislation. I hope the Minister is coming with a sense of wanting to resolve the problems."

Naidoo said Cosatu did not plan to raise the question of a national economic bar-

ALAN FINE

gaining forum — the crux of this week's stayaway — at today's meeting. The meeting would focus on more easily resolved labour law and commission issues in dispute with the Manpower Minister.

It is understood Louw plans to tell the commission and other participants about a Cabinet decision to put before Parliament legislation for the partial extension of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and the Wage Act to cover farm workers.

The LRA is likely to be extended almost in total. However the commission, in its recommendations published in May, suggested a number of key adjustments to facilitate better labour relations.

It proposed a system of "no-strike" arrangements during peak seasonal farming periods, when disputes should be resolved through compulsory arbitration.

It also recommended the establishment of Small Labour Courts to deal with individual disputes of right; and the drafting of an unfair labour practice code applicable either to agriculture only or to all sectors covered by the Act.

The Wage Act, in terms of which minimum wages and conditions of employment are set for unorganised sectors, is likely to be substantially revised for its application to agriculture.

The commission was split between mostly union parties which wanted the Act to be fully applicable, and those opposed to any setting of minimum standards for agriculture. A middle view held that the Wage Board should make minimum wage recommendations which would not become law but serve as a guide to farmers.

# State 'committed<sup>4</sup> to labour rights in agricultural sector'

SHARON SOROOR, Labour Reporter

THE government is committed to labour rights and is not dragging its feet in enacting labour legislation for the agricultural sector, says Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw.

Expressing his views on the National Manpower Commission proposals on the extension to agriculture of the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act, he said the Cabinet approved in principle the application of both Acts.

Mr Louw emphasised the need for the widest possible consultation and consensus-seeking to accommodate the special circumstances of the sector.

Amendment Bills would be put through parliament as soon as possible.

"The government has an impartial responsibility towards both employers and employees and endorses in principle their basic labour and employer rights in all sectors of the national economy," he said.

Mr Louw accepted the commission's recommendation that there should be provision in the Labour Relations Act for no-strike agreements under certain circumstances between farmers and workers. The agreements should be enforceable.

He said the dispute settlement machinery should provide for more informal and simplified procedures to facilitate the conciliation process.

"It is clear a much simplified and less expensive alternative to the Industrial Court will have to be introduced and the concept of a special court seems acceptable," Mr Louw said.

Mr Louw said the recommendation that the Wage Act be extended with the proviso that its application be delayed for two years after approval by parliament was "reasonable".

He said the inclusion of farmworkers under the Wage Act did not necessarily imply that a wage determination would be applied to agriculture.

HRG 13/11/91

# State under pressure on farmworkers' rights

By DREW FORREST

CONFLICTING pressures on government over the extension of labour laws to agriculture came under the spotlight this week, following its announcement that the Labour Relations Act and Wage Act are to be extended to farmworkers.

Welcoming the Cabinet's decision, the Congress of South African Trade Unions however attacked Manpower Minister Eli Louw's "refusal" to commit himself to amendments next year. This was at odds with the Laboria Minute, in which the government had agreed to "prioritise" new labour law for farm, domestic and state employees, it said.

It also took issue with Louw's pledge to allow further "extensive consultation with interested parties", saying this held out the threat of further delays and made nonsense of broad consultation already undertaken by the Manpower Department and the National Manpower Commission (NMC).

Louw also described as "reasonable" a majority NMC proposal of a two-year delay in implementing the Wage Act in respect of agriculture. Cosatu opposes any delay.

The two most conservative regions of the South African Agricultural Union also attacked the government's pledge to bring farmworkers under the two statutes, but from a very different perspective.

Saying it was "shocked" by the announcement, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said the legislation would "force farmers to rationalise, meaning large-scale dismissal of farmworkers". Food prices would rise and entrepreneurship suffer, it said.

Complaining that the government was proceeding with the amendments despite farmers' "well-formulated objections", the Free State Agricultural Union warned of "a negative effect on the already hard-pressed industry and the consequent estrangement of employers and employees".

ET 2/12/91  
Farm work  
practices (4)  
'need to  
change'

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Human Sciences Research Council has told South Africa's maize farmers that major changes to farm employment practices are needed.

An HSRC study released at the weekend stressed the need for workers' councils, with written employment contracts being the cornerstone of labour relations on farms.

The study was commissioned by the National Maize Producers' Organisation which says that deteriorating production and pressure from organised labour are straining the management and utilisation of farm labour.

The study was carried out among 200 farm workers in the Western Transvaal and Free State.

Respondents indicated that, generally, they were happy in their work, but 60% complained of low wages.

Long hours were the next major grievance, with 11% complaining about this. Only 4% were unhappy about housing conditions and 1% complained of no overtime pay.

# Contracts for farm labourers urged

Biday 2/12/91

4

PRETORIA — The Human Sciences Research Council has told maize farmers that major changes to farm employment practices are needed.

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Long hours was the next major grievance, with 11% complaining about this. Only 4% were unhappy about housing conditions and 1% complained of no overtime pay.

About 29% said they did not know how farmers would react to a strike, 25% thought farmers would negotiate, and 14% thought farmers would beat or shoot strikers. Five percent said farmers would call in police.

The HSRC reported an important area for action was instituting formal service contracts and disciplinary codes. The investigation found only 20% of workers had written employment contracts, although more than three-quarters believed a written contract was a good idea.

Almost 75% of respondents' remuneration consisted of a cash and kind component and a majority favoured this form of payment.

GERALD REILLY

Eighty percent received fringe benefits such as transport, medical facilities, credit facilities, housing and drinking water close to their houses, and 68% were willing to discuss their grievances with their boss. Only 19% knew what a trade union was and the remainder, after having the purpose of a union explained to them, thought they could serve a useful purpose.

The biggest advantage, they believed, was that unions could negotiate improved wages and work conditions.

Nearly half the respondents said they would strike if necessary and 30% indicated they would strike for higher wages.

It was found that most farmworkers had low educational levels and 36% had had no formal training. Only 4% had passed Standard 6 or higher.

The survey found 33% of respondents were older than 50 and only 26% had attended training courses. Eighty-four percent believed training would make them more efficient.

The responses generally indicated respondents had "no grievances worth mentioning" except for low wages and long hours of work.

A big majority (88%) preferred the combined package, while 13% favoured being paid in cash only.

Harvest bonuses, either as cash or produce, were received by 72% of respondents.

# HSRC wants better law for farmworkers

Sowetan 3/12/91

(4)

**WORKERS' councils, written employment contracts and labour relations procedures should be introduced on farms, the Human Sciences Research Council has recommended.**

These were among the main recommendations made by the HSRC's Human Resources Strategies Division that investigated farmworkers' perceptions of labour perceptions, in

accordance with a National Maize Producers' Organisation brief.

Research among 200 male farm workers in the Western Transvaal and the Orange Free State indicated that they regarded free housing as the best fringe benefit, but were dissatisfied with their low wages.

The division said that workers' councils should be implemented on farms where they did not exist.

The investigation found

that only 20 percent of the respondents had entered into written employment contracts with their employers. More than 75 percent thought that a written contract would be a good idea.

Only 19 percent of the respondents knew what a trade union was, while 48 percent knew what strike was and 45 percent said they would strike if necessary.

Thirty percent said they would strike for higher wages. - Sapa

# 'Bound' farm worker dies after beating

South 5/12-11/12/91  
By Thoraya Pandey (4)

AN EYE WITNESS watched helplessly as a farm worker whose hands and feet were bound was allegedly beaten by two white foremen this week.

"I shut my eyes every time he screamed for help while they were beating and kicking him," an eye witness told SOUTH following the savage beating of Mr Andries Simons 36.

Andrew Simons, 18, son of the deceased, said he last saw his father alive on Sunday night when the foremen, known to him as Peter and Harry, told him to leave them alone with his father.

"My father came looking for me at a friend's place and ordered me to go home.

"He was very drunk and when I told him to leave we got into a heated argument," said Simons.

"I started running away from him, with my friend following behind."

He said it was at that point when the foreman, Peter, came on to the scene with his bakkie and "told us to get inside".

"He drove to Harry's place and after Harry smacked my father in the face, Peter told me to leave them alone.

"My father did not come home Sunday evening but I wasn't worried because Harry told me the next morning he sent my father to Durbanville police station to sober up," said Simons.

He started to panic when his father failed to return home by Monday and became suspicious when Harry asked him if his father had returned home.

On Tuesday Simons was informed by Mr George Cupido, a shop steward for the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), that his father was in Tygerberg Hospital.

"I took my mother to the hospital on Tuesday but then we were informed he had died on Monday at 5pm," Simons said.

A spokesperson at Tygerberg Hospital said Simons was admitted at 3am



**GRIEVING SON:** Mr Andrew Simons, 18, was told by the foremen to leave his father with them  
PIC: YUNUS MOHAMED

on Monday and was brought in by the police.

Police were not available for comment.

Simons, a father of five, was the main breadwinner in the family, with his son doing odd jobs on the farm.

Fawu spokesperson Mr Mansoor Jaffer said: "Preliminary information at our disposal on the death of one of our members is extremely

disconcerting. When an apparently healthy 36-year-old man dies in hospital less than 20 hours after being involved in an incident on the farm, it raises suspicion," said Jaffer.

"Fawu will leave no stone unturned in unravelling the truth and we are firm in our resolve to put an end to deaths on farms in which workers often die in mysterious circumstances," he added.

# Cops probe murder after worker dies (4)

By AYESHA ISMAIL

POLICE have opened a murder docket after the death of a Durbanville stud farm worker who was allegedly assaulted by a foreman.

Witnesses claimed Mr Andries Simons, 36, was assaulted by the foreman while his brother helped to tie Mr Simons with a rope before calling the police.

Police spokesman Major Hendrick Opperman said Mr Visser at the Braams Stud Farm had asked the police on Sunday to arrest Mr Simons for allegedly being drunk.

The police took Mr Simons to Durbanville police station where the policeman on duty refused to arrest him.

The police took Mr Simons to Tygerberg hospital where he died the next day. A murder docket has been opened but no arrests have been made yet, Major Opperman said.

Mr Simons worked on the farm for five years.

He leaves his wife, Janie, and five children, including a 10-month-old baby.

A spokesperson for the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), Mr Ben Sizani, said the union had instructed lawyers to investigate the matter.

Mr Simons will be buried on Tuesday.

Several attempts to contact Mr Visser were unsuccessful.

11/11/91  
S. SIMONS



# Labourers to stay

By S'BU MNGADI

CP/ren 5/12/91 (4)

FIFTEEN Natal labour-tenant families, threatened with eviction by a Muden farmer, have won a major victory after a bitter eight-month dispute.

The dispute, marked by violence, impounding of livestock, burning of grazing land and a series of charges and counter-charges, ended this week when the families were granted the right to remain on the land.

The Association for Rural Advancement believes the case highlights the urgent need to address the plight of thousands of labour tenants and farm-workers.

"They occupy farms with no security of tenure and are ignored by the government's present land reform programme and the ANC's proposed Bill of Rights."

The dispute was resolved in an out-of-court settlement in which Muden farmer Peter Channing agreed to give the families a two-year lease on the land with an option to buy.

"I'm not happy with the settlement, but it's a way of making peace," said Channing.

Afra, which together with the Weenen-based Church Agricultural Project assisted the families, said the settlement has wide implications.

# Farmworkers live like pigs



MISERABLE... Workers on this farm live in squalid conditions and claim they are badly treated.

CP Correspondent

"RESPASSERS will be shot" reads the grim warning sign at the entrance to a pig farm in Philippi on the Cape Flats in Cape Town.

Nestled against a viaduct, the farm appears scenic from the roadside but the inside story is anything but picturesque.

More than 100 men and women live in dilapidated living quarters and black and coloured workers are separated into different hostels.

The black hostel is dank and gloomy. Workers and their families are crammed into rooms which can barely accommodate bunk beds.

The communal kitchen is a grimy-centrised space where food is cooked over open fires. Pools of sewage surround the outside toilet block. The hostel has no washing facilities and workers

**12-hour days, squalor, beatings**

carry drinking water from the farmhouse about a kilometre away. The viaduct serves as a laundry.

These squalid living conditions pull in the faces of the workers' allegations about their working conditions.

The workers claim they work seven days a week from 7.30 in the morning until as late as 8 pm. They say the farmer regularly enforces discipline with beatings and assaults.

"We can't fight back because we need the money," said one worker. The workers say they have little faith in the

ability of a union to improve their lot. "We joined one but nothing happened," said one old man.

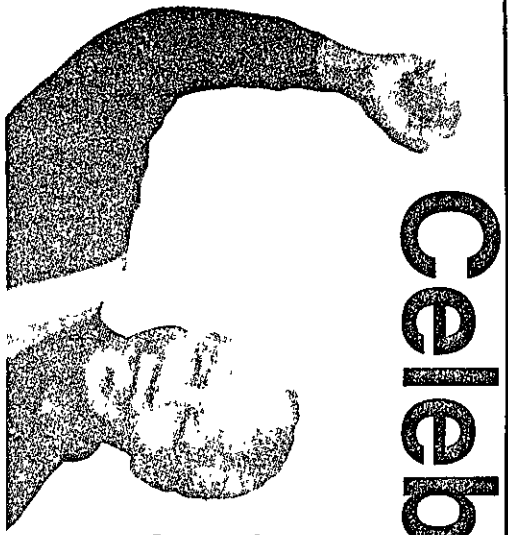
The workers claim they do not earn enough to afford medical care. The farmer refused to comment.

According to field workers, stories of vicious assaults, brutality and feudal working conditions are common in the area.

"We have held some meetings with these workers but many are afraid to join a union," said Mona Pieterse, an organiser for the Farmworkers' Project run by the Food and Allied Workers' Union.

She said some farmers had improved their labour relations policies, but the notorious "dop system" was still used.

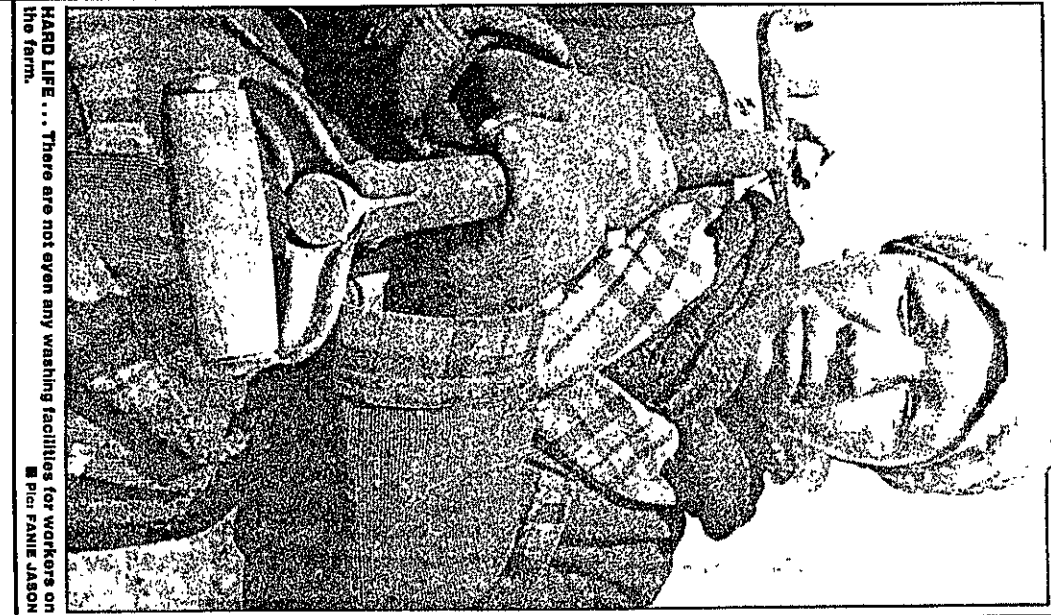
"Changes in labour legislation mean little to the farmers. Most are saying they will continue in the old ways," she said.



## Celebrate with us!

### 80th anniversary of the ANC

On January 8 1992 the African National Congress launches in



HARD LIFE... There are not even any washing facilities for workers on the farm. Pic: FANIE JASON

Special Correspondent

AN elderly man this week testified in the Ventersdorp magistrate's court that AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche repeatedly slapped him after Terre'Blanche came to see him about sheep that were allegedly stolen.

William Mashiya, 71, said Terre'Blanche spoke calmly to him before he became "wild". Terre'Blanche grabbed him and throttled him, giving him "many slaps" and threw him on a fence.

Terre'Blanche, of Roth Street, Ventersdorp, pleaded not guilty to three charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, four charges of assault and a charge of malicious damage to property.

Terre'Blanche was dressed in a neat grey suit. He was accompanied by his brother, Andries.

His appearance stems from incidents on March 9 on the farm Klipplaatdrif which belongs to

# 'Wild' ET beat us up, says old man

farmer Koos le Roux.

Seven blacks, among them Mashiya, his grandson Albert, 14, and his daughter Evelyn, were allegedly assaulted.

Another black man, Louis Karong, was allegedly hit with a piece of corrugated iron over the head on the same afternoon, while three women, Doreen Sebotho, Margaret Visagie and Angelina Mōthobi, were allegedly slapped.

The charge of malicious damage to property stems from damage of about R220 to Masiya's furniture.

Mashiya testified that

he, his family and friends, were gathered in front of his house at about 4 pm on the afternoon of March 9 when a bakkie with Terre'Blanche and another man stopped at the house.

Terre'Blanche told him to put his hands in the air. He took Mashiya around the house and throttled and hit him. He also kneed him in the chest before throwing him against the fence, Mashiya said.

"There was blood" and his shirt was torn. Terre'Blanche then entered the house and scattered household goods."

20/09  
4

c/pres 8/12/91

# White gangs

By JOCELYN MAKER

**WHEN darkness falls over Marble Hall in the Eastern Transvaal black residents fear for their lives.**

It is after nightfall, they say, that groups of whites attack them if they are found in town or walking at the roadside.

Racial tension is mounting in the CP stronghold, where almost every road sign is daubed with stickers and slogans which read Eie Volk, Eie Land, and Geen Vrede Sonder Vryheid.

The town's white leaders say they know nothing about night attacks on anyone and are not aware of any tension between the race groups.

Yet on Monday morning four white officials from Waterberg Security and a provincial administration worker appeared in the Grobiersdal magistrate's court in connection with the killing last weekend of two black men.

Mr Johannes Lodewikus du Plessis, 29, Mr Fanie du Plessis, 26, Mr Douglas Swart, 29, Mr Hermanus Duvenhage, 24, and Mr John van Heerden were each released on R1 000 bail.

Their appearance arose from the alleged abduction last Friday night of three black men from a Marble Hall shopping centre. They were forced into a bakkie. One man was able to escape, breaking a leg in the process, before the other two were killed and their bodies dumped at the Arable Dam.

## Boycott

The local ANC leader Mr Bright Selo Mashego, 34, and the Leeuwfontein village community are planning a consumer boycott in retaliation.

"The CP town council does not want to talk to us and the police do nothing when we report the assaults," Mr Mashego said.

"The whites in Marble Hall are taking violent action against us when it is dark. They are assaulting people in front of cafes and on the side of the road. We are terrified.

"We are not safe in this town. These white gangs are well armed, and our people have said they have seen revolvers and rifles.

"Gardeners are suffering most. Some whites employ them for a day's work and then refuse to pay them. Often they are beaten while they are working.

"It's a racist town with

# in reign of terror

S/Times 8/12/91

4



**SCEPTIC:** CP chairman Louw de Beer, who is 'not aware of tension' Picture: COBUS BODENSTEIN

## Blacks plan economic boycott after three die in horror killings

many rightwing farmers who do not care about blacks. Many pay appalling wages and expect their labourers to work long hours.

"They pay them between R2 and R3,50 a day and expect them to work in all weather. Marble Hall and the surrounding farming community refuse to accept changes in South

Africa.

"If we are found wearing T-shirts with political slogans we are beaten up. I was attacked and thrown out of the town for wearing a Cosatu tracksuit. I reported it to the police."

Mr Mashego said the consumer boycott committee would be drawing up a list of demands this week which would be handed to

the town council.

The local CP chairman, Mr Louw de Beer, said he did not believe white gangs were attacking blacks.

"I do not think the killings at the dam were political. I am good to my farm labourers and do not have any trouble. If blacks are being attacked it's a matter for the police. They must report these incidents.

"If the blacks want a boycott they can have one. It will not work. I am not aware of any racial tension."

Despite last weekend's murders, few people in the town acknowledge that there is racial tension.

## Customers

One of the few, Mrs Marietjie van Zyl, a furniture-shop manageress, said she had heard from black customers that people were being attacked in the town and on farm roads.

A petrol-pump attendant said he feared for his life when he had to serve a vehicle occupied by more than one white man at night.

"I do not want anyone to know my name. The white men will find me and I will be killed. I know the young white men from the farms ride around town looking for black people to attack."

A police spokesman said some incidents of assault on blacks by whites had been reported.

He denied that little was being done in cases that were reported.

# BLACK TENANTS GET STAKE IN GAME FARM

By RYAN CRESSWELL

A NATAL farmer has struck a deal with his black tenant labourers which will enable them to buy land in his game farm business.

It is believed to be the first agreement of its kind and it could become a model for solving conflict between farmers and tenants who have a traditional right to live on the land.

The 15 Zulu families living on Gannahoek farm near Colenso faced eviction from the land they occupied since 1854 before it was granted to a white.

The family heads were

originally prosecuted after they refused to move to the resettlement townships of Waaiohoek or Ezakheni.

But the farm recently changed hands and the new owner, Mr Dave Albers, decided to ignore advice to "evict" the families.

Mr Albers, a Johannesburg businessman, said: "We were told it was impossible to develop a game farm with kraals and dogs on it and we would have to evict these people."

"We then received appeals and I changed my

mind, so we sat down to talk. It is a challenge and at 51 years of age I will be happy to make this my last big project. These people are amazing."

Mr Albers said the agreement was that the tenants would sell cattle to raise a deposit of R100 000 for a 511 hectare piece of the farm and would then have to pay off another R175 000.

## Afraid

Mr Albers said the families would also be minor shareholders in the business and would work on the game farm and make handcrafted goods for export to Britain and the US.

Local induna Mr Mbhekiseni Mabaso, 60, said: "Mr Albers is different from other farmers because he is the first to let workers buy land."

Mr Mabaso said the apolitical community was afraid of moving to the townships because they would be regarded as Inkatha supporters and could become embroiled in a fight with the ANC.

By Thoraya Pandey

# Private autopsy for 'beaten' farmworker

South 12/12 - 18/12/11

A FARMWORKER allegedly beaten to death two weeks ago was buried on Tuesday but his family is going ahead with plans for a private autopsy.

Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) organiser Mr Ben Sizani said a private autopsy on Mr Andries Simons, who died in hospital last Monday, has been scheduled for January next year.

This decision, according to Sizani, follows the "mysterious circumstances surrounding Simons' death." An eye-witness told SOUTH last week how he watched helplessly

while two white foremen tied Simons up and started to beat him.

"He screamed desperately for help but they just continued hitting and kicking him," the witness said.

Police liaison officer Major Hendrick Opperman confirmed Simons was bound when police arrived on the scene about 15 minutes later.

Opperman said Simons, because of his drunken behaviour, was taken to the Durbanville Police Station at about 3:45pm on Sunday December 11. "The commanding officer refused

to accept the charges and instructed the arresting officers to take him to Tygerberg Hospital," he said.

"He had a swollen lip, a blue eye and his head was bleeding on arrival at the station," said Opperman.

He died in hospital the next day as a result of a brain haemorrhage caused by a blow to the head, the post-mortem found.

Opperman said he was taken to hospital no more than two hours after being arrested, yet hospital records show he was brought in at 3am Monday morning, nearly 11 hours later.

The police are investigating the matter and no arrests have been made.

Widowed Mrs Jenny Simons said she planned to bring charges against "those responsible" for the death of her husband.

"I cannot understand the reasons behind beating a healthy man to death.

"He was the main breadwinner in the family and I don't know how we're going to survive on my son's monthly earnings of R210," she said.

She said the owner of the farm hinted she should start looking for another place to live.

"I do not have another place to go to, we simply would not be able to afford it."

Fawu spokesperson Mr Mansoor Jaffer said the result of the post-mortem served to confirm information on the deceased was assaulted shortly before his death.

"All indicators are that we are dealing with a kind of callous killing where the life of a black worker means absolutely nothing. We have reason to believe these kinds of killings are commonplace on farms," said Jaffer.

"In the case of Andries Simons, there exists enough evidence for the police to make a quick arrest." Jaffer said the union had to look at strategies to end such brutality.

# NO, WE WON'T GO

BY MONWABISI  
NOMADOLO

"I WOULD rather be shot in the face than leave this farm," says labourer 66-year-old Gabriel Molotsi.

He is one of a group of defiant workers who have been told to leave next month because the farm is going to be sold.

Meanwhile parts of the farm, near Springs, have been leased to two white farmers and only a few of the workers have been asked to stay on. The rest say they face starvation.

## This is the <sup>(4)</sup> land we know

APRIL 15/1991

said, they employ more than 40 000 workers.

Some of the workers have already left and settled in squatter camps in Daveyton and Watville.

They complained that they were poorly compensated. Some of them received "absolutely nothing".

Most of the older workers told City Press they started working on the farm in the late 1950s and 60s.

Phillimon Skosana, 61, said he started working for the Luries 25 years ago after leaving Delmas. He has nine children.

"I will be difficult for me to get a pension now. Who will employ me at my age?" he asked.

However he was prepared to leave the house he built on the farm and build a shack in one of the many squatter areas in Daveyton. "But I will destroy my home before I



**KICKED OFF . . . These farmworkers have lived and worked on this land all their lives. Now they have lost their jobs and must leave their homes.**

■ Pic: SIPHWE MHLAMBI

leave," he said.

He said he was paid a monthly wage of between R60 and R100 in the 25 years he worked on the farm. Rations were, pap and beans.

Another labourer, Johannes Maphumelo, said he was not prepared to leave as he had no-

where to go.

"I have worked here all my life," he said.

Molotsi, who could not remember how many children he had, said he didn't have the strength to start life somewhere else, after "working himself to death".

Owner Jeffrey Lurie

said he was upset by what was happening, but the farm was insolvent and there was nothing he could do.

"It is up to the juguda- tors now," he said.

"The workers were told in May to leave the farm by September, but on humanitarian grounds they

were allowed to stay until January.

He said he hoped most of them would get jobs, and some of them would be retrained.

A group, calling itself the Farm and Rural Inhabitants' Association has promised to do what it can to assist the workers.

AGRICULTURE - ~~THE~~ LABOUR

1992



# Wine producers agree to protect workers' rights

ESANN VAN RENSBURG  
Staff Reporter

A COMPREHENSIVE plan to protect the rights of farmworkers has been signed by more than 95 percent of KWV cellars and individual wine producers.

Announcing this at the wine industry controlling body's AGM yesterday, KWV chairman Mr Pietman Hugo said those who had signed the Manpower Code would now actively help the Rural Foundation implement it.

The code states the right to "reasonable remuneration and service benefits" and aims to ensure a reasonable standard of living.

It specifies there will be no discrimination in the industry with regard to sex, race or language and acknowledges the right to humane living conditions, reasonable facilities and opportunities for recreation.

Mr Hugo said the large percentage of members who signed the code underlined wine farmers' ability to deal with matters affecting them.

The meeting also heard that the minimum wine price would stay intact, following the industry's move to a more market-orientated system.

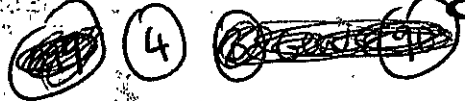
Although the majority of the estimated 500 farmers present welcomed the suspension of the quota system, some felt they should have been consulted by management before the decision was finalised.

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

# Row over fatal beating

CT. 7/1/71 (4)  
JOHANNESBURG. — A row has broken out over the fatal beating of one of three men who allegedly attacked an elderly Free State couple on their isolated Verkeerdevlei farm on the weekend.

One of the suspects in the attack on Mr Hans Pienaar, 77, and his 76-year-old wife Johanna, died in police cells after he had been arrested by a group of local farmers. Police said all three men had been injured.

Police have opened a murder docket in connection with the death.

Yesterday Dr Esther Lategan, national director of Nicro, said it seemed the man might have been fatally beaten in "a Ku Klux Klan type of operation". She said this was not justified.

But in a statement yesterday the president of the Free State Agricultural Union, Dr Piet Gous, said the "criminal elements who cruelly humiliated and assaulted defenceless old people were worse than scum and should be treated accordingly". — Own Correspondent and Staff Reporter

# Farmers 'tortured youth for 9 hours'

By ELIAS MALULEKE

A FRAIL, 17-year-old youth says he went through a frightening ordeal when two elderly farmers assaulted and tortured him for nine hours this week.

Vusumuzi Phungwayo, a Std 6 pupil at Vukubone Combined School in Rooikop, a trustland in Driefontein in the eastern Transvaal, said the nightmare would haunt him for life.

Other locals in the area claimed farmworkers were often beaten indiscriminately and that police were not doing anything about it.

## Sjambokked

Phungwayo alleges that the two farmers picked him up on the road and drove for about 10 km to a farm, where they punched, kicked and sjambokked him and then hung him by the neck and one hand before setting a dog on him.

The dog then mauled him on the private parts and legs before the farmers pulled it away.

Eastern Transvaal police liaison officer Maj Pienaar said that at about 2.15 pm on Tuesday, Phungwayo was found at an enclosed camp among a flock of sheep and when he allegedly tried to escape he was tackled by a dog.

During his re-arrest he suffered an injury in the right eye and bruises on the back.

He was handed over to the police at 4.45 pm and was taken to a doctor at Wakkeestroom for observation.

## Investigating

Pienaar said Phungwayo was subsequently charged with entering enclosed land intending to steal stock and had since laid a counter-charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Police were investigating.

Phungwayo showed City Press marks all over his body which he alleges were caused by the beatings.

Phungwayo said a black policeman and a white policeman had arrived at the farm at about 9 am on Tuesday and had questioned him.

He was taken to a doctor in Wakkeestroom, where he alleges the doctor looked at him without checking him. He then gave him a cream and tablets.

Afterwards he was taken to the Dirkiesdorp police station where he was locked up for two days until he appeared in court on Thursday. He does not know why he was arrested or taken to court. No charges were put to him and he was released on R300 bail.

Political comment and newsbills  
by K Sibiya, headlines and sub-  
editing by S James, both of 2 Herb  
Street, Johannesburg.

# 'My husband was beaten to death over a dog'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Molatu "Lawaal" Lebela was buried in Evaton yesterday, the victim of a conflict allegedly caused by a woman's outrage at a "kaffir" bitch mating with a white person's dog.

Mr Lebela (60) died in Baragwanath Hospital on the Day of Goodwill, about 24 hours after being seriously injured, allegedly by members of a group of white residents from the Elandsfontein smallholdings, 30 km south of Johannesburg.

His wife Maria Kutoane and another couple witnessed the assault.

## Blood

She said that when blood was streaming from both the back and the front of his head, she pleaded with his assailants that "they must leave him, they have beaten him enough".

The widow told The Star that the fatal train of events began late on Christmas afternoon when Bruce and Lynn Finlay, a white couple from a nearby plot, arrived at the workers' huts on the farm where Mrs Kutoane works as a domestic.

The woman said she didn't want her dog coming together with a "kaffir's dog," said Mrs Kutoane. There had been an exchange of words between her husband and the Finlays, who then left, she said.

They had returned a short while later, accompanied by about six other people.

"The people attacked my husband here inside this room."

"A woman came with a slammok and a man with one of these short sticks that the police use."

Mr Lebela tried to escape, his widow said, but was confronted at the door by a man with a stick-handle who struck him across the groin and lower abdomen.

Despite this, he managed to



Fatal . . . the bitch at the centre of the killing.

stumble to the farmhouse, with the group of whites in pursuit. The owners of the farm witnessed part of the assault, she said, but did not intervene. The farmworkers did not retaliate either, said Mrs Kutoane.

"How could we? We were four and they were a whole group."

Afterwards Mr Lebela was taken to Lenasia Hospital where "they just stitched his head and sent him home".

After a night in which Mr Lebela was unable to sleep or pass urine, the family took him to Baragwanath Hospital, where he died before the day was out.

The Star tried to obtain the Finlays' account of events. But Mrs Finlay said firmly: "No, I'm afraid there's no comment, thank you", before putting down the phone.

Vaal area police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer con-



Mourning . . . widow Maria Kutoane huddles under a checked blanket near the coffin of "Lawaal" Lebela.

firmly that "a murder docket is being investigated and it will be laid before the senior public prosecutor in due course".

Residents of the area believe the fatal assault was linked to the operation of a local neighbourhood watch. They maintain it was unsafe for black people

to walk on certain roads after 7 pm as they risked being confronted and assaulted by members of this group.

Captain van Deventer said police were aware of an informal organisation of plot residents around Elandsfontein who kept in touch with each other by

radio and mounted patrols.

Mourners at the funeral told The Star that the night vigil had not been disturbed, but lights were shone in their direction and shots fired in the area during the night.

Mr Lebela's nephew, Wilson Njilana, said the family was

consulting lawyers to make sure justice was done.

They were not prepared to take the traditional course of farmworkers and "just stay with your pains until you die".

Mrs Kutoane is left with six children between the ages of 10 and 21. "She says she would

rather take poison and die than see my children grow up as contract workers. He couldn't talk English or Afrikaans properly — but he troubled for his children, that they should go to school. And now he must die for a dog!"

Pictures: Ken Oosterbroek

# There is hope yet for deserted small towns

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.

PAUL ASH

6 Dec 14/1992

# Killer jailed for six days

④ CT 15/1/92

Staff Reporter

**A STELLENBOSCH farm manager who beat a labourer to death with a pickaxe handle in May 1989 has been released from prison — after serving six days.**

Rudolf Rix, 27, of the farm Watergang, was convicted of culpable homicide on November 27, 1990, for the death of Mr Charlie Thompson.

He was released from prison on August 29 last year after being imprisoned six days earlier, on August 23.

This followed an appeal against his 18-month sentence which was turned down in August by the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.



**GUILTY ...**  
Rudolf Rix

Before the appeal was heard Mr Rix was on bail.

A prison spokesman said last night that Mr Rix's prison sentence counted from the moment he was convicted. He

was therefore eligible for remission of sentence under three different amnesties announced by the government for first offenders.

During the trial in Stellenbosch in November magistrate Mr D Cronje said the crime "bordered on murder".

Mr Rix was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, of which 18 months were suspended, on the culpable homicide charge.

He was fined a further R250 (or six months) for assaulting an elderly and sickly worker, Mr Johannes Beukes, 78, with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Mr Rix pleaded not guilty to both charges, saying Mr Thompson and Mr Beukes had not turned up for work for medical reasons. He had gone to their

To page 3

From page 1  
**Parole** ④ CT 15/1/92  
A spokeswoman for the Department of Correctional Services, Brigadier Erica van Zyl, yesterday confirmed that Mr Rix was imprisoned on August 23 and unconditionally released on August 29.  
"Mr Rix benefited from the December 1990, April 1991 and July 1991 amnesty announcements," she said. "He benefited from the amnesties even though he was out on bail pending his appeal." Democratic Party spokesman on Justice Mr Dave Dalling said yesterday the early release of Mr Rix was a "travesty of justice" which should be taken up in Parliament.  
"Nobody can have confidence in a system of justice which appears to be so manifestly perverted by the government."  
Mr Brian Curran, of Lawyers for Human Rights, said the early release of Mr Rix was "just another example of double standards maintained, and a justice administration which, by implication, seemed to condone white-on-black violence."  
"All this does is to further discredit the entire South African legal system at a time when it needs to be bolstered. "It's a total disgrace," he said.

**BRANDMERKE OORGEDRA • BRANDS TRANSFERRED**

Brand-merke Brands	Oorgedra van (naam van vorige eienaar) Transferred from (name of previous owner)	Oorgedra na (naam van nuwe eienaar) Transferred to (name of new owner)	Adres van persoon aan wie oorgedra Address of person to whom transferred	Datum van oordrag Date of transfer
<b>VQS</b>	Stopforth, J. L. ....	Van Zyl, G. J. N. ....	Hooikraal, Posbus 795, Elliras, 0555	1991-11-12
<b>ETJ</b>	Thuynsma, J. C. ....	Pretorius, J. ....	Posbus 343, Bronkhorstspruit, 1020	1991-11-14

(17 Januarie 1992)/(17 January 1992)

**KENNISGEWING 33 VAN 1992****DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL EN NYWERHEID**

Hiermee word kennis gegee dat die volgende promesse uitgereik deur die Departement van Handel en Nywerheid aan **Brixton Wholesale Meat Supply (Pty) Ltd** soos hieronder uiteengesit, verlore geraak het:

*Promesse uitgereik aan Brixton Wholesale Meat Supply (Pty) Ltd.*

Promesse No.	Uitreikingsdatum	Vervaldatum	Sigwaarde (R)
3535	89-02-03	91-02-02	80 760

Na datum van publikasie word bogenoemde promesse as gekanselleer beskou. Indien die promesse gevind sou word, moet dit asseblief aan die Departement van Handel en Nywerheid, Privaatsak X84, Pretoria, 0001, teruggestuur word.

(17 Januarie 1992)

**KENNISGEWING 34 VAN 1992****DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG****WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956****VERWYSING VIR VASSTELLING INGEVOLGE ARTIKEL 76**

Hierby word ingevolge artikel 76 (5) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, bekendgemaak dat die werkgewer Entumeni Sugar Milling CC, van Ntumeni, Natal, kragtens artikel 76 (3) gelees met artikel 76 (1) van gemelde Wet die volgende vrae vir vasstelling na die Nywerheidshof verwys het:

(a) Of die werkgewer Dudley Brian Harborth betrokke is of was by 'n boerderybedrywigheid in die landdrosdistrik Eshowe; en

(b) of bogenoemde bedrywigheid van plaasbestuurder en van adviseur vir ander plaasboere onder 'n plaasbedrywigheid ressorteer of geressorteer het.

Belanghebbendes word hierby versoek om skriftelike verhoë in verband met die saak by die Nywerheidshof in te dien. Sodanige verhoë, in drievoud, moet binne drie weke na die datum van publikasie hiervan by die Griffier, Nywerheidshof, Privaat Sak X54312, Durban, 4000, ingedien word.

**J. H. KRUGER,**  
Griffier.

(17 Januarie 1992)

**NOTICE 33 OF 1992****DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

Notice is hereby given that the following promissory note issued by the Department of Trade and Industry to **Brixton Wholesale Meat Supply (Pty) Ltd** as set hereunder, has been mislaid:

*Promissory note issued to Brixton Wholesale Meat Supply (Pty) Ltd.*

Promissory Note No.	Date of issue	Due date	Face value (R)
3535	89-02-03	91-02-02	80 760

The above-mentioned promissory note will after the date of publication be regarded as cancelled. Should the promissory note be retrieved, it must please be returned to the Department of Trade and Industry, Private Bag X84, Pretoria, 0001.

(17 January 1992)

**NOTICE 34 OF 1992****DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER****LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956****REFERENCE FOR DETERMINATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 76**

It is hereby, in terms of section 76 (5) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, notified that the employer Entumeni Sugar Milling CC, of Ntumeni, Natal, has, in terms of section 76 (3) read with section 76 (1) of the said Act, referred the following questions to the Industrial Court for determination:

(a) Whether the employee, Dudley Brian Harborth, is or was engaged in a farming operation within the Magisterial District of Eshowe; and

(b) whether the above-mentioned activity of being a farm manager and an adviser to other farmers falls or fell within a farming operation;

Interested parties are hereby invited to submit written representations to the Industrial Court in regard to the matter. Such representations must be lodged with the Registrar, Industrial Court, Private Bag X54312, Durban, 4000, in triplicate within three weeks of the date of publication hereof.

**J. H. KRUGER,**  
Registrar.

(17 January 1992)



# Killer who served six days to be sued

TWO Stellenbosch labourers are suing their former employers — Koopmanskloof Estate and farm manager Rudolf Rix — for R96 000 after they were allegedly assaulted.

Rix, 27, was released from prison after serving only six days of an 18-month jail sentence for beating labourer Mr Charlie Thompson to death with a pickaxe handle on the wine farm Wattergang in May 1989.

An attorney from the Stellen-

bosch law firm Chennels Albertyn who is acting for Mr Andrew Thompson and Mr Godfrey Williams said papers had been sent to Koopmanskloof Estate and Rix.

The two labourers had been unemployed since 1989, due to injuries, the attorney said.

The attorneys are awaiting a trial date in the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile the ANC has joined legal experts in criticising Rix's release from prison in terms of

the government's December 1990, April 1991 and July 91 amnesties for first offenders.

ANC press secretary Mr Mziwonke Jacobs described the release as a "shameful example of miscarriage of justice in our country".

He said: "For Rix to serve six days in prison for beating one of his labourers to death harks back to the days of slavery." — Staff Reporter and Sapa

42517/1/91

# ANC outrage at 'miscarriage of justice'

Staff Reporter

④ ARC 11/1/92

THE ANC has claimed that the release of a farm manager who killed a labourer with a pickhandle was one of most shameful examples of a miscarriage of justice.

ANC publicity secretary Mr Mziwonke Jacobs was reacting to the release of Mr Rudolf Rix of Stellenbosch who was convicted of culpable homicide and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. Mr Rix was also fined R250.

The court found that Mr Rix hit Mr Charlie Thompson with a pickhandle while he was

asleep. Mr Thompson had head and arm injuries and died later.

Mr Jacobs said the ANC would have hoped that the government would be sensitive to public opinion in the country and abroad and would handle the case with the seriousness it deserved.

He said: "For Rix to serve six days for beating one of his labourers to death harks back to the days of slavery. We question the hasty release on the grounds of De Klerk's amnesty."

It was outrageous that Mr Rix had been dealt with so leniently.

"The killing and subsequent sentence is an indication of the racist nature of the South African legal system and that power structures are geared at protecting the interests of the minority," Mr Jacobs said.

South Africans needed a legal system they could be proud of, he said.

The Department of Correctional Services said Mr Rix was released in terms of the amnesties of December 1990, April and July 1991.

# Ex-minister's farmworkers face switch-on

Gen (4)  
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  
woss-or whether

## Fined R80 for beating woman

PAARL. — Wellington farmer Jacobus Nicolaas Grobbelaar has been fined R80 in the Wellington Magistrate's Court after being found guilty of whipping the wife of one of his farm labourers. ④

The incident occurred on the farm Leeuwrivier near Wellington in November while the woman, Mrs Magrieta Blanckenberg, 41, was on her way to work with her daughter. She said she was injured in the whipping. CT 18/1/92

## NEWS ROUND-UP

# Police hunt two for race murder

SI Times 19/1/92

POLICE are hunting for two Afrikaans-speaking white men wanted for allegedly shooting a black farm worker and assaulting his brother.

And this week farm labourers in the vicinity of Koster, in the western Transvaal, where the attack took place on December 28, said shots had been fired at blacks walking along the road by two men in a white Volkswagen Golf identical to the one driven by the dead man's alleged assailants.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ben van Heerden yesterday confirmed that Solomon Molefe, 40, died after he was shot through the lower jaw with an unidentified gun at about 11pm on December 28.

His younger brother, Gert, suffered multiple head injuries when he was allegedly beaten by the white men before managing to escape.

The attack followed a spate of alleged right-wing attacks on blacks in the western Transvaal towns of Koster, Rustenburg, Lichtenburg and Klerksdorp.



ACCUSED: Farmer Chris Badenhorst and his wife. INSET: Evelyn Mthethwa says she survived assault ordeal by farmer and the police.

Pic: LEN KUMALO

# Maid claims farmer and 2 policemen assaulted her

*Sowetan 22/1/92*

By SONTI MASEKO

A DOMESTIC worker has laid a charge of assault against two policemen and a farmer after she was allegedly beaten when she requested her wages.

Miss Evelyn Mthethwa (26) of Wheeler's Farm in Grasmere, south of Johannesburg, has sjambok wounds all over her body, bruises, a 12-stitch scar on the forehead and a black eye.

Mthethwa claims that she was assaulted by her former employer, Mr Chris Badenhorst, on January 4 and by two white policemen the following day.

Vaal police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer asked Mthethwa to contact the police to make a statement.

"It is not policy, we will act against individual members who break the law," he said.

Badenhorst claimed Mthethwa assaulted his wife and had broken her rib. He and his wife called Mthethwa a "dagga rooker", saying she was lucky they did not call the police.

Badenhorst claimed there was nothing wrong with Mthethwa when "I threw her out of my gate" and his wife said she was lucky they did not set their dogs on her to kill her.

Mthethwa told *Sowetan* her ordeal began two weeks ago when she asked for her pay.

Badenhorst refused to pay her and instead told her to leave the premises.

Mthethwa says when she returned to demand her pay, she was attacked by Badenhorst. His wife allegedly used a kitchen utensil to beat her.

She sustained a nasty cut on the forehead which needed 12 stitches to close up.

Mthethwa said when she returned from hospital she was met by two white De Deur policemen who, without uttering a word, allegedly hit her with a sjambok, the back of a firearm, and kicked and punched her.

"The assault lasted for a long time. They would order me to get up and run to the police van parked some distance away. When I tried to, they would trip me and assault me as well. They kicked me all over the body."

She said she was taken to the farmer's house, bleeding badly, and forced to clean the whole house. Later the farmer rewarded the two policemen with a sheep.

The two policemen then allegedly bundled her, together with the sheep, into the back of the van and drove to De Deur police station where she was locked up and released the following day.

**'We will act against individual members who break the law.'**

**DRIEFONTEIN.** — A farmer allegedly tortured one of his former labour tenants after accusing him of theft, and then had his family's house demolished on New Year's Day, the Legal Resources Centre heard yesterday.

Mr Thomas Magagula, 25, told the centre his hands had been chained and he had been beaten and shocked with an electric cattle prod until he passed out. He said he had been ac-

## Farmer tortured tenant — claim

ER 22/1/92  
4  
cused of stealing machinery.

Police confirmed they were investigating a charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm,

filed by Mr Magagula.

Mr Magagula said he left the farm in May 1991 after a disagreement with the farmer. However, he continued to visit his family, who were still living on the farm.

In early November, he was visiting his family when the farmer saw him and allegedly accused him of theft and assaulted him.

On New Year's Day the farmer allegedly demolished Mr Magagula's house. — Sapa

# 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 Gannahoek 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 Gannahoek 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 the Gannahoek were descendants of the people who had lived on the land prior to the McFie family's arrival in 1854.

PFE wanted to evict the people who had lived on the land prior to the McFie family's arrival in 1854. 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 their shares to each of 15 households. Their shares will entitle them to security of tenure and to use 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. □



# 'Trigger-happy' Delport's hobby

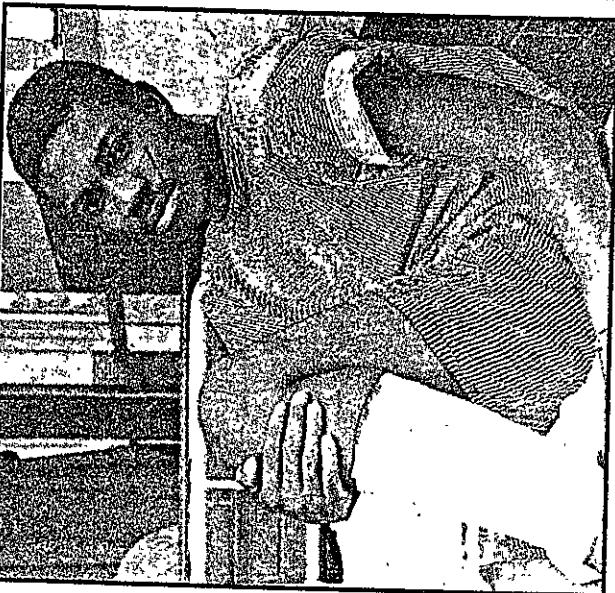
**By S'BU MNGADI (4)**  
**ALLEGED** Ladysmith mass murderer Callie Delport's favourite hobbies were fishing and hunting down blacks who strayed onto his father's farm, according to local farmworkers.

Delport, 34, was not prosecuted for the previous shooting incidents, the farmworkers claimed. They all described him as "mean" and "trigger happy".

Speaking on condition of anonymity, senior officers at Ladysmith police station confirmed it was common knowledge that Delport had previously shot blacks and their dogs for allegedly hunting on Aloe Farm.

Delport is alleged to have gunned down his father, Mariens Delport, 68, after an argument over the sale of cattle, before killing nine blacks and injuring 20 others - most of them at a busy, predominantly-black shopping complex.

One of those killed was the family's domestic servant, Maqhikizana Alzinah Mabaso, 31.



**VICTIM ... Mshayeni Njoko was injured in the mass shooting.**  
**■ PICI DESENI MOODLIAR**

On Friday, Ladysmith magistrate Herman Swarts ordered Delport to be sent to Town Hill Hospital for psychiatric evaluation "for a period not exceeding 30 days". The hearing was adjourned to March 4.

Back at Aloe Farm, labour tenants identified two of the people they allege were earlier shot by senior officers at Ladysmith Police Station who were adamant Delport had previously shot more than three people.

# ANC beckons to rightwing

**By SEKOLA SELLO**  
 THE ANC has joined the government in appealing to the Conservative Party to join Codesa in order to debate the CP's proposals on self-determination.

The ANC has also extended its appeal to other rightwing groups such as the AWB and Jaap Marais' Herstigte Nasionale Party. It also called on the PAC and Azapo to reconsider their non-participation stand.

In his opening address to parliament this week, State President FW de Klerk offered an olive branch to the CP when he undertook to place white self-determination on the Codesa agenda.

However, this offer was immediately shot down by CP leader Dr Andries Treunicht who said: "The Codesa Declaration of Intent, including the acceptance of an undivided South Africa and one central government, is directly in conflict with the self-determination of the nations of South Africa."

At a press conference in Soweto on the day of the opening of parliament, ANC leader Nel-



**PROTESTS MOUNT ... Lively protesters reclaim symbols outside parliament.**

son Mandela said the ANC agreed that the principle of self-determination and its application in the South African situation were "legitimate issues to be addressed at

Codesa".

However, Mandela lashed out at the De Klerk government for trying to vie for a system of powersharing with a built-in white minority veto.

**KENNISGEWING 91 VAN 1992****DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG**

WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956

VERWYSING VIR VASSTELLING INGEVOLGE  
ARTIKEL 76

Hierby word ingevolge artikel 76 (5) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, bekendgemaak dat die werkgewer Entumeni Sugar Milling CC, van Ntumeni, Natal, kragtens artikel 76 (3) gelees met artikel 76 (1) van gemelde Wet die volgende vrae vir vasstelling na die Nywerheidshof verwys het:

(a) Of die werknemer Dudley Brain Harborth betrokke is of was by 'n boerderybedrywigheid in die landrostdistrik Eshowe; en

(b) of die bedrywigheid van plaasbestuurder en van adviseur vir ander plaasboere onder 'n plaasbedrywigheid ressorteer of geressorteer het.

Belanghebbendes word hierby versoek om skriftelike verhoë in verband met die saak by die Nywerheidshof in te dien. Sodanige verhoë, in drievoud, moet binne drie weke na die datum van publikasie hiervan by die Griffier, Nywerheidshof, Privaat Sak X54312, Durban, 4000, ingedien word.

**J. H. KRUGER,**

Griffier.

(31 Januarie 1992)

**KENNISGEWING 92 VAN 1992****DEPARTEMENT VAN JUSTISIE**

BEKENDMAKING VAN NAME VAN PERSONE WAT VOLDOEN AAN PARAGRAAF (a) VAN GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING No. R. 936 VAN 24 APRIL 1991 EN DIE INLIGTING BEDOEL IN PARAGRAAF (b) VAN GENOEMDE GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING VERSTREK HET

Die Direkteur-generaal: Justisie maak hierby vir algemene inligting, in die Bylae hiervan, bekend die name van persone—

(a) wat lede van die African National Congress is, of wat, in die geval van persone wat nie sodanige lede is nie, die beginsels van vreedsame oplossings en ontwikkeling ooreenkomstig paragraaf (a) van Goewermentskenningsgewing No. R. 936 van 24 April 1991 onderskryf het; en

(b) wat die inligting bedoel in paragraaf (b) van genoemde Goewermentskenningsgewing volledig verstrekt het,

vir sover sodanige onderskrywing en inligting betrekking het op die verlening van vrywaring ooreenkomstig genoemde Goewermentskenningsgewing aan elke sodanige persoon ten opsigte van enige handeling bedoel in paragraaf (c) van genoemde Goewermentskenningsgewing. 'n Lys van die spesifieke handeling ten opsigte waarvan vrywaring deur elke sodanige persoon verwerf is, is vir inspeksie beskikbaar in die Kantoor van die Direkteur-generaal: Justisie.

**NOTICE 91 OF 1992****DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER**

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956

REFERENCE FOR DETERMINATION IN TERMS OF  
SECTION 76 (4)

It is hereby, in terms of section 76 (5) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, notified that the employer, Entumeni Sugar Milling CC, of Ntumeni, Natal, has, in terms of section 76 (3) read with section 76 (1) of the said Act, referred the following questions to the Industrial Court for determination:

(a) Whether the employee, Dudley Brain Harborth, is or was engaged in a farming operation within the Magisterial District of Eshowe; and

(b) whether the activity of being a farm manager and an adviser to other farmers falls or fell within a farming operation.

Interested parties are hereby invited to submit written representations to the Industrial Court in regard to the matter. Such representations must be lodged with the Registrar, Industrial Court, Private Bag X54312, Durban, 4000, in triplicate within three weeks of the date of publication hereof.

**J. H. KRUGER,**

Registrar.

(31 January 1992)

**NOTICE 92 OF 1992****DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF PERSONS WHO HAVE COMPLIED WITH PARAGRAPH (a) OF GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. R. 936 OF 24 APRIL 1991 AND WHO HAVE FURNISHED THE INFORMATION REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THE SAID GOVERNMENT NOTICE

The Director-General: Justice hereby makes known for general information, in the Schedule hereto, the names of persons—

(a) who are members of the African National Congress, or who, in the case of persons who are not such members, in terms of paragraph (a) of Government Notice No. R. 936 of 24 April 1991 subscribed to the principles of peaceful solutions and development; and

(b) who have furnished the information referred to in paragraph (b) of the said Government Notice in full,

in so far as such subscription and information relate to the granting of indemnity in terms of the said Government Notice to each such person in respect of any act referred to in paragraph (c) of the said Government Notice. A list of the specific acts in respect of which indemnity has been acquired by each such person is available for inspection at the Office of the Director-General: Justice.

**Labourers rush to  
the land for work**

STAR 8/2/92  
BLOEMFONTEIN

Farmers in the northern and western Free State are being swamped by farm labourers in search of work. (4)

Some of the labourers are prepared to work just for food and accommodation. Spiralling unemployment in rural towns in the region is forcing people to look for work on farms. — Sapa.

# Killers still not arrested

City Press 16/2/92

By MONWABISI NOMADLO

A GANG of righthingers who allegedly beat a black man to death in December because his "kaffir" bitch dog had mated with a "white" dog is still free.

The dead man's distraught family condemned the police for "dragging their feet" in arresting the alleged killers because it was a black man who had died at the hands of the alleged racists.

A police spokesman denied the allegation that they were "dragging their feet" because it was a black man who died.

Molamu "Liwaai" Lebeta died at the Baragwanath Hospital on the Day of Goodwill after he was beaten by white gangsters at the smallholding in Elandsfontein, 30 km south of Johannesburg.

His widow, Maria Kutoane, said Lebeta - the father of her six children - died as a result of severe injuries to his stomach and groin sustained during the alleged attack.

Kutoane said that on Christmas Day a white couple from a nearby plot came to the servants' quarters on the plot where she has been employed by the Collins as a servant for the past 17 years.

She identified the couple as Bruce and Lynn Finlay who stayed on a nearby plot.

"It was around 5.30 pm when they came and I overheard the woman telling my husband that she did not want her dog coming together with a kaffir bitch," Kutoane said.

Then an exchange of words ensued, she said.

She said that Lynn went on to say "I'm a kaffir ook" to her husband.

She added that Lebeta replied: "Jy is ook 'n kaffir."

Shortly thereafter the couple left and returned 20 minutes later accompanied by another woman



Lebeta's children, from left, Elsie, 13, Nicolas, 16, Reuben, 14, and Martha, 17, with their mother Maria, 48. **PHOTO BY PICT: EVANS MBOWENI**

## Family says cops are dragging feet

and three men, she said.

"I was sitting in the room with my husband, Elizabeth (a farm worker) and her boyfriend, Frans," Kutoane said.

She said part of the group entered her room and then Lynn just said "Ja Liwaai" and started beating him with a sjambok and the others joined in, Kutoane said.

She said that Lynn was screaming all over the place begging them to leave him alone," she said.

Lebeta, helped by Frans, tried to escape but was confronted by another man at the door who struck him with a pick-handle across the groin and lower abdomen, she

said.

However, Lebeta managed to stumble to the farmhouse bleeding profusely on the head with the group in hot pursuit.

At the main house the Collins' witnessed part of the assault but did not intervene, she said.

"I asked my boss to phone for an ambulance," she said.

She added that even though her boss said the ambulance was on its way, it never arrived.

"We hired a van and took him to Lenasia Hospital where he was stitched, given pain tablets and sent home," she said.

"We spent a sleepless

night. He was in agony."

The following morning at around 11 am, Lebeta was taken to Baragwanath Hospital where he died the same day around 5 pm, she said.

That night, December 26, the alleged white gang returned to the servants quarters with a dog. This time they were looking for Frans who had earlier helped Lebeta to escape, Kutoane said.

She said they did not find him but found his girlfriend, Elizabeth.

"I told them I did not know where Frans was," Elizabeth said.

They then set the dog on her, she said.

She showed City Press

the scars from the injuries on her right arm and breast she sustained when savaged by the dog.

She said that Frans also sustained head injuries the night Lebeta was attacked.

Vaal police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said the case was still being investigated and confirmed that no arrests had been made.

Van Deventer confirmed the suspects had been identified and statements taken from the complainant and witnesses.

He said the docket would be handed to a senior public prosecutor.

When City Press asked why the suspects had not been arrested, the spokesman said arrest of suspects depended on "circumstances and evidence".

He said there was no cover-up by police and the family should be assured that the docket would be handed to the prosecutor.

Racism was not an issue in the case, he said.

There were different ways of bringing suspects to court, either through arrest or summons, he said.

The national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Ahmed Motala, said the "failure of the police to arrest the suspects was racially motivated".

The organisation was providing the widow with legal aid.

Motala said police would have made arrests if this was a white man who had died as a result of an attack by blacks.

"Murder is a serious crime, whether committed by a black or white," he said, adding that the organisation was calling for the immediate arrest of the suspects.

Lebeta's nephew, Wilson Njilana, said it was sad that his uncle had to die a cruel death just for a dog he did not invite to mate with his bitch.

# A fruitless search for work in the city of hope

STAR 17/2/192

**MADAKANE** Mishawe spent his entire life — 74 years — on the Free State farmlands until six months ago when the searing drought began to hit hard and, like thousands of others, he made his way to the nearest town in search of work.

The years etched deeply into his expressive face, the former farm labourer re-members his working years in the fields that feed thousands of South Africans with pride and mixed feelings on his journey to Hoopstad — a city of hope for those suffering on the farms; a city of disillusionment for those who made it there.

"I was born and grew up on a farm," says Mr. Mishawe, brandishing an ID book showing he was born in 1918. The only life he knows is farming

... and most recently a struggle for survival on a Free State farm.

He recalls "Hitler's war" when he had only three sons and work was plentiful. Farming, he says, always went in cycles, but it has never been so bad.

Now, penniless, he has no possessions left to sell to feed his grandchildren. Of his nine children, only one son is with him in the burgeoning squatter camp outside Hoopstad.

Six months ago he began to feel the drought's effects.

"I had 25 cattle — four of them milking cows. Because of the drought the whole place was bare. There was

no place for us ... no food for the cattle."

After a brief spell as a gardener, he moved to Hoopstad when all his cattle were sold.

"When I left the farm I thought I would get a better life. But it's more difficult here? There are no jobs. My children are not working and I can't afford to send my grandchildren to school.

"I see no chance of moving back to the farm now ... it's even bad for the white man. But I can't even find work here and the pension money is too little.

"I get meale meal from Operation Hunger. I used to have milking cows ... now

the children don't even get milk, just pap."

Last week he waited with hundreds of other elderly people at Tikwani — a township outside Hoopstad — to receive his weekly allocation of food from Operation Hunger field workers.

Nearby, children waited for their daily cup of soup.

According to Operation Hunger Field Co-ordinator Anthony Mhla, Tikwani has a growing population of about 20 000. Most started moving in from the farming areas as early as October last year.

The majority end up with no jobs, and eventually without hope. Each week day the organisation distributes food to about 1 000 people — soup for the children and family rations for those on the operation's books.

A sewing and knitting project has also been started to make the community less dependent on aid — but even this is hampered by the economic situation as few people can afford to buy anything other than food. And, while Operation Hunger has encouraged the growth of vegetable gardens, even these have wilted in the heat.

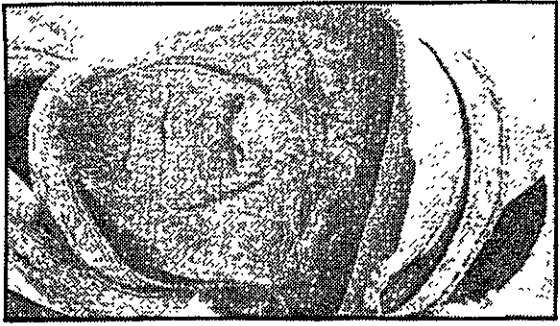
The situation is desperate. At the local dump residents flock each Wednesday to forage for food after Hoopstad's rubbish has been dumped.

Surrounded by dusty roads and houses, Mr. Mishawe has no hope for a last-minute miracle for the Free State.

"Last year there was a harvest. But this year the mealies got no water and they have died." □

4

No hope ... former labourer and cattle owner Madakane Mishawe.



No hope ... former labourer and cattle owner Madakane Mishawe.

# 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

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 Mfifa 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 measles present food'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 struggling to cope with the increasing number of malnourished

children. Kwashokor 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. □



# Millions face

## Millions face hunger

From page 1

farmer has no money, the corporation also has no money," Lewies said.

Lewies said while the farmers had made peace with their situation, it was the urban dwellers who were still in for a shock as "prices rocket sky high".

He said imported maize costs R600 a ton while local farmers were being paid R340 a ton. The high price of imported maize would translate into higher prices for maize meal, eggs, chicken, pork and even beef because these commodities were all dependent on maize, Lewies said.

He said the price of vegetables and fruits would also rise considerably because they are bound to get scarce by the day.

# hunger

BETWEEN 1,5 and 2,5 million

black farm labourers and their families face starvation in the

Transvaal alone because of the ongoing drought.

About half of them are being fed by agricultural corporations which are also helping white farmers to remain on their land in the face of one of the harshest droughts to hit South Africa in the past few years.

The chairman of the Drought Crisis Committee (DCC) in the Transvaal, Mr Willie Lewies, said efforts by his organisation and the corporations had so far stayed off the exodus of farmers and the resultant retrenchment of labourers.

BY MATHATHA TSEDU

The departure of the white farmers would spell doom for the labourers on the farm.

Lewies said there were about 400 000 farm labourers in the Transvaal, excluding the Eastern Transvaal, who were affected by the present drought.

He said: "We are trying to keep labourers and farmers on their land. We are aware that there is no other employment and that we cannot leave people without homes and food."

"The agricultural corporations are helping with pay and food, but this won't last forever because the corporations also do not have money. When the

To page 2

# Farm labour fired after pay row

HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS  
Staff Reporter

MIGRANT Grabouw farm-workers who lost their jobs after a wage dispute will probably be sent back to Ciskei.

The 67 workers, who came from Ciskei about a week ago to pick apples at Die Vallei, about 10 kilometres outside Grabouw, were not prepared to work for 10c a bag picked, said spokesman Mr John Michaels.

Farm manager Mr Willem Viljoen said the workers claimed to have misunderstood a contract they signed to earn 10c a bag. The workers said they wanted 30c a bag.

Mr Viljoen said he didn't want them on the farm because of ANC involvement in the dispute. He said ANC representatives visited him and made "wild accusations".

He said he would negotiate with Ciskei consul general Mr M Makwabe to find a way of sending them back to Ciskei.

Undertaken



# Farmers attacked for firing workers

STAR 26/2/92

By Shareen Singh

Cosatu has accused agriculture of reneging on an agreement regarding legislation for farmworkers and has expressed particular concern for those being dismissed during the drought without notice or compensation.

At a meeting between the union federation and the South African Agricultural Union, the SAAU stated it was considering separate legislation for farmworkers, rather than including them under existing labour Acts.

The organisation was prepared to support only the extension of the Unemployment Insurance Act to farmworkers but not the Wage Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Labour Relations Act.

This approach was unacceptable, Cosatu said, saying the Government, through the Laboria Minute, had endorsed

the principle of extending basic rights to all workers and that the Minister of Manpower had given an undertaking that this would be done as soon as possible.

Secondly, the National Manpower Commission (NMC) had recommended the extension of labour legislation, with appropriate amendments, to farmworkers and rejected the idea of separate legislation. The SAAU was part of all the negotiations which led to the NMC recommendations, Cosatu said.

## Dismissing

"It took two years of negotiations in the NMC to reach the point we are at now. Negotiations for separate legislation could take many more years and farmworkers will continue to be ill-treated and thrown off the land at the whim of farm-owners," Cosatu said.

In this regard the federation expressed deep concern at the plight of farmworkers

who were being dismissed as a result of the drought.

Without necessary legislation, farmers were dismissing employees with 15 years' service without notice or compensation, Cosatu said.

SAAU deputy director Kobus Kleynhans said he could not see how legislation, in situations of dire straits which the current drought had caused, would prevent employers from reducing their workforce.

He claimed it was a distortion that hordes of farmworkers were losing their jobs as a result of the drought.

"Many farmers had negotiated with workers to keep them on even if it meant a lower wage. The crunch will only come when farmers will not be able to employ seasonal workers during harvest, for instance," Mr Kleynhans said.

Forcing legislation on farmers would only make their difficult situation more unbearable, he added.

## Butcheries cheaper, says survey

STAR 26/2/92

Own Correspondent

Meat prices charged by supermarket butcheries were last year 15 percent higher than those of ordinary butcheries, an independent survey conducted on the Witwatersrand has shown.

And last month the price difference soared to 25 percent, according to the survey conducted by the Red Meat Producers Organisation of the SA Agricultural Union.

Speaking in Pretoria yesterday, RMPO manager Jan van der Walt said that although producer prices dropped by an average of 5 percent last month, meat prices in supermarket butcheries went up by 4 percent while prices in other butcheries dropped by 4 percent.

Mr van der Walt said the findings belied the image of the farmer as being "an expensive producer of meat".

The survey supports a recent Sunday Star investigation which found that supermarket butcheries added a 100 percent mark-up to wholesale meat prices.

# Town may disappear because of

**A REMOTE Orange Free State township of 25 000 which has only six percent of its population employed is faced with a hunger and rising unemployment crisis.**

Ramulusi township in Vrijensskroon forms part of the largely maize farming population in the Orange Free State.

There isn't much hope for residents of this township to survive the already chaotic unemployment situation.

And their fears are worsened by the drought hanging over the country.

The situation here is different because the entire population depends, in one way or the other, on farming and related activities to make a living.

The tiny township established about 80 years ago - is largely dependant on the farms and milling corporations in Vrijensskroon and surrounding areas for employment.

Hundreds are already without jobs since Eskom closed down at neighbouring Vierfontein late last year.

And people have received warnings that they will be retrenched by the milling companies in the area.

Signs of starvation among infants are already evident although the local clinic refused to release sta-

**By KENOSI MODISANE**

trenched many farmhands. And the situation looks like it will be worsened by the looming retrenchments at the milling corporations.

The two milling companies in the region, Sentrale Westelike Koöperasie and the Allen Brothers Corporation, could not comment on the retrenchments.

A spokesman at Sentrale Westelike Koöperasie said: "It is quite obvious that we cannot run these machines and keep the labourers here if there is no maize. But all the same, let us hope we all

survive the crisis facing us." Most of the labourers at surrounding farms have been laid off. And those employed at the milling corporations have already been notified of the im-

pending retrenchments. Local trader in Vrijensskroon, Mrs Alta Vermaak, said trading in the town has been affected by the lack of employment for local people.

"There is basically no food for the locals and this might lead to chaos. It is important that relief programmes are established to help children in these trying times," Vermaak said. Meanwhile, a Sowetan investigation yesterday

However, a spokesman at Boitumelo Hospital in Kroonstad, 60km from Ramulusi, said a large number of infants suffering from malnutrition or related diseases have been treated at the institution. African National Congress secretary in the area Mt Dan Patsá said: "We are faced with a definite catastrophe unless something drastic happens. Farmers in the surrounding areas have re-

## drought

26/2/92

dispelled rumours in the township that a faith healer and wife to an Apostolic church leader had "cooked her five-month-old" grandson in boiling water. Rumour had spread in the area that Mrs Mamohau

Matotsele (41) had killed her grandson Tsietsi for ritual purposes. Sowetan traced the baby to Boitumelo Hospital where he has been hospitalised and treated for malnutrition since December.

**We cannot run these machines and keep the labourers here if there is no maize.**



4

Sowetan

# Farm hands - life blood of landlords

**MORE than half of white cattle farmers in the Far Northern Transvaal are absentee landlords whose herds are cared for by black labourers.**

An investigation by *Sowetan* revealed that almost all of these labourers, irrespective of length of service, earn a mere R120 a month supplemented by a bag of mealie meal.

These men and women stay in ramshackle dwellings that are a far contrast from the masters' mansions that invariably stand empty on the land for the better part of the year.

It is on these overworked and underpaid black cattle ranchers that the region's fat and succulent beef and mutton are dependent.

The white farm-owners stay in towns, some in Pietersburg and Pongietrus, while others are as far as away as Johannesburg. These landlords run their farms by phone.

In some cases they phone once a week to check if there are any problems. The money for cattle feed,

By MATHATHA TSEDU

*Sowetan* 27/2/92

Baleno farm near Pongietrus for 24 years. He earns R110 plus a bag of mealie meal. The owners of the farm are an elderly couple who live in Pongietrus.

How does he survive on the money? I asked him. He looked down and then straight at me with a frown on his face. "It is very difficult."

"Some of my children are still at school and it is just impossible for me to explain to you."

"When I tell the white people that they should give me an increase, they get angry and tell me that now that they are old I want to leave them and their farm."

"But this is not so. I cannot survive on this money any more. How much is a bag of mealie meal? The one they give me is for my use here but my children are at the other place where they can go to school."

"I feel pity for the white people and that is why I am still here. I just hope they will increase my money. But now with this drought, I cannot see that happening because they will now tell me they have used all the money for cattle feed."

have nothing as you can see by the houses we stay in," Mokwena said.

Goats on the farm are tended by 16-year-old Joey Ramohlale, who receives no perks. He is expected to grow up at Ruigedraai and hope-

fully graduate from herding goats to herding cattle and earn the more "lucrative" R120 and a bag of mealie meal.

Those of us who sit down to a hearty meal of bones and chops should give a thought to the men, women and children who make this meal possible for almost nothing in return.

**I feel pity for the white people and that is why I am still here.**

Mashola said.

He said he had looked after two farms for the entire period while the owners lived in town.

Ruigedraai farm is situated 40km north of Pietersburg on the N1. It is one of four farms owned by two brothers. It is here that we found Mr Lekwapa Piet Mokwena, who has worked there for 65 years.

He first looked after goats. The two white brothers live in town and only come round on payday and occasionally just to see how things are.

Mokwena also earns R120 a month and a bag of mealie meal. Mokwena says in spite of the long service, he has nothing to show for his labour.

"I started working here when these boys who own the farm now were not even born. Their mother was born while I was here. I have given my everything and whatever they own today is because of my work and sweat and that of other workers like me. But we

ment is whether rain has fallen as the drought begins to bite deeper and deeper into their pockets because they need to buy extra feed.

This revelation explodes the myth that black farmers are inferior and that, without white supervision, black farm labourers would not work.

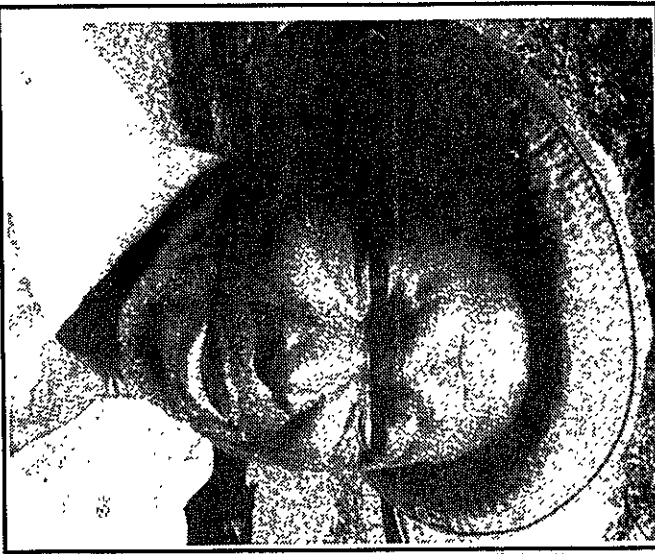
At Krielgand farm, about 20km from Vivo, 72-year-old Mr Wilson Mathabekge, and another farm-hand look after more 200 head of cattle.

The owner is in Pietersburg and comes once a month to pay them their wages and give them their bags of mealie meal.

The responsibility of watering, administering medicine and changing camps is Mathabekge's and his co-worker.

He has been working there for 10 years. All he has to show for this is two head of cattle, six goats and a few chickens.

Mr Abram Mashola (51) is the father of 10 children. He has been working at



WILSON MATHABEKGE looks after 200 cattle.

THE hopes of South Africa's 1,6-million farmworkers were dealt a blow this week when the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) persuaded the government to delay vital changes to labour law affecting agriculture.

SAAU deputy director Kobus Kleynhans said Manpower Minister Piet Marais had agreed to delay amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA), currently before parliament. This is understood to have followed an intense campaign in which the union met the minister on several occasions and lobbied MPs.

The SAAU is pushing for a separate farm labour statute — in opposition to government moves, backed by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, to extend major labour Acts to agriculture in this session of parliament.

Last year the agricultural union took part in National Manpower Commission negotiations, also involving Cosatu, leading to recommendations that the BCEA, Labour

# SAAU blow to farm laws

Union Act 28 of 1992 — 513/92  
Relations Act (LRA) and Unemployment Insurance Act (UIA) should cover farms.

Cosatu said this week: "It is very disturbing that the agricultural union now wants to renege on its undertakings." The federation also angrily accused the government of "folding its arms and doing nothing".

According to Cosatu representative Lisa Seffel, the federation "will fight very hard to get the legislation through in this session of parliament".

Late last year Cosatu pulled out of the NMC, accusing the government among other things of "dragging its heels" on giving basic labour rights to farm and domestic workers.

Manpower director-general Joel Fourie appeared unaware of the developments this week, saying he saw no reason for the BCEA and LRA not to be extended to farms this year. But Kleynhans insisted Marais had

Moves to get new legislation on farmworkers passed in this session of parliament were dealt a blow this week when the South African Agricultural Union dug in its heels, reports

## FERIAL HAFFAJEE

agreed to delay the legislation until the SAAU had had an opportunity to put forward its case to all important players. The legislative process is already far advanced, with amendments to the BCEA awaiting their second reading and the LRA extension Bill "in the final stages before being tabled in parliament", according to Fourie.

Kleynhans confirmed that farmers would push for "an agriculture-friendly" Act, incorporating the principles of

the BCEA, the LRA and the Wage Act. The proposal had been put to Cosatu at a meeting last week.

Reacting in a statement, Cosatu said: "SAAU was part of all negotiations which led to the NMC recommending the extension of the BCEA, the UIA, LRA and the Wage Act. The SAAU itself endorsed the extension of the BCEA and the UIA."

Pointing out that the NMC had set its face against separate legislation for farms, it complained that 18 months had already elapsed since the Labour Minute — in which the government pledged basic rights for all workers — and that negotiations for a new statute would mean further delays.

Dawie Bosch, a member of the NMC's sub-committee on farmworkers, said: "It is a major setback to hold back the legislation now." The drought had led to mass retrenchments on farms and workers were in dire need of protection now, he said.

It appears that the SAAU has backtracked under pressure from its most conservative affiliates, in the Free State and Transvaal. Kleynhans said the two provinces had voted against the extension of the legislation at their congresses.

Although Kleynhans could give few details of the SAAU's proposed farm labour statute, he said the union

had problems with working hours and dispute-settling mechanisms proposed by the NMC. It was also against a minimum wage in agriculture — the NMC was split on whether to extend the Wage Act to farms.

If immediate prospects for farmworkers seem dim, those for domestic workers — covered only by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act — are positively dismal.

This week Fourie could give no undertaking that legislation for domestic workers would be passed in this parliamentary session.

He said the department's draftsmen were working on the farming laws and would first have to complete this task. The department was presently sorting through the 200 comments it had received on the NMC's proposals.

He added that the practical implementation of domestic workers' legislation, as well as financial and personnel implications, needed to be researched and planned. He pointed out that the department would have to register 1.2-million more employees.

Cosatu's priority is to bring farmworkers into the labour law mainstream, and a failure to enact the current BCEA amendments would certainly trigger a protest campaign.

Reaching to a controversial draft Bill last year, in which the manpower department overrode NMC recommendations, the federation threatened to call a world boycott of South African farming exports.

## Teen lashed to death

By DAN DHLAMINI *C/Pres*

1/3/92  
THE death of a 16-year-old labourer following a severe lashing, allegedly by his boss, has sent shockwaves through the western Transvaal black community.

Daniel Bongone, who worked for Jan Tromp at Hartebeestfontein's Doornkom farm, had allegedly stolen money and had been "disciplined". He was whipped with a fanbelt in a farm store-room. (4) ~~276~~

According to the police, Bongone was taken unconscious to a doctor who certified him dead six-and-a-half hours later.

A police spokesman said a murder charge was being investigated. Nobody has been arrested.

Bongone's family said they would seek legal advice from Lawyers for Human Rights, because

they felt that the farmer who allegedly whipped their son should not have taken the law into his own hands, even if the theft accusation was true.

"He (the farmer) should have called the police to arrest him, but he deemed it fit to act brutally by whipping Dan with a fanbelt until he died," alleged the dead man's brother Oupa.

The ANC's western Transvaal regional chairman Zakes Molekane said his organisation condemned in the strongest terms the brutal killing.

Western Transvaal regional director of the Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) Igbal Motala also condemned the brutal way in which Bongone was killed. He said LHR would not hesitate to act where a person's rights had been violated.

# Farmhands to hang

*Sowetan 31/3/92*  
TWO QwaQwa men received a double death sentence in the Bloemfontein Supreme Court yesterday for the murder of a Senekal farmer and his wife early last year.

Mr Justice Beckley, sitting with two assessors, said in passing judgment that the accused, Petrus Tshabalala (27) and John Mokoena (34) had gruesomely murdered the defenceless couple, Mr and Mrs Johannes Wium, both 60 years old, on their farm Erfstuk.

The court heard that the accused, who earlier had pleaded not guilty, were employed on the farm. - *Sapa*

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## Basic rights for farmworkers soon

By Shareen Singh 4/3/92

Farmworkers would enjoy basic labour rights before the end of April, Manpower Minister Piet Marais told Cosatu and Nactu at a meeting yesterday. (4)

The minister agreed with the union federations that amendments to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and Unemployment Insurance Act to farmworkers had to be urgently processed through Parliament.

He gave an undertaking that this process would be completed before the end of April.

Mr Marais also agreed to convene an urgent meeting of all the major players in the labour arena to discuss the question of representation and restructuring of the National Manpower Commission — issues which led to Cosatu pulling out of the NMC last year.

The federations briefed the minister on the proposed economic forum of employers and trade unions and discussed a number of problems confronting them regarding the implementation of the Laboria Minute.

Mr Marais promised the unions he would:

- Set up a meeting between the SA Agricultural Union, Cosatu/Nactu and the Department of Manpower as soon as possible to iron out further problems regarding the extension of labour legislation to farmworkers.

- Respond to Cosatu by mid-April on progress in the processing of legislation for domestic workers, including recommendations on how practical problems in extending the Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation Acts to domestic workers could be overcome.

# Govt nod for labour laws to cover farms

Bl Day 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

Bl Day 4/3/92

□ 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 under way."

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."



# Rights for farm workers on way

CT 4/3/92  
④

FARM workers could enjoy basic industrial rights by the end of April following discussions yesterday between Minister of Manpower Mr Piet Marais and the country's two largest labour federations.

According to a statement from Cosatu spokesman Mr Neil Coleman, Mr Marais agreed to begin restructuring the National Manpower Commission without further delay.

Manpower spokesman Mr Francois de Villiers confirmed the meeting.

He said extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts to farm workers by the end of April depended on consensus between the parties.

The SAAU has supported only the extension of the Unemployment Insurance Act to farm workers, and has proposed a separate body of labour laws for agriculture. — Sapa

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# Farm workers stand to gain after talks

4  
5/3/72

FARM workers could enjoy basic industrial rights by the end of April following discussions on Tuesday between the Minister of Manpower, Mr Piet Marais, and the country's two largest labour federations.

According to a statement released by Congress of South African Trade Unions spokesman Mr Neil Coleman, Marais had agreed to begin restructuring the National Manpower Commission without further delay - an important breakthrough.

## Meeting

It was the first meeting between Cosatu, the National Council of Trade Unions and the Minister, at which Marais had been briefed on the labour federations' positions on the proposed economic forum, as well as union concerns.

Marais had made a number of undertakings, Coleman said.

"Cosatu trusts that these undertakings will be met as speedily as possible in order to prevent the types of problems and delays we have been experiencing."

The Department of Manpower was not available to comment on Cosatu's statement that Marais had agreed to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts to farmworkers before the end of April.

## Problems

It was also agreed that the South African Agricultural Union, Cosatu, Nactu and the Department of Manpower should meet as soon as possible to iron out further problems with extending legislation to farmworkers, said Coleman.

Marais also agreed to give Cosatu a progress report by mid-April on extending labour laws to domestic workers.

# 'No need to delay farm labour law'

B/Dag 5/3/92

4 (168)

CAPE TOWN — Government had no reason to delay giving farm workers basic rights as consensus had already been reached between key players, National Manpower Commission member Dawie Bosch said yesterday.

He was reacting to Manpower Minister Piet Marais' statement that the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to the country's 1,3-million farm workers still depended on consensus between parties represented on the commission.

Bosch, a researcher with the Stellenbosch-based Centre for Rural Legal Studies, also warned that a draft Bill on farm workers' rights threatened to undermine the commission's future negotiations on legislation.

While government was committed to extending the Labour Relations Act to farm workers — and with it the requirement of fair labour practices — this had been delayed until at least 1993.

"During (our) investigation on legislation covering farm workers, consensus was reached on most recommendations dealing with the application of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farm workers.

"Parties such as the SA Agricul-

tural Union (SAAU), Cosatu and Nactu were party to this consensus," said Bosch.

GERALD REILLY reports SAAU deputy director-general Kobus Kleynhans said yesterday the union was pressing for a single comprehensive piece of labour legislation for the agricultural industry.

The SAAU believed that extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farm workers was neither feasible nor acceptable to most farmers.

Bosch said the SAAU was going back on consensus reached at the National Manpower Commission.

He said central commission recommendations had been watered down or left out of the Bill now before Parliament.

The Bill removed existing rights from some categories of workers and left out commission clauses aimed at protecting farm workers against dismissals expected to accompany agricultural restructuring.

"If negotiated recommendations are disregarded in this way, parties will lose their incentive to negotiate and fight for their interests in other spheres, — which may cripple an already weak economy," Bosch said. — Sapa.

# Farm workers' rights: Agreement reached? ④

Political Staff

AGREEMENT had already been reached on the extension of legal worker rights to farm workers, despite the reported statement to the contrary by the Minister of Manpower Mr Piet Marais, the Centre for Rural Legal Studies has said in a statement.

The statement said that it was concerned that Mr Marais's reported statement that the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) to farm workers depended on

ET 5/3/92  
agreement between the parties, as if this had not already been reached.

The statement said during the NMC investigation, consensus had been reached on most recommendations on the application of the BCEA. Further it was concerned that "central recommendations of the NMC have been left out" in the BCEA bill tabled in Parliament this month. It said that it was "inappropriate" for legislation to be delayed because of objections by farmers who had been consulted.

*Bipart 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.

# Cosatu and Marais go a-courting

W/Mail 6/3-12/3/92  
Organised labour and the new  
manpower minister are trying  
hard to establish a rapport,  
reports **FERIAL HAFFAJEE**

**O**RGANISED labour has squeezed from the government a pledge to enact key legislation for farmworkers this parliamentary session — but the farmers' lobby remains a hurdle to be crossed.

At their first meeting with new Manpower Minister Piet Marais — a remarkably conciliatory affair — the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions extracted from the minister an undertaking to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) and Unemployment Insurance Act to farmworkers by the end of April.

Marais' commitment may have saved the day: last week it appeared that the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) had managed to bully him into delaying the legislation, and that the government and labour were on a collision course.

Cosatu threatened "serious action" if the government gave in to SAAU pressure by delaying the legislation, reminding them that it had pulled out of the National Manpower Commission over this issue.

In the same meeting, Marais also agreed to an urgent meeting of all par-



**Manpower Minister Piet Marais**

ties to discuss the restructuring of the NMC.

But the path of the farmworkers' legislation will be far from smooth. Although the SAAU's plans for a parallel agricultural labour statute appear to have been thwarted, farmers are a key government constituency, and the Manpower Department will have to do a delicate balancing act to appease both sides.

SAAU representative Kobus Kleynhans said Marais had contacted him and assured him that he had not agreed unequivocally to pass the legislation by the end of April.

"We must convince the minister that our proposal is a viable one. If he isn't convinced then there will have to be substantial amendments to the BCEA currently before parliament," he said.

Perhaps predicting the SAAU's almost certain resistance, Manpower director-general Joel Fourie stressed that the parties had agreed that negotiations involving the government, the SAAU and Cosatu were essential to the legislative process.

He added that because the par-



**Cosatu's Jay Naidoo**

ties had a "common goal", he was optimistic that solutions would come easily. If the SAAU's proposed statute contained basic labour rights for farmworkers, he could see no reason for it not being acceptable.

But Cosatu's campaigns co-ordinator Lisa Seftel, pointing to the federation's policy of a "single legislative dispensation", said that Cosatu would oppose the SAAU's demands for a special farm labour statute.

Seftel doubted whether even a reframed, separate statute could convince the SAAU's conservative constituency. Accusing the SAAU of using the new demand as a delaying tactic, she pointed out that it had not given details of its legislative proposals.

Conscious of its weakness in the farming sector and anxious for some statutory dispensation, labour is unlikely to push for changes to the BCEA Bill before parliament — despite misgivings about some of its provisions.

Listing objections to the Bill, Dawie Bosch, a member of the NMC's technical committee on farmworkers, said: "Central recommendations of the NMC have been left out or watered down in the BCEA."

"This potentially undermines future negotiations on legislation. Parties will lose their incentive to negotiate and fight for their interests in other spheres which may cripple an already weak economy," he said.

Key problems, he said, included:

- The Bill's failure to protect farmworkers from arbitrary dismissals.
- The Bill's wide definition of "farming activities" would remove the existing BCEA rights of many workers currently regarded as industrial workers. They include workers in processing plants and shops based on farms.

● Farmworkers would be entitled to only one month's notice, whereas the NMC recommended "reasonable notice" to take account of the special circumstances on farms.

● Inadequate protection against victimisation for trade union activities.

● The Bill's failure to make summary dismissals illegal.

Bosch said a watertight Act was even more essential now, as 100 000 farmworkers were threatened with dismissal because of the drought. Impending labour legislation could also spark pre-emptive firings.

Cosatu's Seftel said they had raised these problems with the minister, but added: "We are eager for this legislation to be passed as soon as possible. There are a number of weaknesses, but it is a step forward."

Another important development in this week's pilot meeting was Marais' undertaking to give Cosatu a progress report on legislation for farmworkers by mid-April.

Fruitful discussions on a tripartite national training strategy, administrative problems with the industrial courts and the planned economic negotiation forum were also held, according to Cosatu.

# Dirty dozen pesticide on Anglo farm

Wendy 03-12/3/92

A dangerous toxin which attacks the nervous system has been found on an Anglo American farm. Workers say it is often used; managers say it is locked away and used only under supervision.

By PAUL STOBBER and

EDDIE KOCH



WORKERS on a Free State farm owned by the Anglo American Corporation are exposed to dangerous pesticides that are banned in most parts of the world and illegal for use in local agriculture.

Reporters from *The Weekly Mail* this week found a drum of Dieldrin — a highly toxic pesticide listed as one of the 12 most deadly pesticides in the world — in the storeroom of Anglo's Voorspoed farm.

Anglo has confirmed the presence of a drum of Dieldrin on the farm, which is located some 20km from Kroonstad, and is undertaking an investigation to establish why it is there.

The warehouse on the farm contained large volumes of 24-D, also a dangerous herbicide that can only be used safely under strictly controlled conditions, as well as a range of other pesticides.

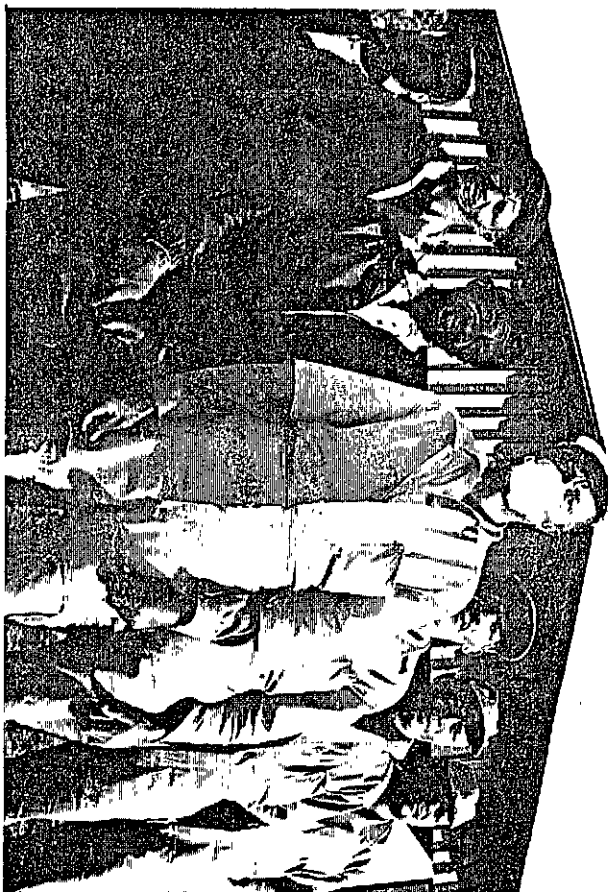
A labourer told *The Weekly Mail* that dieldrin had been used on the farm about two years ago. The pesticide — an organochlorine toxin which afflicts the central nervous system — is banned in 34 countries and severely restricted in 21.

In South Africa, dieldrin's registration was withdrawn in 1980 and it may not be used legally for agricultural purposes.

"An official instruction regarding the prohibited use of dieldrin was issued by the general manager to all Amfarms operations, including Voorspoed, some seven to 10 years ago and all stocks of dieldrin and other prohibited substances were ordered to be destroyed," said Anglo representative Glen Finnegan.

"It must be noted, however, that the manager of Voorspoed has confirmed that dieldrin is not being used and the offending container is under strict security, with the key to the storeroom held only by the farm manager, or the appointed responsible person in his absence."

A group of labourers told *The Weekly Mail* that they frequently worked with 24-D and other chemicals on the farm without any protective clothing or masks.



Workers say the tractor driver was issued with a rudimentary mask, but they had received no safety equipment

Three of the workers said they often walked behind a tractor that sprayed a pesticide mist into the air, which they inhaled. The tractor driver was issued with a rudimentary mask but labourers received no safety equipment, they said.

Workers said they experienced itchy eyes, loss of appetite and dizziness after working with the pesticides — classic symptoms of low-level exposure to toxic chemicals.

When they complained to the farm manager about the unregulated use of pesticides on the farm, they were allegedly told: "These chemicals are safe unless you drink them."

According to Finnegan, Voorspoed is being converted from a crop farm to a ranch and "24-D is used under strict supervision for the controlling of broad-leaf weeds on certain pastures".

"Protective equipment, masks, gloves and goggles are available for the farmworkers when chemicals are being used. The workers are constantly reminded to use them, although in most instances they choose not to," she added.

Finnegan said this was the first time Amfarms had received a formal complaint regarding itchy eyes, loss of appetite and dizziness. "Amfarms is

Photos: STEVE HILTON-BARBER



Besides this tattered label, there were no indications that workers had been warned about the dangers

arranging for the four employees concerned to be examined by a doctor," she said.

When *The Weekly Mail* visited the farm, it was apparent that workers had easy access to the

chemical storeroom and used their hands, unprotected by gloves, to take scoops of dieldrin out of storage containers. There were no visible signs that precautions had been taken to prevent access to the potentially lethal chemicals.

Besides a tattered label on the container of dieldrin, depicting a faded skull and cross-bones with a warning that the contents were "extremely toxic", there were no indications that workers had been warned about the danger of handling the pesticides.

In November last year, Richard Ramagabe, an education officer for the Municipal, State, Farm and Allied Workers' Union, was given a list of chemicals which workers at Voorspoed said they had been instructed to mix for use on the land. Dieldrin topped the list and was followed by Parathion, which also appears on the "dirty dozen" list of the 12 most deadly pesticides and is banned in many parts of the world.

Ramagabe reported that workers on another Anglo farm, Utlwucht near Vereeniging, alleged that they had used EDB and Gramoxone. These are also on the "dirty dozen" list.

Ramagabe expressed fears for the safety of the labourers: "They are still young and we know from experience that if they are handicapped the farmers will dismiss them. Whether or not the chemicals are banned, the farmers should not be using them — especially if they do not provide any safety equipment."

There are several thousand cases of workers being poisoned by pesticides on South African farms every year, according to a report being prepared by the Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem) in Johannesburg.

Gem researcher Kate Emanuel notes that though there are only 129 notified cases of pesticide poisoning in South Africa, including seven deaths, the official statistics reflect only 1.5 to 7.5 percent of the actual cases.

"Given the worldwide problem of undernotification, there are at least several thousand poisonings per year in this country and a number of studies have indicated a much higher rate — up to 10 cases of acute poisoning a year."

Emanuel says she conducted a survey of health and safety conditions on South African farms and found that the majority of farms provide inadequate training and protective gear for the use of pesticides.

High illiteracy rates among labourers, who are unable to read the extremely complex warnings and instructions printed on pesticide labels, was identified as another serious problem.

# NOT ALL FARMERS FEELING THE PINCH

*S. Times 8/3/92*  
FARMERS and those in related industries make up half of all South Africans earning above R300 000 a year, the 1991 Census discloses.

*Don*  
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.

*(4)*  
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 Oppenheimers.

... ..





B/Day 9/3/92

**Farm labour row** (4)

MANPOWER director-general Joel Fourie seemed to have deliberately undermined National Manpower Commission negotiations on rights for farm workers, Cosatu said at the weekend.

His denial that the commission had reached consensus was extremely strange as the agreement had been gazetted in 1990, Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman said.

# Little cheer greets Bill extending UIF

CAPE TOWN — An amended draft law extending unemployment insurance to farm workers has been met with little enthusiasm from two groups who were party to National Manpower Commission negotiations on the issue.

The Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill potentially excluded up to half the country's estimated 1,2-million farm workers from qualifying for unemployment benefits, a spokesman for the Department of Manpower said yesterday.

The Bill was published last year,

and reissued on Tuesday with relatively minor amendments.

It proposes that seasonal workers — farmhands hired for less than four continuous months a year with the same employer — be excluded from the the Act. This provision could be extended to eight months.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) co-director Kobus Kleynhans said farmers had serious misgivings about the Bill. *Blom 12/3/92*

Johann Hamman, of the Centre for Rural Legal Studies in Stellenbosch, said it was understandable that sea-

sonal workers had been excluded as "their ability to contribute to the fund is limited by starvation wages and regular unemployment". ~~SAU~~

But this did not mean that seasonal workers should not be granted social rights. They were indispensable for crop harvesting. "To treat them as unworthy would be to ignore their contribution to the economy." *(4)*

Their average annual income — R591 according to 1990 Central Statistical Service figures — amounted to barely 8% of the generally accepted minimum living level. — Sapa.

Workers on an Anglo American farm near Vereeniging claim they have to work with highly toxic pesticides and herbicides with little protective clothing.

The workers on Uitrucht farm told a Star investigation team that they regularly work with substances such as Temik, EDB, 2,4-D, Lindastof, Parathion and Parquat — and the only protection they are offered are nose and mouth masks.

"These blocks so quickly that in half an hour I can't breathe," said one worker who said he worked regularly with pesticides. He said he was issued with a new mask only once a year.

After working up to 11 hours a day spreading pesticides, he said his eyes often burn, he felt lethargic and sometimes lost

# Poison fear row rocks Anglo farm

Star 13/3/92

the desire to drink fluids.

All workers refused to give their names for fear of reprisal. The Star found containers of all the toxic substances mentioned above near the farm offices. They had not been disposed of, as required by law.

But farm manager Louis Bester said the containers were safe because the area was fenced, and they were destroyed at the end of each season.

One small storehouse, only metres from the Vaal River, was found to be full of empty containers — some for Parathion, which has been linked to numerous mass poisonings of fish, mammals, bees and birds.

Mr Bester said the storehouse was only open because workers were planning that day. The

Star found the same storehouse open on Sunday.

Anglo American spokesman Glen Finnegan said on investigation that it was found the latch had been damaged. It had since been repaired.

Mr Bester and Ms Finnegan

**Masks block so quickly I can't breathe after half-an-hour ... my eyes burn, I feel lethargic and lose the desire to drink fluids**

farm on Wednesday, Mr Bester angrily said photographs should be taken of the protective clothing rather than the empty poison containers. But when the Star staff agreed to take such photographs, he refused.

Yesterday, Ms Finnegan supplied a photograph of protective clothing hanging in a shed.

Workers told The Star that new masks were bought last week, after a reporter had contacted Anglo American about Dieidrin, a banned and highly toxic chemical, that had been

found on another Anglo American farm.

Workers have claimed that women with no protective clothing whatsoever, have to spread granular Temik by hand before planting.

Temik, according to pesticide

found on another Anglo American farm.

found on another Anglo American farm.

In the case of EDB, a powerful soil fumigant, Mr Bester said no protective clothing was necessary for the driver of a tractor which towed the device injecting the substance into the ground. However, pesticide researcher Kate Emmanuel says

containers say that all protective clothing and skin must be washed with soap and water after the substances have been applied.

Asked whether the workers were told they had to wash their clothing after applying pesticides, manager M Davies asked incredulously whether they had to "tell them everything".

Mr Bester said the clothing was washed when appropriate, but would not explain when this was.

He scoffed at the dangers of 2,4-D, saying it was hormonal and only affected crops, not humans.

Dr London said that the chemical, one of the components of the notorious Agent Orange, was harmful to humans —

and occupational health researcher Dr Leslie London at the University of Cape Town, causes the most fatal poisonings of all pesticides.

Mr Bester said Temik was only put into the soil by mechanical injection.

and had been linked to soft tissue cancers and birth defects in animals.

Ms Finnegan accused the farmworker's union, the Mmopai, State, Farm and Allied Workers Union (MSFAWU) of playing games after union general secretary Phil Masa originally drew the press's attention to the workers' unhappiness with pesticide use.

After The Star faxed Ms Finnegan a copy of this report, she sent a reply stating that all the chemical substances mentioned were registered for use in South Africa.

In addition, all personnel involved in the mixing and application of the chemicals had received certificates of merit in their use from the chemical suppliers, FBC Holdings.

However, one man who spoke to The Star, and who said he was also periodically asked to mix chemicals, said he did not have a certificate.

# Lethal crop of poisons on SA farms

With little protection and scant knowledge workers on South African farms are being exposed to deadly chemicals.  
By EDDIE KOCH

FARMERS across South Africa are playing havoc with the health and lives of their labourers by using at least nine of the "dirty dozen" — the red list of lethal pesticides banned in many parts of the world — under conditions that can only be described as scandalous.

Aircraft spray clouds of noxious fumes into the lungs of labourers who work in the fields without protective clothing. Women spend many hours a day handling a poisonous powder which is absorbed through their skin. Drums marked "Highly Toxic" are left lying around on farm premises in easy reach of workers and their children.

Reporters from *The Weekly Mail* who this week visited a farm near Vereeniging owned by the Anglo American Corporation heard that all these events routinely take place on the estate.

And the investigative team found empty and half-full drums of Paraquat, 2,4-D, EDB (dibromomethane) and parathion — each on the list of the "dirty dozen" and subject to strict conditions for use on South African farms — lying around inside and outside unlocked storerooms on the farm.

These findings follow shock disclosures last week that dieldrin, one of the few pesticides banned for use in local agriculture because of its deadly level of toxicity, was being used on another estate in the Free State owned by Anglo's farming division, Amfarms.

Officials from the Municipal, State, Farm and Allied Workers' Union (Musfawu), which organises labourers on the Amfarms estates have launched a campaign to regulate the use of dangerous chemicals.

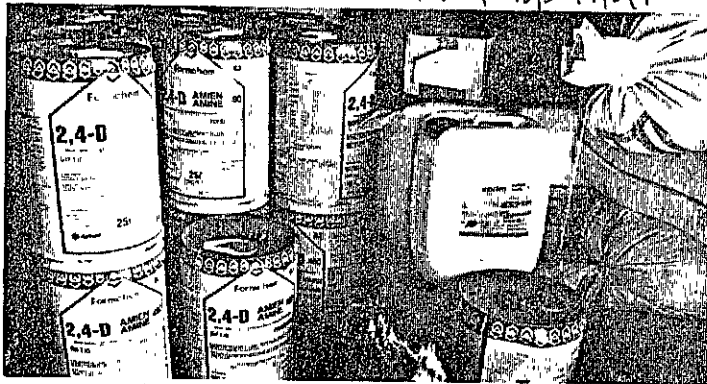
Workers described how women who work from early morning to noon in the vegetable fields on the Uitvlucht estate near Vereeniging are obliged to scatter a powder called Temik by hand. Union members said the powder has a stinging effect on their eyes and that the skin often peels off their faces after prolonged use of the chemical.

Temik is not on the banned list but is described by Dr Lesley London of Cape Town University's School of Community Health as one of the most poisonous used in the farming sector. He says it can easily be absorbed through the skin.

If it has to be used, he says, workers should be issued with gloves, masks and overalls and their clothing should be washed immediately after work so that their homes do not become contaminated.

Workers said none of these precautions are taken by Amfarms and that while they are in the fields labourers often eat their lunch with hands that have been contaminated by the poison because they are not given access to water and soap during work breaks.

"Anglo owns huge estates across the country. It is one of the more enlightened employers in the agricultural sector. Yet even on their farms there are minimal and inadequate controls over the use of dangerous chemicals," says Musfawu secretary general Phillip Masia.



Pesticides on Anglo farm in the Kroonstad area Photo: STEVEN HILTON-BARBER

## Anglo denies workers' claims

By PAUL STOBER

THE Anglo American Corporation denies that five of the most dangerous pesticides in the world, widely used on farms owned by their agricultural division, are exposing workers to serious health hazards.

Responding to complaints by workers that they are not issued with protective clothing, senior communications officer Glen Finnegan says this equipment was "available to workers at all times". This equipment included goggles, respirators, overalls, rubber gloves, boots and plastic rain suits.

Finnegan denied reports of drums of the poisons left lying around on the farm inside and outside unlocked storerooms. According to Finnegan, a storeroom near the Vaal River is locked and only two keys exist.

However, *Weekly Mail* reporters who went into the shed on Sunday and again on Monday found the shed unlocked and

unguarded on both days.

Anglo denied workers claims that they are unable to wash pesticides off their hands before eating and said five water points and hand cleaner were freely available for workers in the fields.

Finnegan said: "Strict supervision is enforced by the farm manager with regard to the mixing and application of the chemicals. The personnel involved in chemical application have attended courses given by the chemical suppliers FBC Holdings on the application of chemicals."

Finnegan admitted that Temik, a highly toxic insecticide, is used on the farm but said that workers do not handle the chemical with their bare hands. Photographs supplied by Anglo show the workers applying the chemical, which has been diluted with water, by means of a coke bottle and rudimentary funnel attached to a stick.

"Can you imagine, then, how bad things are on the other farms owned mostly by conservative farmers. What we have here is just the tip of a terrifying iceberg."

The "dirty dozen" is a list of dangerous pesticides that have been targeted for strict controls, bans and ultimately worldwide elimination by the Pesticide Action Network International because of the widespread poisoning and environmental damage they cause.

A report compiled by the Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem) in Johannesburg notes that at least three "dirty dozen" chemicals other than those found on the Amfarms estates are still registered in South Africa. These are aldicarb, lindane and PCP. Except for PCP, which is used as a wood preservative, these are widely used on farms.

A survey of regulations governing the use of the chemicals found on the Amfarms estates indicates the following:

- Dieldrin is banned in 34 countries and is severely restricted in 21. In 1980 its registration was withdrawn for use on South African farms and it is illegal unless used by licensed pest-control operators. Chronic symptoms in humans include liver tumours and it causes birth defects in animals.

- EDB, otherwise known as 1,2-dibromomethane, is banned in 14 countries and

is severely restricted in six. It has restricted-use status in South Africa and has caused cancerous tumours and birth defects in test species. EDB is highly persistent in the environment and migrates easily in the soil, causing contamination of ground water when it is used as a soil fumigant.

- Parathion's registration for use on vines and deciduous fruit was withdrawn in 1972, but it is still used to control pests on a wide variety of crops despite its highly toxic effects.

- Paraquat is widely used in South African agriculture. Continued exposure is extremely dangerous to the lungs and can cause irreversible damage within months. In December 1990, the environmental activist group Earthlife Africa succeeded in forcing the South African Police to suspend an operation that involved aerial spraying of Paraquat to eradicate dagga plantations in Natal.

- 2,4-D is widely used in South Africa but must be strictly controlled, especially under conditions that can cause clouds of the chemical to drift on to neighbouring farms.

It is a highly controversial chemical which formed one of the main ingredients in "Agent Orange", the notorious defoliant used by United States armed forces in the Vietnam war. It causes a painful skin condition called chloracne and some epidemiolo-

gists believe its mutagenic properties cause birth defects in humans.

Masia's warning that abuse of these and other pesticides is rife on South African farms is confirmed by Gem researcher Kate Emmanuel, who last year conducted an in-depth investigation into the use of pesticides in local agriculture.

Gem's draft report notes that the extent of pesticide poisoning in South Africa is largely unknown as most acute rural poisonings are not reported and many chronic cases of contamination go undetected because they cause non-specific and insidious symptoms such as headaches, lethargy, nausea and sweating.

"It is estimated that the Department of Health's statistics reflect between 1,5 and 10 percent of the actual cases. The World Health Organisation estimates a 10 to 16 percent notification rate in most countries. If this is so, there are at least several thousand poisonings per year in the country, and a number of studies have indicated a much higher rate — up to 10 000 cases of acute poisoning per year," says the report.

"Daily farmworkers are using chemicals they know little about, with inadequate or no protective clothing," says the Gem report. "The situation is too complex, however, to allege simply that all farmers are negligent... There are many conditions in the field that contribute to the estimated thousands of pesticide poisonings that occur yearly in South Africa."

The report notes that many poisonings arise because some of the most toxic chemicals are used by the most uneducated workers in the country. Pesticide labels are required by law to carry a large amount of information about the hazards of the chemical, but these are seldom read by workers.

Another widespread problem is the lack of training in the use of pesticides. Gem notes that in the Hex River Valley, for example, only 14 out of every 100 tractor drivers had received any formal training in the use of pesticides.

"Lack of adequate protective gear for workers is one of the biggest problems on farms. The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act requires that a farmer provide his employees with the necessary safety equipment," says the report.

"This would include protective helmets, goggles, gloves, overalls, chemical-resistant clothing and boots. However, often farmworkers are given ordinary overalls, perhaps a paper mask and nothing else."

## Dieldrin not used

IN our article about the use of dangerous pesticides on Anglo farms on page 6 of *The Weekly Mail* March 6, the sub-heading incorrectly cites farmer managers as saying that dieldrin, a dangerous toxin that attacks the nervous system, is used under strict supervision. The main text in fact clearly quotes Anglo management as stating that "dieldrin is NOT being used and the offending container is under strict security, with the key to the storeroom held only by the farm manager, or the appointed responsible person in his absence".

**R1-bn not  
STAR 19/3/92  
enough, says  
farm union**

Finance Staff (4) (17)

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.

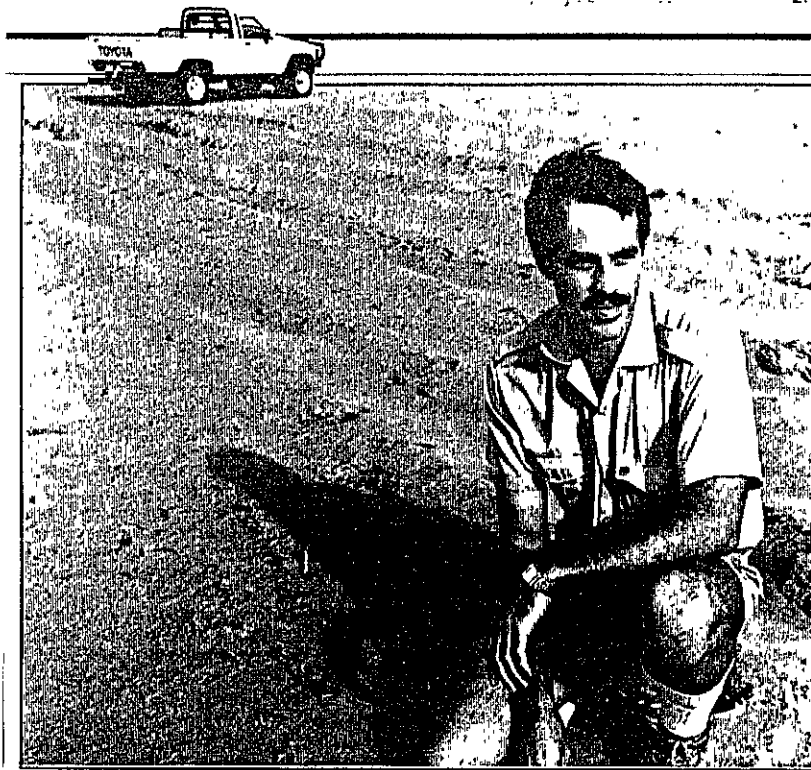
And the increase in the diesel fuel price, which was "very disappointing", would cost agriculture more than R50 million a year.

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.



High and Dry... As white farmers go bankrupt, thousands of farmworkers lose their jobs  
Photo: KEVIN CARTER

## Farm legislation stalls at go-nowhere summit

**W**ITH just three months to go before this sitting of parliament ends, proposed legislation for farmworkers lies bogged deep in negotiations. And the possibility of smooth passage for this legislation is becoming more and more bleak.

May 7 was supposed to be D-day, the day the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Council of Trade Unions and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) made a final decision on the

*As the drought deepens, legislation to protect farm workers is still as distant as rainclouds on the horizon.*

**FERIAL HAFFAJEE reports**

legislation.

Instead it turned into another go-nowhere summit. The parties agreed only to seek mandates on two proposals: the first was whether key leg-

islation should be debated in this parliamentary session and the second was whether there should be one separate labour statute for farmworkers or whether they should be governed by existing South African labour statutes.

Over the weekend the two trade union federations issued a demand that the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill and the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill be debated and passed in this session of parliament.

But Cosatu and Nactu have minimal membership in the farming sector and consequently have little bargaining power with the farmers. This is reflected in their patient and conciliatory approach to the SAAU. The union statement also said that "we remain prepared to enter into negotiations with the SAAU concerning one or many acts for the agricultural sector".

Cosatu and Nactu also said this week they realised there was little hope for the legislation being passed by June.

The federations believe the failure by the government to pass the legislation in the 18 months since the Laboria Minute was passed indicated "a lack of political will on the part of the government to extend basic rights to farmworkers".

Many farmworkers were being retrenched because of the drought and this made the issue a more burning one because they were left without any protection, said the two federations.

Last week, Cosatu launched its drought relief campaign. In terms of the campaign, they will demand that a greater share of the government's drought relief fund go to farmworkers and their families.

Cosatu said that only two percent of the R1-billion allocated by the government to drought relief would be distributed to farmworkers. "The bulk of the money will go, not to prevent mass starvation, but to prevent white farmers from going bankrupt."

Delays in the farmworker legislation could be key sparks to Cosatu's general strike planned for July.

## Everything keeps going wrong at Toyota plants

By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

**MANY** prospective Toyota buyers now face a four-month wait for their new wheels because of a two-week strike at the company's Durban plants.

Every day 430 motor cars do not roll off the assembly line and the 6 000 workers on strike lose R800 000 in wages. Experts estimate that the company has lost R207-million in turnover and the communities where workers live have lost R7,2-million workers would have spent there. In addition, the company's 68 component suppliers have lost R42-million with the figure climbing by R5-million a day.

These are the startling statistics behind the strike which was sparked by the actions of an allegedly racist line manager "who practises outdated industrial relations", alleges the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa). Workers are on strike to demand that he be fired.

But the company says: "By demanding that we act against a supervisor without any recourse to due process, workers are violating their own hard-won advances toward security of employment."

On Tuesday, the parties agreed to refer the matter for arbitration. But workers refuse to return

to work until the arbiter makes an award. "The inference is that any return to work will be conditional on a finding in favour of the workers. This is an untenable situation for us," says Toyota.

The union says that management was alerted to workers' dissatisfaction with the line manager in February and failed to do anything about it.

"We feel that if workers come back to work now, management might come up with delaying tactics so problems must be resolved while we are on strike."

On May 7, the company was granted an interdict by the industrial court forcing workers to go back to work. Workers have ignored the interdict and are adamant about staying on strike "even for a thousand days".

The call for the dismissal of the line manager has been extended; two other senior managers are also on the firing line. In addition workers are demanding the reinstatement of a shop-steward dismissed six months ago.

Numsa regional organiser in Durban Magrapers Hlatswayo, said that the parties held five meetings to iron out the dispute. On Wednesday they worked late into the night to find a way out of the impasse.

# Farmers deny death beating

(4)  
CT 24/3/92

Staff Reporter

RIVERSDALE. — Three Riversdale farmers and a 17-year-old youth have denied beating to death a farm labourer whose body was later discovered hidden in a deserted barn.

Mr Dreyer Morkel, 27 of the farm, Kafferkuilsrivier, Mr Willem Odendaal, 22, and Mr Christiaan du Toit, 24, both of the farm Watergat, and the youth — who may not be identified — have pleaded not guilty to six charges before the Riversdale Regional Court.

The charges include murder, attempted murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and obstruction of the course of justice.

They are alleged to have clubbed 24-year-old Mr Hans Muggels, who died of multiple head injuries.

The men are also alleged to have assaulted two other farm labourers, and the 17-year-old to have aimed a firearm at yet another labourer, Mr Gert Meyers.

The charge of obstruction of justice arose from allegations by farm labourers that they were threatened and warned not to report the alleged beatings to the police.

The trial continues before regional magistrate Mr C Prinsloo this morning.

The prosecutor is Mr C van den Bergh. Mr D Visser appears for Mr Du Toit and Mr G Nortier for Mr Morkel, Mr Odendaal and the 17-year-old.

# Farm worker 'was covered in blood'

By EUNICE RIDER

A FARM labourer who was allegedly fatally beaten by three Riversdale men was covered in blood when he stumbled from a barn accompanied by the men, the Riversdale Regional Court has heard.

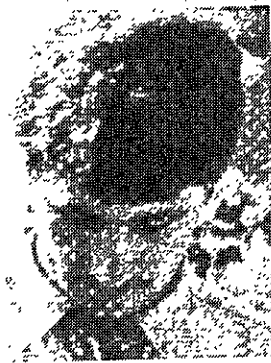
This evidence was given by a farm worker, Mrs Anna Meyers, at the trial of Mr Dreyer Morkel, 27, of the farm Kafferkuilsrivier, Mr Willem Odendaal, 22, and Mr Christiaan du Toit, 24, both of the farm Watergat, and a 17-year-old youth.

The four are accused of murdering Mr Hans Muggels, 24, whose body was discovered in a deserted barn last August, and of assaulting farm labourers.

They have pleaded not guilty to six charges, including the murder — alternatively, culpable homicide — and the attempted murder of Mr Niklaas Collier.

Mrs Meyers said that on Saturday, August 31, she saw the accused arrive at a barn on the farm in a bakkie, with Mr Muggels on the back.

The hearing was adjourned to April 13.



**CHARGED . . .**  
Mr Willem Odendaal



**ACCUSED . . .**  
Mr Christiaan du Toit

④  
CT-25/3/92



# Death knell sounds for the Karoo's medieval hierarchy

Staff 25/3/92

4

**KIMBERLEY** — The resounding "yes" vote in last week's referendum was a leap into modernity for most of white South Africa, but in the semi-desert of the Karoo, society remains structured along the lines of Europe in the Middle Ages.

In an attempt to drag white landowners into the 20th century, lawyers in the Kimberley Supreme Court initiated civil proceedings yesterday against Andries Wiese, a sheep

farmer, on behalf of his former employee, Willem Voster. It was the first time a labourer has taken a farmer to court.

Mr Voster's advocate said he would seek to reveal the "feudal" attitudes that led his client to claim R90 000 from Mr Wiese for "severe assault" and "severe loss of dignity".

The incident in question, as Mr Voster described it, took place on the night of October 8 1990, when he backed his boss's tractor out of a shed and unwittingly ran over and killed his brother. The next morning Mr Wiese drove to Mr Voster's house, ordered him into his vehicle, took him deep into the

veld and then proceeded to beat him for more than an hour with a thick rope.

The next day Mr Voster went to the police, who told him there was "bugger all" they could do. There the matter would have rested, if it had not been for the persistence of a Dutch social worker called

Margriet Knaap.

"It would be wrong to say that this sort of thing was typical in the Karoo. It is a way of life," said Ms Knaap yesterday. "You see a farm labourer is a tool, an implement, not a human being. . . . You could transplant the Middle Ages here — or the Russia of the Tsars —

and you would see no difference."

Mr Voster's family has worked for the Wieses, who own 12 adjoining farms, since the 19th century. One of 15 brothers and sisters, he remembers that his father worked for Mr Wieses's father, Hendricke. He

also remembers the time when Hendricke sat on him, punched him repeatedly in the face and would have killed him had Mrs Wiese not intervened. "They hit us all the time," said Mr Voster yesterday. "It's commonplace."

If Mr Voster wins his case, others may find the courage to stand up and, as in the rest of "the new South Africa", replace the age of divine right with the rule of earthly law. — The Independent News Service.

# Bishop will fast to highlight plight of drought victims

By [Name] 1971

**PAT CANDIDO, The Argus Bureau**  
**PORT ELIZABETH.** The Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Rev. David Russell, is to fast in St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town next month to highlight the plight of farmworkers in drought-stricken areas.

Bishop Russell has called for a week of prayer and fasting in support of basic human rights for farm workers and their families.

He said he felt that by moving to Cape Town and fasting from April 5 to 12 he would focus the government's attention on the situation.

After disappointing correspondence with Cabinet ministers and an approach to President de Klerk, Bishop Russell has sent a letter to his clergy, saying: "I feel called by God to offer this time of prayer and fasting."

He said he could no longer confine his Christian witness to letters and exhortations.

His letter said farmers had huge problems of debt and drought and there were large numbers of people they could not feed or employ.

He was campaigning in particular against the Prevention of Illegal Squatting and Trespassing Acts and against labour legislation.

In 1971, when Bishop Russell was an assistant priest in King William's Town, he fasted for four days in St. George's Cathedral in protest against rations issued to people at Dindaga.

# Bishop fasts for workers' rights

*Sowetan 27/3/92*  
THE Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Rev David Russell, is to fast in St George's Cathedral in Cape Town next month to highlight the plight of farmworkers.

Russell has called for a week of prayer and fasting in support of basic human rights for farmworkers and their families.

## Attention

He said he felt that, by moving to Cape Town and fasting from April 5 to 12, he would focus the Government's attention on farmworkers.

After "disappointing" correspondence with Cabinet Ministers and even an approach to President FW de Klerk, Russell has sent a letter to his clergy saying he feels called by God to offer "this time of prayer and fasting". - *Sowetan Correspondent*.

# Police warn on illegal immigrants

*Sowetan* 30/3/92

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

FARMERS and businessmen who employed illegal immigrants could face harsh action, Northern Transvaal police warned at the weekend.

This warning was issued by the Far Northern Transvaal police spokesman, Major Arno Vogel, after *Sowetan's* investigations revealed that white farmers near the South African-Zimbabwean border recruit immigrants to work on the farms and later assault or hand them over to the police to be deported.

Farmers and businessmen usually assaulted these workers when they demand wages, *Sowetan* investigations revealed.

A *Sowetan* reporter saw an immigrant farm labourer who nearly lost his left eye after being attacked by a bull. The labourer said his employer had declined to take him to the hospital "because I'll be arrested".

The labourer had not been paid since starting work about three months ago.

The Messina Advice Office official, Mr Jacob Matakanye, said his office was inundated by labourers who had been assaulted by farmers who refused to pay their wages.

Another labourer, Richman Ncube, absconded from the hospital last week where he was being treated after being assaulted by his employer. It is believed that Ncube ran away because he feared police might take action against him.

47 (16)  
**Marais mediates**

■ THIS week Manpower Minister Piet Marais will hold a number of meetings with key players in attempts to iron out stonewalled negotiations around the National Manpower Commission and farmworkers' legislation.

On Thursday this week he met Bokkie Botha of the South African Co-ordinating Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola) and the National Employers Association to discuss the restructuring of the National Manpower Commission.

Today the SAAU and Cosatu will put forward their positions to Marais on extending legal rights to farmworkers and tomorrow, he meets lawyers to discuss the hitches this piece of legislation faces.

5/14/92  
3/6

## Plan to put jobless whites on farms

STAT 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.

## Jobless whites to be settled on farms

*Biceps 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. (4) ~~5~~

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.

# Bishop's ④ fast for labourers

ARG 6/4/92

SHARON SOROUR

ANGLICAN Bishop of Grahamstown the Right Rev David Russell has begun a week of prayer and fasting in Cape Town's St George's Cathedral in support of farmworkers and their families.

Bishop Russell took this course after "a sadly disappointing" response from President De Klerk to a "behind-the-scenes" campaign to change laws affecting farmworkers.

His decision is supported by the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu and other clergymen.

Bishop Russell started his fast at 6pm yesterday. He will only drink water this week.

He said he had been corresponding with the government "for over a year" to highlight the need to reform labour legislation for farmworkers and to quash "cruel provisions" contained in the Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts.

"These laws are a sword of Damocles hovering over the lives of all blacks on South African farms," he said.



# Bishop fasts for workers' rights

CT 6/4/92  
Staff Reporter

THE Anglican Bishop of Grahams-town, the Rt Rev David Russell, last night began a week of fasting and prayer at St George's Cathedral for basic human rights for farm workers and their families. (4) (22)

Bishop Russell, who in 1974 worked among the people of Crossroads, said

he decided to "offer this time of prayer and fasting" after receiving a "disappointing response" to letters he wrote to President F W de Klerk and senior cabinet members.

"Apart from the need to reform labour legislation, there is a need to abolish certain cruel provisions of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts," Bishop Russell said.

STAR 2/4/92

## Bishop fasts, prays for farmworkers

An Anglican bishop was to begin a week of prayer and fasting in Cape Town yesterday to demand basic human rights for farm workers and their families, said a statement issued by the Church of the Province of South Africa. Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Rev David Russell, was to begin his action at St George's Cathedral near Parliament yesterday.

# Anglican bishop fasts over farmworkers' snag

Sowetan 7/4/92

(4)

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"These laws are a sword of Damocles hovering over the lives of all blacks on South African farms," he said. Sapa.

## Tutu joins in bishop's fast

CT 8/4/92  
Staff Reporter

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu yesterday joined the Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Rev David Russell, on the second day of his seven-day fast to draw attention to the plight of farmworkers and their families.

The city's "chapter" of the Anglican diocese also joined in the vigil.

Bishop Russell said his fast was an attempt to "spotlight" that five million South Africans had a "total lack of human rights". President F W De Klerk's government had no plans to tackle this "inhuman" situation, he said.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

**SUPPORT FOR FAST:** The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, joins the fasting Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Rev David Russell, in a chat to students on the steps of St George's Cathedral. (4) ARG 8/4/92

## Tutu prays with fasting bishop

**SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter**

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu, fellow bishops and senior clergy has joined the fasting Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Rev David Russell, for prayers in St George's Cathedral.

Bishop Russell started a week of fasting and prayer in the cathedral on Sunday to highlight the desperate plight of South Africa's 1,3 million farmworkers and their families.

He was joined by the archbishop, fellow bishops, Dean Colin Jones and the senior clergy of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town at 1pm yesterday.

Anglican students from the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape held a picket outside the cathedral and joined Bishop Russell on his fast yesterday.

Bishop Russell said the fast was "going okay". He decided to fast to draw the government's attention to the "scandalous" conditions of farm labourers after corresponding with various ministers without results "for more than a year".

Bishop Russell said he had had a "sadly disap-

pointing" response from President De Klerk and his ministers to a "behind-the-scenes" campaign to change the laws affecting farmworkers.

He said it was scandalous that the Prevention of Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts had not been reviewed by government.

"These two acts turn the rural poor into criminals, without the right to live anywhere.

"As we are moving towards a new South Africa this makes a mockery of claims that we are closing the books on apartheid," he said.

In addition a whole range of labour legislation which came before the National Manpower Commission had still not been applied to agriculture.

"this must be tackled for the sake of the farmers and their workers," he said.

He called for administrative procedures to be set up to enable farmworkers to find alternative work or to live elsewhere "in basic human dignity" if they were evicted or retrenched.

"You cannot expect a just and stable South Africa and agricultural sector while people are cruelly vulnerable and deeply insecure," he said.

# Fasting for the rights of farm <sup>(4)</sup> workers

w/maul 10/4-15/4/92

*Bishop David Russell is engaged in what may seem like a foolish gesture but it is no gimmick. He is fasting for the rights of South Africa's exploited farm workers.*

By **GAYE DAVIS**

HE is doing what might look a foolish thing — weak and impotent, really — fasting and praying in this stone cathedral a short walk from the seat of government, using body and soul to draw attention to the plight of the country's 1.6-million farm workers.

But David Russell, Anglican bishop of Grahamstown, is not playing games. Farm workers are without rights, exploited and still without the minimal protection of laws which have been tabled in parliament but not yet passed. Their voices are not being heard — and he is determined they should be.

Perched on a plastic chair in the tiny room where, each night, he lays a mattress down on the floor to sleep, he says he wants to say to the government that there are people living in the "new" South Africa with no human rights, people whom laws against trespass and squatting turn into criminals when they are booted off farms they were born on.

His decision to fast came only after his writing to President FW de Klerk: the response, he felt, was not that of a Christian statesman showing a compassionate awareness of the plight of so many people. Learning from Leon Wessels, Minister of Local Government, National Housing and Public Works, that neither the squatting nor trespass Acts were being considered for revision was, he says, the last straw.

He doesn't want to pretend that what he is doing gives him the right to claim he knows what hunger is. He knows that, after Sunday, he will eat again. There are many, all over the country, who may not.

He has with him stories related by farm workers. They tell of beatings and blood money for wages, of hopes of going to school evaporating because of having to herd Baas Pete's cattle, of a family being chased off the farm they were all born on because it was sold.

These are the voices that are not heard, because to articulate demands could mean dismissal. For Russell, the church has a duty to heal the suffering and put wrongs to right where there are no other defenders.

It has occurred to him that people think De Klerk is making amazing strides. Change there has been but there is an entire class of people who are no more than serfs, who have no legal rights and are vulnerable to abuse.

The country has by no means passed the point where his kind of protest, foolish gesture or not, is no longer relevant.

# Court clears farmer

Staff Reporter

A SIR LOWRY'S PASS farmer was cleared of blame yesterday for the death of a labourer who was shot while allegedly stealing chickens.

Mr Frederik Negus, 38, of the smallholding, Highacres, in Sir Lowry's Pass Village, admitted having shot Mr Arrie Davids, 44, in February 1989.

He said he had fired five warning shots after he had found Mr Davids inside a chicken coop wringing a bird's neck.

Mr Negus said there had been a

spate of thefts in the area at the time.

The inquest was a sequel to an earlier hearing in which the magistrate had ruled that Mr Negus be tried on culpable homicide charges, based on evidence by state pathologist Professor Theodor Schwarz showing that the labourer had been shot in the back.

The magistrate, Mrs G Roux, found no negligence on the part of Mr Negus, and said she would place her findings before the attorney-general who had ordered the new inquest.

Q) CT 1014/92

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Farm labour rights** (4)

THE SA Agricultural Union and Cosatu will meet Manpower Minister Plet Marais in Cape Town today in a bid to settle their differences on extending labour rights to farm workers. Marais would chair the meeting at the Pretoria offices of the Department of Manpower, Cosatu campaign co-ordinator Lisa Seftel said yesterday.

He would later meet Cosatu and Nactu separately, she said.

5/10/89 10/4/92



# Help scheme turns to town

Johannesburg Bureau

A SCHEME by the organised agricultural sector and welfare organisations to resettle hundreds of jobless whites on farms has attracted so many applicants that the organisers are now looking for urban solutions.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said the farms simply could not absorb the hundreds of applicants and they were now being placed in

urban areas where attempts would be made to find them jobs in agricultural-related fields.

Mr Bruwer, who is also the Conservative Party MP for Lydenburg, said many of the people looking for help were skilled people who would be able to work as mechanics, electricians and welders.

Mr Bruwer said the project, which had seen people placed on farms in all provinces, had been

launched in response to "endless" requests.

He is reported as saying there were many desperate people out of work as a result of the drought and economic conditions which he blamed on political instability.

Mr Bruwer said he did not believe whites who had managed to find jobs on farms would be paid any more than black farm labourers.

④ CT 11/4/92



**SUPPORTIVE PRAYER . . .** Members of the Farmworkers' Support Committee, based in the Boland, yesterday prayed with the Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Rev David Russell (left), who is on a week-long fast in support of farmworkers. Next to Bishop Russell is Mr Fred Mkontwana, the spokesman for the committee, who led the prayers.

Picture: HAROLD KING  
 CT 11/4/92

**By RAMOTENA MABOTE**  
 A GROUP of about 20 dismissed farmworkers from Boland farms yesterday brought a message of support to the Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Rev David Russell, who is on a week-long fast at St George's Cathedral in a bid to highlight the plight of farmworkers.

The farmworkers, under the banner of the Farmworkers' Support Committee based in Stellenbosch, came to visit Bishop Russell, who today enters his sixth day of fasting.

The committee later held a five-minute plac-

# Support from workers for fasting bishop

ard demonstration outside the cathedral, demanding that farmworkers be given the same rights as other workers and that the basic conditions of the Employment, Unemployment Insurance, Wage and Labour Relations

Acts be extended to them.

Bishop Russell started his fast last Sunday, calling for the inclusion of farmworkers in all labour legislation which covers industrial workers.

Meanwhile, the office

of the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, yesterday reported that the Canadian government would donate R10 000 to a church-sponsored resource centre for farmworkers.

The announcement was made by the Canadian ambassador, Mr Christopher Westdal, in response to the vigil by Bishop Russell.

Bishop Russell, who yesterday said he was "feeling suprisingly well", asked for the donation to go to the Cobongo Rural Resource Centre in the Border region.

# 'Disappointing' letter from FW led to fast

S Times (Cape Metro) 12/4/92

(4)

By EVE VOSLOO

THE Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Rev David Russel, started his fast for basic human rights for farmworkers after a "disappointing" response to correspondence with President F W de Klerk.

In St George's Cathedral this week, Bishop Russel said he had called on President De Klerk for a public com-

mitment to review the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act and the Trespass Act — which severely affect dismissed farmworkers, who often have nowhere to go once they have left a farm.

Bishop Russel said the president's response, via the Minister of Local Government, Mr Leon Wessels, had clearly indicated the "scandalous" fact that the government had no intention to review the Acts.

"For generations farmworkers and their families have been living virtually without any legal rights," he said.

"Laws which allow people to be treated like this are cruel, inhuman and un-Christian. It is high time this injustice was addressed and rectified. We cannot talk of a new South Africa while people so cruelly vulnerable are denied basic human rights."

# Bishop Russell will continue campaign

④ CT 13/4/92

Staff Reporter

THE Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Rev David Russell, ended his week of fasting for basic human rights for farm workers and their families last night.

Although his fast has not provoked any government action, Bishop Russell has vowed to continue his campaign and will "raise the issue internationally if need be".

Bishop Russell started his week of prayer and fasting in St George's Cathedral last Sunday after writing to President FW de Klerk and Minister of Local Government Mr Leon Wessels, in an appeal to have the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act and Trespass Act reviewed.



**BREAKS FAST...**  
David Russell

"These laws are very much a part of the apartheid legacy and mean that retrenched farm workers can be left without the right to live anywhere in this country.

"I asked the State President whether he was telling me that these two laws are part of the 'new' South Africa."

In addition, he said the government had been "ducking the issue completely" in the letters he had received.

"I am feeling tired and weak — but remarkably well," he said last night.

He said he would rest for a few days with friends to recover from the fast.

He said the Anglican Bishops of South Africa would be deciding on a new plan of action at an episcopal synod at the end of the month.

# Farmer's son denies murdering labourer

Court Reporter

CT 14/4/92

A 17-YEAR-OLD farmer's son — accused of kicking and beating a farm labourer to death — yesterday denied having known the deceased.

The schoolboy — who may not be identified — was testifying in the Riversdale Regional Court where he and two men — all of Watergang Farm — face seven charges, including murder, attempted murder of another labourer, assaulting three others and threatening labourers not to report the alleged assaults to the police.

The 17-year-old, Mr Willem Odendaal, 22, who is also a farmer's son, and Mr Christiaan du Toit, 24, who was foreman of the farm at the time, have been charged with the death — in August last year — of Mr Hans Muggels, 24. They have denied all charges. Charges were yesterday withdrawn against a fourth accused, Mr Dreyer Morkel, 27.

4

## Deadlock over law for farmworkers

CAPE TOWN — Manpower Minister Piet Marais, the SA Agricultural Union and Cosatu will meet again on Thursday in a bid to resolve the stand-off over labour rights for farmworkers. *8/Day 14/4/92*

The parties held a "long and very difficult, though fruitful", meeting in Pretoria on Friday, Manpower Ministry spokesman Ted Townsend said yesterday. *(4) (del)*

Cosatu has demanded the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and Labour Relations Act be extended to

the country's 1,3-million farmworkers, while the SAAU has argued for a separate statute for agriculture.

SAAU co-director Kobus Kleynhans said Thursday's meeting was tentative. "The parties have decided that only the Minister's Press secretary will liaise with the Press," he added, declining to comment further.

DIRK HARTFORD reports Cosatu sources said the "very tough" meeting had deadlocked and it had made a final proposal for SAAU to consider. They said they expected a response from SAAU at Thursday's meeting.



# Drought will cost ~~8~~ 80 000 jobs, R1,5-bn'

STAR 1514192

By Michael Chester ~~Green~~

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

# Talks to

STAR 15/4/92

# resume

# on farm

# labour

CAPE TOWN — Manpower Minister Piet Marais, the SA Agricultural Union and Cosatu will meet again tomorrow in a bid to resolve the deadlock over labour rights for farm workers.

The parties held a "long and very difficult, though fruitful" meeting in Pretoria on Friday, Manpower Ministry spokesman Ted Townsend said yesterday.

Cosatu has demanded that the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and Labour Relations Act be extended to the country's 1,3 million farmworkers, while the SAAU has argued for a separate statute for agriculture.

## Progress

Mr Townsend said progress had been made at Friday's talks, but did not elaborate. The meeting would go ahead on Thursday.

Approached for comment, SAAU co-director Kobus Kleynhans said tomorrow's meeting was tentative.

"The parties have decided that only the Minister's press secretary will liaise with the press," he added.

Cosatu campaigns coordinator Lisa Seftel said Cosatu would try to issue a more detailed statement later. — Sapa.



w/mak 16/4-23/4/92  
**Farm talks plough ahead**  
THE government held its second meeting within a week with Cosatu and the South African Agricultural Union last Thursday, in an attempt to jumpstart stalled legislation for farmworkers.  
Cosatu is demanding that tangible progress be made on this legislation by the end of April. The SAAU is ploughing along with its demand that a separate labour

4 (1000)

statute is the appropriate path to follow. 4 (1000)  
Manpower Department representative Ted Townsend said the talks had been "long and difficult — though fruitful". w/mak  
16/4-23/4/92

# While farm workers wait . . .

4 MAY 16 1992

**THIRTEEN** years after the Wiehahn Commission ushered in unprecedented labour reforms, South Africa's 1.3 million farm workers remain the most exploited labourers in the country. Two key labour laws could change that soon — but possibly at a cost to workers themselves. Labour Reporter **SHARON SOROUR** investigates.

WHEN Willem Adams takes a bath in private, his wife has to stand outside the front door. In his "hokkie" of a home on a Koekenaap farm, there's no alternative.

And, like most of the more than one million labourers working South Africa's 65 000 farms, 48-year-old Mr Adams is fed up.

"Can we continue like this any longer?" he wonders. "What must we do? If we do not begin (seeking solutions) now, we will sit in this mess forever."

These sentiments are not his alone.

A father of five, Mr Adams was among a delegation of impoverished farm workers who travelled to Cape Town last week to highlight the plight of the rural workforce.

While the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) argues this is not a true reflection of the "good" relationships which exist between farmers and their workers, rural labourers remain open to exploitation.

As far back as 1979, the Wiehahn Commission, headed by Professor Nic Wiehahn — then professor of Industrial Relations at Unisa — paved the way for a liberalisation of South Africa's outdated industrial bargaining procedures.

It resulted in the setting up of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) as well as the Industrial Court — arbiter in a wide range of labour-related

Mr Piet Marrais believes it is possible for the parties to reach consensus before the end of April, an impasse arose when the SA Agricultural Union, representing farmers, apparently went back on consensus positions reached through the NMC.

On some details, the union did not agree with the majority position but accepted the proposal "in principle". Farmers oppose the extension of the Acts, calling for "agriculture-friendly" labour laws instead.

But SAU spokesman Mr Kobus Kleynhans says consensus was "not really reached" in the NMC as the NMC proposals had been rejected by the farmers themselves, who did not agree with the NMC report.

"We deny claims and accusations that we are going back on consensus positions reached within the NMC," Mr Kleynhans said.

But the giant labour federation Cosatu has warned its members will embark on mass strike action if the Acts are not urgently processed through Parliament.

This has left the government juggling a hot potato.

Draft legislation proposing that certain farm workers fall under the ambit of the Unemployment Insurance Act, published in March, was greeted with little enthusiasm.

Seasonal workers — hired for less than four consecutive months a year by the same em-



**WORKING THE LAND:** Farm labourers like these could benefit by two key labour laws — but their jobs could also be at risk.

**SHARON SOROUR**  
Labour Reporter

to earlier speculation that the laws would be passed before

# Law and the labourers

Cosatu has threatened to take mass strike action if the laws are not urgently passed through Parliament.

The Department of Manpower's draft legislation on extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers, the application of the Labour Relations Act and a proposal for a new "agriculture-friendly" statute for agriculture are expected to be key issues discussed at the meeting.

"I said I would like the parties to reach consensus before the end of April, not that the laws would be extended to agriculture before the end of the month," he said, referring to the meeting.

While the commission has agreed to set up the relevant structures, it said the extension of the laws should not be delayed.

But the SAAU argues that all structures should be in place before the laws are applied to agriculture.

Much of the difficulty has arisen because proposals recommended by the NMC have been watered down in the draft legislation — largely seen to be in the farmers' favour.

with the parties last Friday but we could not conclude the discussions," he said.

"I am quite optimistic the two parties will reach consensus."

Mr Marais was not able to divulge specific details of the meeting, but said it was conducted in a "very friendly manner".

In a meeting with Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo earlier this year, Mr Marais said he saw no reason why two key labour laws — the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act — could not be extended to agriculture before the end of April.

But the key players had not been able to reach consensus on a number of proposals which had been discussed at union activities.

"In the light of the indications that many farm workers are likely to be dismissed in the near future, the provisions on victimisation are very important.

"The Act presently prohibits dismissals in cases that it defines as victimisation, but employers found guilty of contravening the prohibition and who are prosecuted in terms of the Act are modestly penalised, thus providing no compensation to employees, who have no clear right to the remedy of reinstatement," he said.

Farmers are also worried about the servicing of the agricultural sector by the Department of Manpower.

"It is a realistic concern on their part because manpower officials have to be made available for taking part in trade

the Department of Manpower's draft legislation on extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers.

The Act would be phased in over a period of nine months, given the large number of farmers and workers and farmers would have to contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Fund for the first time.

Serious concerns regarding the application of the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill have also been raised.

Mr Kleyhans pointed out that the SAAU was not the only party which had problems with the application of the Act.

According to Mr Dawie Bosch of the Centre for Rural Legal Studies in Stellenbosch, the Bill removes existing rights from some categories of workers, and omits NMC clauses aimed at protecting farm workers against widespread dismissals — likely to accompany the expected restructuring of agriculture.

"If negotiated recommendations are disregarded in this way, parties will lose their incentive to negotiate and fight for their interests in other spheres, which may cripple an already weak economy," he warned.

Most on the NMC decided that farm workers had to be protected against arbitrary dismissals during the period between the extension of the BCEA and the extension of the Labour Relations Act.

"Our concern is that employers should be required to maintain standards of fairness to employees during any restructuring," Mr Bosch, a member of an NMC technical sub-committee, said.

Farm workers will also lose their common law right to receive reasonable notice — which in some cases was in ex-

appeal on its judgments. But 13 years later, farm workers are still covered only by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Manpower Training Act and the Guidance and Placement Act.

They are still regarded as among the most exploited members of the workforce.

Four other laws — the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act — have been proposed.

Two of these, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) and the Unemployment Insurance Act, could soon be extended to cover agriculture.

However, concerns have been raised that the extension of these laws — designed to uplift them — could see farm workers being dismissed in their thousands, and worse off than before.

Negotiations on the problems surrounding the application of the legislation to agriculture have been underway between all parties, through the NMC, for some time.

White Manpower Minister

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By MONWABISI  
NOMADOLIO

# Work trip a 3-month nightmare

Open 19/4/92

(4)

**JOBLESS** 49-year-old William Michel, a widowed father of seven children from Taung in the northern Cape, was full of hope when he joined 40 others who had been promised work by a farmer in Piet Retief.

But his journey to the Transvaal turned out to be a nightmare.

Three months after leaving, what was left of the destitute group was this week found stranded on the East Rand. They were found by a good Samaritan, after they had

been chased off a farm near Brakpan.

Trouble for him and the group started in January when a Standerton farmer, Nico Prinsloo, recruited them.

Normally farmers who recruit workers bring money or meals for the families when they take them away, but he didn't do this," said Michel.

They stayed on Prinsloo's farm for three weeks before he took them back to Piet Retief where

they worked for three weeks and were paid R140.

Prinsloo was later joined by Piet Swart who took them to Brakpan where they stayed three days before being taken to work on another farm in Delmas.

"At this farm we were beaten by the new baas and some of our group decided to leave," he said.

"I phoned Prinsloo who had gone back to Standerton and told him what was

happening. Prinsloo fetched us and took us back to his farm in Standerton," he said.

Prinsloo then took us back to the Piet Retief farm we had worked on, but after a while we were taken to Brakpan again and dumped on Swart's farm. Since leaving Piet Retief for the first time we had not been paid."

Michel alleged that at Brakpan Swart told him his cousin Prince Mitchell,

and Piet Lesledi, go leave the farm and threatened remaining group of 20 they left the farm and walked in the rain to a tollgate where they were found by one the cashiers, S'bonjile Hlajwe.

"After hearing their sad story, I organised transport for them and they spent some time at the Salvation Church in Kye-Thema. From there they were taken back to Taung," Hlajwe said.

Prinsloo told City Press he was Swart's general manager, and that Swart should have paid them.

"He owes them a lot of money," said Prinsloo. Swart was outraged by Prinsloo's comments when City Press phoned him in Brakpan.

But Swart said: "Those people worked for me on liquidated farm in Piet Retief for three weeks and I paid them off." He denied threatening to shoot the three.

Prinsloo's comments when City Press phoned him in Brakpan.

Prinsloo's comments when City Press phoned him in Brakpan.

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Prinsloo's comments when City Press phoned him in Brakpan.

## March planned for farm labour rights

CAPE TOWN — Cosatu's food union, charged since 1985 with organising SA's 1,4-million farmworkers, sees little hope of achieving this goal unless it has legal clout.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) represented some 25 000 workers on farms — a "drop in the ocean" according to Fawu assistant general secretary Mike Madlala.

Fawu and Cosatu would lead a march to Parliament tomorrow to demand basic labour rights be extended to the agricultural sector, he said.

At a news conference in Cape Town, Madlala blamed the absence of legislative protection for workers and unions for Fawu's failure to

make inroads into the sector.

He said farmworkers had no access to unfair labour practice jurisdiction or the Industrial Court, as

opposed to workers who fell under the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

Fawu and Cosatu may have approached negotiations on legislation "the wrong way round", said Madlala.

Instead of pressing for the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers, it should have demanded that the LRA be extended, giving workers and organisers organisational protection.

In its demands to government tomorrow, Fawu and Cosatu would demand the immediate extension of this Act to farmworkers. — Sapa.

# Workers to march

Sowetan 23/4/92  
FARM and factory workers would march to Parliament tomorrow to demand the immediate extension of the Labour Relations and Wage Acts to agriculture.

This was said by Mr Mike Madlala, assistant general secretary of the Food and Allied Workers Union yesterday.

The march, organised by Fawu and the Congress of

South African Trade Unions, was believed to be the first mass action demanding full labour rights for the country's 1,4 million farm workers, he said.

## Perturbed

Speaking at a Press conference, Madlala said Fawu and Cosatu were particularly perturbed that the State President, Mr FW de Klerk, had not responded to growing demands to alleviate the plight of farm workers.

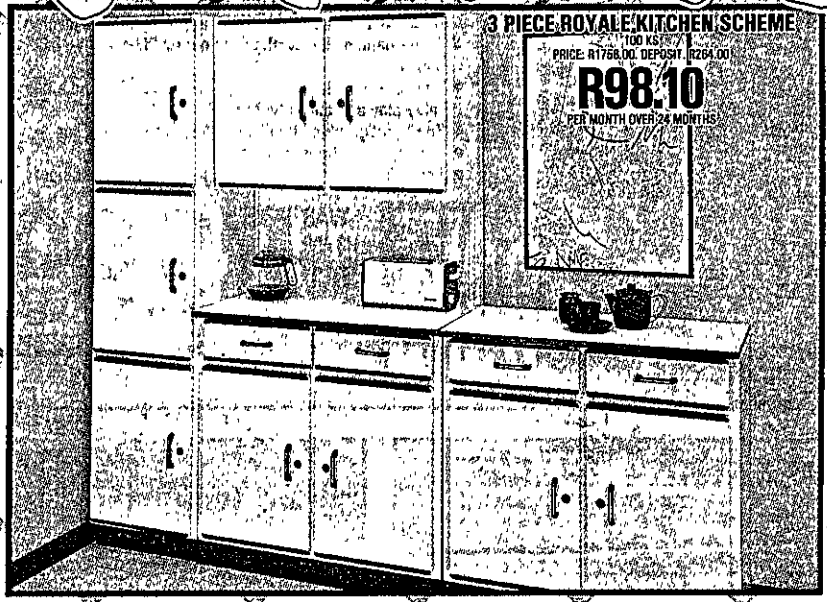
In a statement, Fawu said: "The new South Africa will remain a distant dream while more than a million workers remain in bondage."



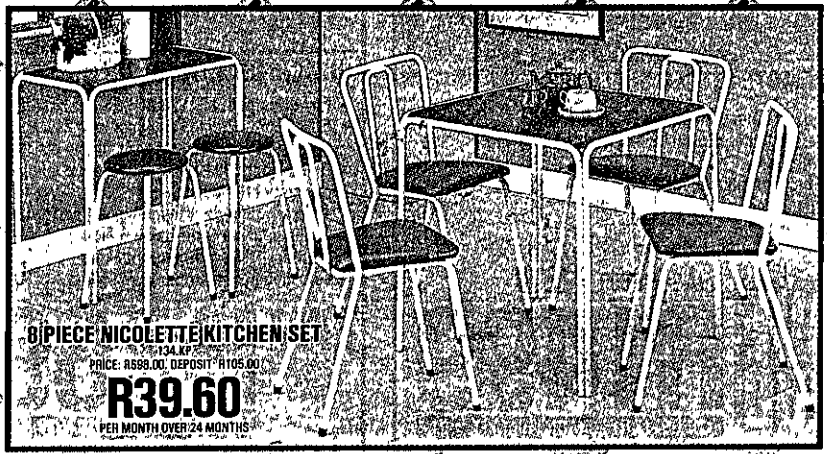
# Thirteen years on, the

Sowetan 23/4/92 (4)

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WHEN Willem Adams takes a bath in private, his wife has to stand outside the front door. In his "hokkie" of a home on a Koekenaap farm, there's no alternative.

And, like most of the more than 1 million labourers working South Africa's 65 000 farms, 48-year-old Adams is fed up

"Can we continue like this any longer?" he wonders. "What must we do? If we do not begin (seeking solutions) now, we will sit in this mess forever."

These sentiments are not his alone

A father of five, Adams was among a delegation of impoverished farmworkers who travelled to Cape Town last week to highlight the plight of the rural workforce.

### Bargaining

While the South African Agricultural Union argues this is not a true reflection of the "good" relationships which exist between farmers and their workers, rural labourers remain open to exploitation.

As far back as 1979, the Wichahn Commission, headed by Professor Nic Wichahn - then professor of Industrial Relations at Unisa - paved the way for a liberalisation of South Africa's outdated industrial bargaining procedures

It resulted in the setting up of the National Manpower Commission as well as the Industrial Court - arbiter in a wide range of labour-oriented disputes, with right of appeal to the Supreme Court on its judgments

### Exploited

But 13 years later, farmworkers are still covered only by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Manpower Training Act and the Guidance and Placement Act

They are still regarded as among the most exploited members of the workforce

Four other laws - the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act - have been proposed

Two of these, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, could soon be extended to cover agriculture

### Uplift

However, concerns have been raised that the extension of these laws - designed to uplift them - could see farmworkers being dismissed in their thousands, and worse off than before.

Negotiations on the problems surrounding the application of the legislation to agriculture have been under way between all parties, through the NMC, for some time.

THIRTEEN years after the watershed Wichahn Commission ushered in unprecedented labour reforms, South Africa's 1,3 million farmworkers remain the most exploited labourers in the country. Two key labour laws could change that soon - but possibly at a cost to workers themselves.

While Manpower Minister Mr Piet Marais believes it is possible for the parties to reach consensus before the end of April, an impasse arose when the South African Agricultural Union, representing farmers, apparently went back on consensus positions reached through the NMC.

On some details, the union did not agree with the majority position but accepted the proposal "in principle". Farmers oppose the extension of the Acts, calling for "agriculture-friendly" labour laws instead

But SAAU spokesman Mr Kobus Kleynhans says consensus was "not really reached" in the NMC as the NMC proposals had been rejected by the farmers themselves, who did not agree with the NMC report

### Claims

"We deny claims and accusations that we are going back on consensus positions reached within the NMC," Kleynhans said

But the giant labour federation Cosatu has warned its members will embark on mass strike action if the Acts are not urgently processed through Parliament

This has left the Government juggling a hot potato.

Draft legislation proposing that certain farmworkers fall under the ambit of the Unemployment Insurance Act, published in March, was greeted with little enthusiasm

### Fund

Seasonal workers - hired for less than four consecutive months a year by the same employer - are not included in the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill, therefore excluding up to half the country's farmworkers

The Act would be phased in over a period of nine months, given the large number of farmers and workers and farmers would have to contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Fund for the first time.

Serious concerns regarding the application of the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill have also been raised

Kleynhans pointed out that the SAAU was not the only party which had problems with the application of the Act

According to Mr Dawie Bosch of the Centre for

# farmworkers still suffer

Duelfan 23/4/92

Rural Legal Studies in Stellenbosch, the Bill removes existing rights from some categories of workers, and omits NMC clauses aimed at protecting farmworkers against widespread dismissals - likely to accompany the expected restructuring of agriculture.

"If negotiated recommendations are disregarded in this way, parties will lose their incentive to negotiate and fight for their interests in other spheres, which may cripple an already weak economy," he warned.

## Concern

The majority on the NMC decided that farmworkers must be protected against arbitrary dismissals during the period between the extension of the BCEA and the extension of the Labour Relations Act.

"Our concern is that employers should be required to maintain standards of fairness to employees during any restructuring," Bosch, a member of an NMC technical sub-committee, said. Farmworkers will also lose their common law right to receive reasonable notice - which in some cases

(4)

was in excess of six months - when dismissed in terms of the Bill.

While this right was recognised unanimously by the NMC, it is removed by the Bill and is replaced by a blanket one month notice period, with the right to stay in housing to tend standing crops.

## Treated

Thousands of workers, now treated as industrial workers in terms of the BCEA and the LRA, will lose these rights because of the Bill's very wide definition of "farming activity".

Farmworkers will also not have sufficient, effective legal protection against victimisation for taking part in trade union activities.

"In the light of the indications that a great number of farmworkers are likely to be dismissed in the near future, the provisions on victimisation are very important.

## Dismissals

"The Act presently prohibits dismissals in cases that it defines as victimisation, but employers found guilty of contravening the prohibition and who are prosecuted in terms of the

Act are modestly penalised, thus providing no compensation to employees, who have no clear right to the remedy of reinstatement," he said.

Farmers are notably concerned with the way the new laws, especially the Wage Act and the Labour Relations Act, will affect them.

"Although it will be difficult for unions to organise farmworkers because of the distances involved, farmers are worried about this because their workers have not had power up to now, but their potential strength is a real threat," Bosch said.

## Worried

Farmers are also worried about the servicing of the agricultural sector by the Department of Manpower.

"It is a realistic concern on their part because manpower officials have to be made available for rural areas and industrial courts, conciliation boards and other structures have to be set up to resolve industrial disputes," Bosch said.

While the commission has agreed to set up the relevant structures, it said the extension of the laws should not be delayed while



Farmworkers - still getting a raw deal.

the facilities were being provided and structures being set up.

But the SAAU argues that all structures should be in place before the laws are applied to agriculture.

Much of the difficulty has arisen because proposals recommended by the NMC have been watered down in the draft legislation - largely seen to be in the farmers' favour.

It is deep-seated unhappiness about this - and the prospect that further negotiations will delay the application of the new measures - in Cosatu that is the subject of continuing talks with Minister Dr G Marais.



## Farm workers to march

FARM and factory workers are to march to Parliament tomorrow to demand the immediate extension of the Labour Relations and Wage Acts to agriculture

④ CT23/4/92

## 'Slaves' get set for big freedom demo

Political Staff (4) AUG 23/4/92

FARM workers are to march to parliament tomorrow to demand the abolition of the Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts and for the provisions of the Labour Relations and Wage Acts to be extended to them.

They will also demand freedom of association, the right to bargain for a living wage, better working conditions, an end to the abuse of farm workers, upgrading of working conditions and the freedom to organise.

The march, the first by farm workers, has been organised by the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu).

At a Press conference yesterday Fawu likened South Africa's 1,4 million farm workers to slaves.

Fawu assistant general secretary Mr Mike Madlala said: "It has been described as a national scandal".

He said Fawu was perturbed that President De Klerk, despite saying that the doors on apartheid had been closed, was failing to respond to growing demands to alleviate the plight of farm workers.

"The new South Africa will remain a distant dream while more than a million workers remain in bondage," Mr Madlala said.

COSATU'S food union, chartered since 1985 with organising the country's 1,4 million farmworkers, sees lit-

the hope of achieving this goal unless it has the legal clout to do so.

The Food and Allied Workers Union represented some 25 000 workers on farms, a "drop in the ocean", according to Fawu assistant general secretary Mr Mike Madlala.

Breaking with its hitherto low-key public profile on organising workers on farms, Fawu and Cosatu will lead a march to Parliament today to demand that basic labour rights be extended to the agricultural sector.

Speaking at a Press conference in Cape Town, he blamed the absence of legislative protection for workers and unions for Fawu's failure to make any significant inroads into the sector.

The union needed organisational power before it could enforce concessions for workers on farms - but was hamstrung by not having the right to build that power.

It has adopted a twofold approach in trying to permeate the farming sector: the traditional trade union tool of organisation, and taking part in the official advisory body on labour

legislation, the National Manpower Commission. Despite this, Fawu's organised presence on farms was poor, said Madlala. The union was mandated to organise farm workers at Cosatu's launch in 1985, and repeated resolutions to step up efforts in this direction have been passed since. Cosatu, at its fourth national congress last year, resolved to establish a national union for farmworkers, but instructed its affiliates with members on farms to continue their activities. "There is no legislative or organisational protection for farmworkers. If we organise blindly we expose workers to victimisation and mass dismissals - and in the end nothing is really done," said Madlala. Regarding negotiations in the NMC, Fawu last year obtained Government undertakings that the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts would be tabled

# Effort to unionise farmworkers balked

*We know that quite a number of farmworkers have been dismissed in anticipation of labour laws being extended to the farming sector?*

*Powerman 24/4/92*

*(4)*

*(FB)*

*(FB)*

before the end of the 1991 Parliamentary sitting. "This only happened 12 days before the session ended and there was no time for Parliament to debate the Bills. This year we've seen them being shifted down the order papers."

"Then the South African Agricultural Union lobbied the Minister of Manpower and other parliamentarians for their support for a consolidated Act for agriculture."

Cosatu and the SAAU would, nonetheless, continue to discuss their respective demands, said Madlala. "This should not be seen

as delaying the promulgation of the Bills into law. "At the same time, the Department of Manpower should not delay enacting the Labour Relations and Wage Acts so they apply to agriculture."

The union had also been faced with having to deal with three different Ministers of Manpower in a three-month period including and leading up to the appointment of the present Minister, Mr Piet Marais. Fawu's involvement in the NMC followed the 1990 Laboria Minute, which committed the Government to extending labour rights to all workers and undertakings that the NMC would be resur-

rected into a representative, negotiating forum between employers and employees on labour policy. Madlala said workers on farms had no access to unfair labour practice jurisdiction or the Industrial Court - protection enjoyed by workers who fell under the Labour Relations Act. Fawu and Cosatu may have approached negotiations on legislation "the wrong way round", said Madlala. Instead of pressing for the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers, it should have demanded that the LRA be extended, giving workers and organisers organisational protection.

In its demands to the Government today, Fawu and Cosatu will demand the immediate extension of this Act to farmworkers, for, "without this, all legislation relating to farmworkers cannot be enforced".

"If a farmworker is dismissed, the family also goes and often they lose their accommodation. This is different to industrial workers, who don't rely on their employers for access to accommodation." Fawu estimated that up to 5 million people were dependent on farmworkers as breadwinners. Trespass laws prevented union organisers from going on to farms. From this stemmed Fawu and Cosatu's demands that the Trespass Act be scrapped immediately and organisers be allowed free access to farms. Attempting to bridge the legal gulf between farm and city, Fawu has concentrated on organising work-

ers on company farms where it already has a presence in the related industry. But, in the absence of legal protection, supportive mobilisation by industrial workers held no guarantees of advances for farmworkers. Fawu was not the only union trying to organise farmworkers. The National Union of Farmworkers, affiliated to the National Council of Trade Unions, and other independent unions were also active in the sector. Nachu, which has joined Cosatu in NMC negotiations, had not been invited to Friday's march as it was based in Johannesburg, said Madlala. "This is a start, and we will definitely include Nachu, its affiliates and the independent unions."

Madlala said the believed there was light at the end of the tunnel. Optimism about progress towards full labour rights for workers on farms had, however, to be tempered against the background of the experience in Zimbabwe - where labour rights for farmworkers sparked dismissals. "We know that quite a number of farmworkers here have been dismissed in anticipation of labour laws being extended to the farming sector." - *Sapa*.

# In search of some common ground down on the farms

By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

24/4-29/4/92  
A SERIES of high-level meetings between government, worker and farmer representatives has failed to clear the murky future of farmworkers legislation, which remains logjammed in the parliamentary process.

But there is a groundswell of resistance among farmworkers who may not have the patience to weather yet another series of negotiations.

Today farmworkers, political and church organisations will march on parliament. In the past weeks, farmworkers have held placard protests.

The third in the series of meetings to decide the future of the legislation took place last Friday. It was to have been the last meeting but it too ended in an impasse.

According to government sources, the only progress made was that the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Council of Trade Unions and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) are "at least listening to each other".

Cosatu's end of April deadline to the Minister to demand decisive action on the legislation will not be met — instead another meeting will be held on May 7.

This week, the federation was adamant that this will be the last meeting.

SAAU representative Kobus Kleynhans said "we will not easily reach consensus but I am positive that we will reach common ground".

But all parties know the fragility of negotiations and have adopted a

wait and see approach to the May meeting: Cosatu is eager to get legislation passed for one of its most embattled sectors while the organised farmers lobby (SAAU) has realised that it cannot wish away trade unionism on the farms and is keen to find "common ground".

In the path of the legislation is SAAU's insistence on separate labour legislation for farmworkers. To what extent it is still wedded to this scheme is unclear.

Kleynhans was non-committal this week and would only say "Cosatu and the SAAU are looking for labour legislation that will work".

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is spearheading the campaign around the legislation. It has only 25 000 members in the sector, a sector employing 1,6-million workers.

But organising work is hampered by the lack of legislation. Ben Sinzane, a Fawu farms organiser, said they are denied access to the farms in terms of the Trespass Act. Instead, they have to meet workers at night or at the weekend outside the farms.

Today, Fawu and Cosatu will march on parliament to demand that the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act be passed on to farmworkers in the current parliamentary session.

They will also highlight the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining for farmworkers as well as campaign for the scrapping of the Trespass and Illegal Squatting Acts.

# Farmworkers on the march

**DENNIS CRUYWAGEN**

Political Staff (4)

IT started late, with a smaller turn-out than predicted.

But history was made as the first march to parliament by farmworkers took place in Cape Town yesterday.

Organised by the Food and Allied Workers' Union, the marchers comprised about 50

workers.

ARG 25/4/92  
Fawu general secretary Mr Mandla Gxamyana said those taking part were "from various regions attending a workshop in Cape Town."

Outside parliament Fawu vice-president Mr Peter Malepe handed a memorandum to the acting-regional director of manpower, Mr Willem Hendrik de Swart.

In the document, addressed to Manpower Minister Mr Piet Marais, the union demanded, among other things, that the provisions of the Labour Relations and Wage Acts be extended to farmworkers, the Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts be abolished and that Bills on the order paper on the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts be passed.

# Farmworkers march to Parliament

STAR 25/1/92  
POLITICAL STAFF (4)

CAPE TOWN — It started late and with a smaller turnout than predicted, but it made history yesterday.

It was the first farmworkers' march to Parliament.

About 50 farmworkers took part in the Food and Allied Workers Union-organised march through Cape Town to deliver a memorandum to Manpower Minister Piet Marais.

Fawu general-secretary Mandla Gxamyana

said the workers were from various regions. More would have taken part if western Cape farmers had allowed them to do so.

Fawu national vice-president Peter Malepe handed a memorandum to Manpower acting regional director Willem Hendrik de Swart outside Parliament.

It demanded that Labour Relations and

Wage Act provisions be extended to farmworkers, abolition of the Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts, and that Bills on the order paper on the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts be passed.

Fawu also demanded a living wage and better working conditions for farmworkers, the right to organise on farms, a ban on hazardous pesticides, and aid for those affected by the drought.

## March for farm workers (4)

ABOUT 100 people, led by members of the Food and Allied Workers Union, marched to parliament on Friday to demand that basic labour rights be extended to farm workers. *CPA 26/4/92*

■ Reports by Sapa, Reuter, AP.

Blowan 28/4/92  
**Agriculture law call**

A LABOUR law for agriculture could be applied easily and be acceptable to farmers and workers, says Free State Agricultural Union president Pieter Gous (4)

Gous has called on participants in negotiations to ensure a law is provided that can be applied easily, considers agriculture's circumstances and is acceptable to farmers and workers.



# Protect domestic farm workers call

*Sowetan 30/4/92*

(4)

*Handwritten initials and scribbles*

**THE Department of Manpower has recommended that the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts be extended to the agricultural sector.**

National Manpower Commission members, except the SA Agricultural Union, recommended that the Wage Act be extended to farms.

The NMC also recommended that domestic workers be protected by the Basic Conditions of Employment, Labour Relations, Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation Acts.

Its annual report covering its activities ranging from labour relations to military objection to Parliament this week.

The 154-page document reported a rise in trade union membership, advances in extending labour laws to unprotected sectors, fewer workplace accidents and increased unemployment.

An amended Labour Relations Act - agreed between Saccola, Cosatu and

Nactu - was passed by Parliament in 1991, but no progress had been made on its consolidation because the National Manpower Commission had not been restructured.

The productivity-based wage agreements in the mining and automotive assembling industries could be regarded as important developments.

Altogether 613 strikes in sectors covered by the LRA claimed 1,24 million mandays lost in 1991, but the numbers involved decreased by almost 50 per cent on 1990 figures.

## Stayaway

Wages were the main cause and the manufacturing industry suffered most in terms of mandays lost.

In 28 strikes more than 1 000 workers were involved, and each strike lasted seven days on average.

Strike figures did not include public sector disputes and the November 4 and 5 stayaway, when the majority of the country's workforce did not go to work.

Violence in the

workplace continued - 22 people were killed and about 90 injured at the President Steyn gold mine in Welkom during November 1991.

The multiracial Federation of Independent Trade Unions, representing some 210 000 workers in 23 unions, was launched in October 1991. Its stated objectives included playing a constructive and moderate role in a free market economy.

A meeting was held between Saccola and three major union federations to discuss setting up an economic forum to give employers and employees a say in restructuring the economy.

The Minister and the Department of Manpower met twice with Cosatu to discuss a wide variety of subjects concerning trade unionism.

"It is . . . the Department's policy, as far as possible, to consult employers and employees whenever changes are envisaged to the legislation administered by the department," wrote the Director-General of Manpower, Mr Joel

Fourie.

For the first time in many years, a fulltime deputy, Mr Glen Carelse, was appointed to help the Minister of Manpower, Mr Piet Magais.

The number of employers' organisations dropped from 271 in 1987 to 214 last year.

Trade union membership of registered unions rose from 1 879 million in 1987 to 2 750 million in 1991 and about three million employees belonged to registered and unregistered trade unions in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

## Agreements

Eighty-nine industrial councils administering 141 agreements were registered at the end of 1991. They regulated wage agreements covering 36 000 employees, and the conditions of service of 488 000 workers.

The building and construction industries proved the most dangerous, with 123 fatalities in 1991, followed by agriculture and forestry with 86 deaths.

In all, there were 474 work-related fatalities in 1991, compared to 435 the

previous year. Only 53 percent of people who reported for trade tests actually passed. It was hoped that modular training would alleviate this problem.

Apprenticeship contracts increased from one in 1990 to 566 in 1991, proof that training boards could make a significant contribution to training.

During 1991, 173 religious objectors were referred to the department for placement in community service. Owing to a Supreme Court judgment, 389 religious objectors were sentenced anew during 1991.

More than R27 million was spent on training unemployed people for the formal sector by October 31 1991, and more than R31 million on skills' training for the informal sector.

Altogether 550 185 people were paid unemployment insurance benefits in 1991, against 438 292 in 1990. More than R891 million was paid out in 1991, and about R587 million in 1990.

Workmen's Compensation payments for medical



**There were 613 strikes in 1991.**

costs increased by about 23 percent, amounting to over R111 million, compared with R61 million in 1986.

The 1991 amendments to the Labour Relations Act resulted in a decrease in the number of cases referred to the Industrial Court, but the number of matters which could not be finalised increased by 39 percent.

The Labour Appeal Court heard 65 cases in 1991.

Altogether 7280 conciliation boards were established following 11 114 applications between November 1 1990, and October 31 1991.

Altogether 5 209 disputes were referred to Industrial Councils, of which 2 101 were settled. The rest, if not settled, were referred to the Industrial Court, or arbitration, mediation or eventually ended in deadlock. - *Sapa.*



Mrs Sarah Sambo with her daughter Cecilia. She was paid R16 000 this week by a farmer who killed her husband Eric.

# Widow paid R16 000 for hubby's death

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Northern Transvaal farmer who killed a labourer four years ago for accidentally killing his dog has paid R16 000 to the widow in an out-of-court settlement.

The Levubu farmer, Mr Johannes Vorster, made the payment to the labourer's widow, Mrs Sarah Sambo, this week.

Sambo's lawyer, Mr Peter Reynolds, yesterday confirmed the settlement.

Vorster was found guilty of culpable homicide by the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in 1988 following the brutal killing of Mr Eric Sambo.

Evidence at the trial was that Vorster and a white friend, Mr Johannes Leonard, had accused Sambo in the street two months after the death of the puppy.

Sambo was attacked and driven to Vorster's property, where he was assaulted while tied to a tree. The two farmers and other

friends had a braai as they beat Sambo, who died the following day in a police cell, where Vorster had dumped him.

During the trial, the judge ordered Vorster, who was given a suspended sentence, to pay R130 a month for five years to Sambo's girlfriend, Xitenge, who was with him when accused.

No order was made in respect of Sambo's wife and five children.

Reynolds said the money paid by Vorster followed a civil case brought by the widow. She had initially claimed R60 000.

● To page 2

## Widow

● From page 1

Sambo last year received R54 000 from readers of the *Sun* newspaper in London, who were touched by her plight.

Sambo said this week she was grateful to *Sowetan* for the assistance it gave her.

*Sowetan* was the first to carry the story of Sambo's murder. It caused an international outcry and drew even more publicity after the passing of sentence.



PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK visits the frightened Free State where murder has become common and whites talk of revenge

W/Marty  
8/5-14/5/92

**T**HE 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 Verkeerdelei, the kind of place where TS Ehot 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.

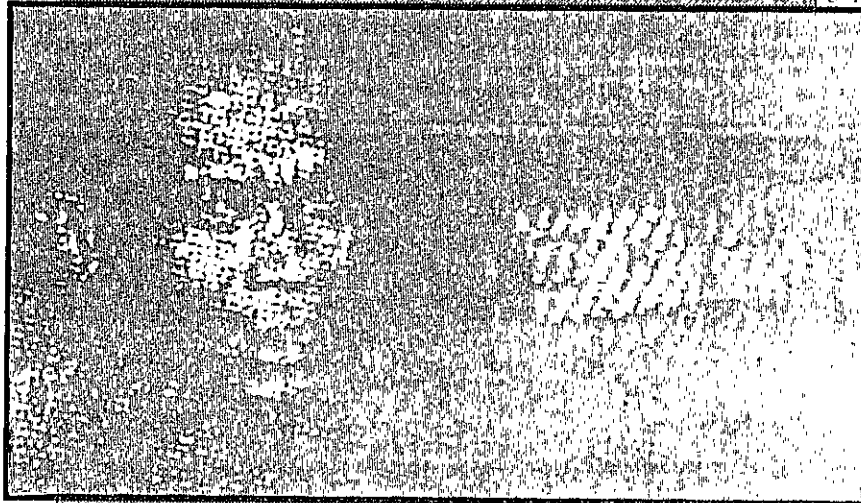
Verkeerdelei built both its cemetery and its black location a half a kilometre from town, removing the white dead and the black living to share the same flat empty vista.

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 Verkeerdelei 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

# Gabriel Mahakoe may well be mad



## 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

**A**ccording to his own account, Mahakoe walked into the farmhouse of the Engelbrecht family on the farm Grootstry 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 'Mauloje 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 fingertips. 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 "utgemoor" — 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.

**P**olice 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.

Last week the killers of Jani Pretorius made sure they got far away.

She was murdered on Tuesday but by Thursday police were saying they had extended their search to Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo — which is like searching for a needle in a huge black squatter settlement. Once you have got that far it is very hard for the white man's law to follow you.

With fear and racial tension reaching breaking point, an emergency congress of the Free State Agricultural Union was held in Bloemfontein in February.

The upshot was an attempt to turn the Free State farming districts into virtual war zones with tough influx control and anti-squatting measures aimed at draconian controls on the movement of blacks.

One of the resolutions was a call to pull white policemen out of the townships to leave "feuding black political and ethnic groups" to their own devices and protect the isolated white farms instead.

It is probably a small footnote in the history of the saga, but residents of the Verkeerdelei black location complain of a crime wave and say the police seldom patrol their township or even deign to come out when a crime has been committed.

The ANC has done its bit to ease the paranoia of the farmers. On April 8 South African Communist Party chief Chris Hani met senior police officers and farmers and assured them

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 ANC headquarters in the Verkeerdelei 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 Verkeerdelei, 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 Verkeerdelei 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.

**A**t 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 Verkeerdelei, 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 mealmeal 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. Verkeerdelei 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 Verkeerdelei, 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 it's going to be a bad winter.

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'

BOOKS

# Phokeng women tell of their history

W/Mail 8/5-14/5/92  
 4

WOMEN OF PHOKENG by Mmantho Nkotsae (Ravan, R49.99)

**N**OT far from Rustenburg in the western Transvaal lies one of apartheid's dumping grounds, the sleepy rural town of Phokeng.

*Women of Phokeng*, by University of the Witwatersrand professor of sociology Belinda Bozzoli, is an oral-history study, following the lives and struggles of 22 Botakeng women from their births round the turn of the century to their old age in Phokeng, a once prosperous agricultural town which once "never knew hunger".

By conducting in-depth, personal interviews, Bozzoli, assisted by Mmantho Nkotsae, looks at the course each woman's life took and how they were all brought back, eventually, to Phokeng. Interspersed with the anecdotes about their day-to-day existence are vivid first-hand accounts of historically significant events from the early years of the century right to the present day, depicting urban life during the 1930s and 1940s in Reef townships like Sophiatown, Alexandra and Vrededorp along the way.

The life to which they have returned in Phokeng revolves around burial societies, grandchildren and church-related activities; they are accorded the traditional dignity of elderly women. But it is their earlier selves that arouse the most interest.

Bozzoli follows the unfolding course of their defiance, from their diminished tribal position to oppressively customary practices such as female initiation and compulsory house work, to the brashness of the city and the fight for survival there. Here "homegirl networks" of Phokeng women were employed as domestic workers. Members of these networks would look out for each other.

One of the interviewees is Naomi Setshedi, once a member of such a group. She says: "We had boyfriends but didn't want them to sleep in our rooms. Whenever one of us knew that her boyfriend would be likely to pay her a visit, she would organise her friends to come and spend the evening so the boyfriend could be inconvenienced." By doing this, the women felt they were also preventing one of them becoming pregnant.

All the women interviewed say that in the cities it was better to do domestic work than farm or factory work. Here, they describe how they often met and then married husbands and bore several children instead of being "promised" to someone in the traditional way. Their later existence in the city was no longer

based solely on earning money, as they move into townships, have families and adopt urban life. One of the ways in which the women supplemented their income was by illegally home-brewing beer to sell. This, however, often led to arrests, along with police harassment. But Mmadiate Makgale, described by Bozzoli as particularly militant, says they always found ways of evading the white policemen and so kept on brewing and therefore earning money.

These women were not afraid of policemen either hunting for pass books or illegal home-brew. Nthana Mohale says that "policemen could never even think of standing in front of a 'Mayibuye' woman. We were militant. Even in town, the bus drivers used to clear way for us so that we could go in without having to stand in a long queue."

In the townships they participated in historically significant movements like the defiance campaigns against passes and the first bus boycotts which swept the Reef during this time.

One has to read through a lot of often disparate information in the interviews, but Bozzoli's division of the material in chapters does make them more manageable. Throughout

the interviews, Bozzoli attempts to draw in the historical significance of events which occurred during these women's lives. She structures questions so that they include the women's perceptions of the world around them embedded in first-person accounts of what life was like "in those days" in places such as Fietas and Sophiatown. Descriptions of concepts, words and places referred to in the interviews — some of which the reader may be unfamiliar with — are placed in context in the detailed notes at the back.

There are few illustrations in *Women of Phokeng*, but the maps and the portraits of most of the women interviewed are useful references in understanding the background and content of the book. It also carries a detailed bibliography of other works on subjects like domestic work and migration to the cities.

*Women of Phokeng* may come across as just another well-researched portrayal of the evil effects of apartheid, but Bozzoli does not leave it at that. She takes up issues of interest to gender studies as well as sociological and historical fields, and the interviews are written in a way that makes apparent both the aspects of life the women have in common and their individuality.

Beathur Baker

# Farmer wants to evict me — elderly worker

STAR 8/19/92

By Brian Sokutu (4)

Pensioner and farmworker Edison Sithole (72) claims his employer has threatened to evict him, his wife and eight children if he retires.

For 22 years Mr Sithole, who suffers from arthritis, has been employed as a cook at the Cyra Christian Centre Camp on Vernon Dinkleman's farm in Hekpoort near Krugersdorp.

"I'm a pensioner. I have worked for Mr Vernon Dinkleman for so long, and now due to poor health I have appealed to him for a retirement. He refuses and says if I retire he will kick me out of the farm with my family," said Mr Sithole.

A former Zimbabwean citizen with a South African work permit, Mr Sithole first arrived in 1945 and started work on the farm for a J Herring in 1947.

He works seven days a week, earns R450 a month and receives a R235 old age pension.

Cathy Dinkleman, who said her husband was away for the day, said: "My husband fears the Lord and I doubt if he could

do this. He has a soft heart."

The plight of Mr Sithole and two other farmworkers — who claim they will be evicted when they are retrenched at the end of the month — has been taken up by the Black Sash in Johannesburg. Field worker Simon Malokoane condemned the evictions as "the worst form of exploitation".

A spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs said the workers could seek legal action. "But the strength of their case would largely depend on the type of agreement they entered into with the farmer regarding staying there," he said.

Joseph Mosekelane, a father of two, has been working at the farm for three years, earning R275 a month. "Mr Dinkleman gave me a month's notice to leave the farm with my family, after retrenchments beginning at the end of May. We'll be left without a home," he said.

Zachariah Matlakala, also facing eviction, said his wife Sophie, who suffers from high blood pressure, had been on unpaid sick leave since December. She earned R180 a month as a domestic worker.

mitted to the O.N.  
"Nevertheless, (State) President FW de Klerk and his party want to cling to the monopoly of political power."  
Referring to the current wave of

The 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

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## 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. *(10/15/92)*

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. *(4)*

It added that millions are facing famine in the bantustans.

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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# R5-m set aside for needs of farm staff

ABOUT R5 million had set aside in drought-aid for workers on farms, dispelling Cosatu claims they had been neglected, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Tobie Meyer, said.

Speaking during the Agricultural Development Budget vote debate, he said aid for farmers included their workforce.

The Department of Health and National Population Development had earmarked R20 million for poverty relief plus R10 million to Operation Hunger; R130 million had gone to the self-governing territories.

Mr Corne Mulder (CP Schweizer Reneke) said it seemed Cosatu was trying to create a climate of injustice as it had done in factories and mines.

There were farmers in his constituency who employed 10 workers but supported many dependants.

In some cases, workers received bonuses of R4 000, "can Cosatu compete with this?"

Sapa. (14) APR 13 1972

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# 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.

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.

## Minister waxes lyrical

CAPE TOWN — Self-penned poetry, dusted with harsh metaphor on the ravages of drought, tied up Agriculture Minister Kraal van Niekerk's closing speech during the Oyn Affairs Agriculture vote debate yesterday.

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.





# 'I kicked lightly' — accused

By DALE GRANGER

THE son of a Riversdale sheep farmer charged with murdering a farm labourer with two others told Riversdale Magistrate's Court yesterday that he had "only lightly kicked and punched" two labourers he had found on the farm illegally.

Mr Willem Odendaal, 22, Mr Christian du Toit, 24, a farm foreman, and a 17-year-old youth, all of the farm Watergat,

have pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Hans Muggels and assaulting Mr Nicolaas Collier, Mr Gert Meyers, Mr Koos Jaftha and Mr Julie Jaftha on August 31 last year.

Mr Odendaal said yesterday that the men had been hunting on the farm when a neighbouring farmer told them there were strangers on the farm.

"It is farm policy for the labourers to receive permission for visitors," Mr Odendaal

said, and the three men had gone to investigate.

While chasing Mr Collier, he had fired three warning shots in the air.

Mr Collier was drunk and he and Mr Gert Meyers were put in a bakkie and driven to a barn.

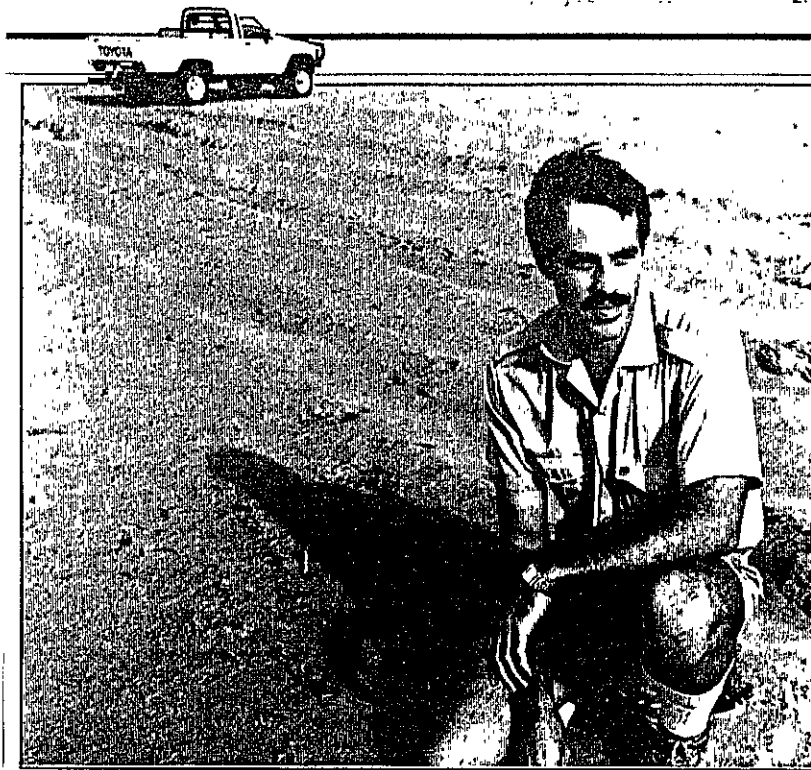
"I wanted to let them sober up and talk to them, but I was angry because they were slow and wasting my time. I kicked and punched them lightly," Mr Odendaal said.

Two of his own farm labourers, Mr Koos Jaftha and Mr Julie Jaftha, were also taken to the barn. He had kicked and slapped them, but was "playing with them".

The day after the alleged assaults, farm labourers found the body of Mr Muggels in a shed on the farm.

Mr Odendaal's and Mr Du Toit's bail was extended. The youth was released on warning.

④ CT 14/5/92



High and Dry... As white farmers go bankrupt, thousands of farmworkers lose their jobs  
Photo: KEVIN CARTER

## Farm legislation stalls at go-nowhere summit

**W**ITH just three months to go before this sitting of parliament ends, proposed legislation for farmworkers lies bogged deep in negotiations. And the possibility of smooth passage for this legislation is becoming more and more bleak.

May 7 was supposed to be D-day, the day the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Council of Trade Unions and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) made a final decision on the

*As the drought deepens, legislation to protect farm workers is still as distant as rainclouds on the horizon.*

**FERIAL HAFFAJEE reports**

legislation.

Instead it turned into another go-nowhere summit. The parties agreed only to seek mandates on two proposals: the first was whether key leg-

islation should be debated in this parliamentary session and the second was whether there should be one separate labour statute for farmworkers or whether they should be governed by existing South African labour statutes.

Over the weekend the two trade union federations issued a demand that the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill and the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill be debated and passed in this session of parliament.

But Cosatu and Nactu have minimal membership in the farming sector and consequently have little bargaining power with the farmers. This is reflected in their patient and conciliatory approach to the SAAU. The union statement also said that "we remain prepared to enter into negotiations with the SAAU concerning one or many acts for the agricultural sector".

Cosatu and Nactu also said this week they realised there was little hope for the legislation being passed by June.

The federations believe the failure by the government to pass the legislation in the 18 months since the Laboria Minute was passed indicated "a lack of political will on the part of the government to extend basic rights to farmworkers".

Many farmworkers were being retrenched because of the drought and this made the issue a more burning one because they were left without any protection, said the two federations.

Last week, Cosatu launched its drought relief campaign. In terms of the campaign, they will demand that a greater share of the government's drought relief fund go to farmworkers and their families.

Cosatu said that only two percent of the R1-billion allocated by the government to drought relief would be distributed to farmworkers. "The bulk of the money will go, not to prevent mass starvation, but to prevent white farmers from going bankrupt."

Delays in the farmworker legislation could be key sparks to Cosatu's general strike planned for July.

## Everything keeps going wrong at Toyota plants

By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

**MANY** prospective Toyota buyers now face a four-month wait for their new wheels because of a two-week strike at the company's Durban plants.

Every day 430 motor cars do not roll off the assembly line and the 6 000 workers on strike lose R800 000 in wages. Experts estimate that the company has lost R207-million in turnover and the communities where workers live have lost R7,2-million workers would have spent there. In addition, the company's 68 component suppliers have lost R42-million with the figure climbing by R5-million a day.

These are the startling statistics behind the strike which was sparked by the actions of an allegedly racist line manager "who practises outdated industrial relations", alleges the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa). Workers are on strike to demand that he be fired.

But the company says: "By demanding that we act against a supervisor without any recourse to due process, workers are violating their own hard-won advances toward security of employment."

On Tuesday, the parties agreed to refer the matter for arbitration. But workers refuse to return

to work until the arbiter makes an award. "The inference is that any return to work will be conditional on a finding in favour of the workers. This is an untenable situation for us," says Toyota.

The union says that management was alerted to workers' dissatisfaction with the line manager in February and failed to do anything about it.

"We feel that if workers come back to work now, management might come up with delaying tactics so problems must be resolved while we are on strike."

On May 7, the company was granted an interdict by the industrial court forcing workers to go back to work. Workers have ignored the interdict and are adamant about staying on strike "even for a thousand days".

The call for the dismissal of the line manager has been extended; two other senior managers are also on the firing line. In addition workers are demanding the reinstatement of a shop-steward dismissed six months ago.

Numsa regional organiser in Durban Magrapers Hlatswayo, said that the parties held five meetings to iron out the dispute. On Wednesday they worked late into the night to find a way out of the impasse.

Few farmers provide for workers who have retired. **Rehana Rossouw** tells of an elderly man who has been dumped naked in a shed in De Doorns to end his days alone:

# Boland's 'throw-away people' left to die quietly

South 23/5 - 27/5/92

**"T**he throw-away people, that's what we are. When we're not needed any more the farmers throw us away like dirt."

These bitter words sum up the grief of farm labourers in the Boland who fear old age because few farmers make provision for workers after they retire.

The most shocking example of this was on a farm in De Doorns, where a farmer has "dumped" a sick elderly worker in a shed with no windows and a bare concrete floor.

Mr Tsewu "Shorty" Tunyana will probably spend his last years in the shed, which previously housed cattle and sheep

He is left naked on a mattress covered with black refuse bags. He has only a threadbare blanket to ward off the winter wind which whistles through the door.

Tunyana cannot speak and only grunts in response to questions.

The owner of the farm has apparently provided only the shed for Tunyana. Other labourers provide a meagre share of their food for the old man — usually nothing more than a piece of dry bread once or twice a day.

Although an application for a pension for Tunyana has been made to the Cape Provincial Administration, his birthdate in his identity document indicates he is only 59 years old so cannot qualify.

Tunyana has no other way of proving he qualifies as his birth was not registered by his parents and, like many illiterate farm labourers, he has no idea how old he really is.



**DISCARDED:** Mr Tsewu Tunyana who has been left to die in his bed

Photos Yunus Mohamed

Workers say he has worked on the farm for more than 20 years — a lengthy service which was not taken into account when the farmer moved him out of his labourer's cottage and into the shed.

"When I look at this old man I get very, very scared," a labourer said, with tears streaming down his

checks as he attempted to straighten the blanket over Tunyana.

"He worked hard. He gave the best years of his life to the farmer and now he has been thrown away like dirt.

"I don't think he'll last until the end of winter. One evening we'll come home and find that he has

died," said the labourer.

"I'm almost too old to work any more and, like Shorty, I don't have children to look after me.

"I don't want to end up like him, but where else can I go?" he asked.

Attempts to reach the owner of the farm yesterday were unsuccessful.

the ANC Youth League to the

# Pensioner, 80, raped in <sup>4</sup>~~200~~

## farm cottage

South 23/5-27/5/92

ELDERLY PENSIONERS on farms who spend long hours alone are vulnerable — as shown by the case of a woman aged about 80 who was raped by two youths in a labourer's cottage.

The woman, too old to work, was alone in the cottage when the attack occurred.

The pensioner, who cannot be identified, worked for a Worcester farmer for more than 30 years until she was too old to continue.

There are no old age homes in the area, so she had no choice but to remain in a single-roomed cottage on the farm.

Like many other elderly people, she is not sure how old she is, but can recall coming to Cape Town in the 1920s to work in a factory.

When the factory closed, her employer "gave" her to a friend, the Worcester farmer.

"Ouma", as she is affectionately known by the other labourers, stopped working last year when she became sick.

She spent weeks in hospital but was discharged because the hospital could not care for chronically ill people and needed the bed.

After she was raped, allegedly by two white youths, another labourer volunteered to spend the evenings with her as she was afraid to sleep alone and could not defend herself.

"Ouma needs full-time care, but there aren't facilities here to provide that for her," said a Worcester social worker.

"The hospital refused to care for her; they've just dumped her back home to wait for death."

# FUND LAUNCHED FOR BEATEN BOYS

Stories 24/5/92

By SHARON CHETTY

NOVEMBER 21 and 22, 1990 will remain etched in the memories of nine Messina schoolboys as the day they saw the wrath of the "wibaas".

They were taken from their homes and farm school in Welpe, driven in farmer Wynand Erasmus' bakkie to his home and stripped and beaten.

The incident made national news — and when Erasmus was convicted for the assaults, the boys' parents hoped they would be compensated for their pain and trauma.

After the case, the schoolboys' attorney, Mrs Kate Owen, filed a civil suit totalling R255 525 against Erasmus for assault, injury and unjustifiable restraint on personal liberty.

Wynand Erasmus last year pleaded guilty to nine charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and was sentenced to R12 000 or two years and a three-year suspended sentence.

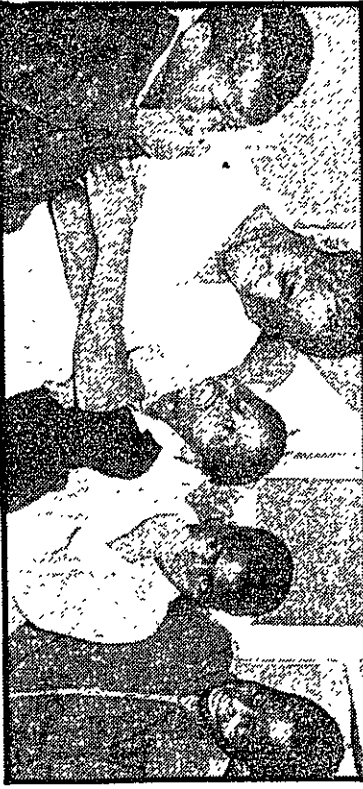
The claims included R125 for loss of earnings and accommodation for Alfred Manenze who worked as a gardener and R2 000 for two wounds on Tsapane Makokoropo's arms.

An employee of Erasmus, Mark Muleya, who had assisted in the flagging, was sentenced to a fine of R1 000 or 300 days, and a suspended sentence of one year.

A tenth person — Erasmus's employee William Munzhelele, father of Alpheus Munzhelele — was also re-presented in this claim for damages after he sustained a cut eye and injury to his ribs when Erasmus allegedly attacked him.

Another employee, Naisson Mbedzi, failed to appear in court.

Alpheus Munzhelele, Rifos Muleya, Alfred Manenze, Sampson Shi-



DESTITUTE: Aron Mabasa, Philemon Dubani, Hendrik Shivambu, Alpheus Munzhelele and Rifos Muleya who cannot claim compensation from farmer Wynand Erasmus

Liabilities of R717 500 and assets of R276 325 were listed. An order approving the sequestration was granted on July 9 last year. Erasmus has since left the Messina area, but he has left more than a physical scar on the boys he beat up.

However, before the civil claim could be made against Erasmus, the farmer's mother, Mrs Martha Magda-

The parents of the schoolboys are angry and bitter that Erasmus "got away" without compensating them.

Each family's income ranges from R65 to R120 a month. Their livelihood is dependant on the farmers they work for in an area already showing the devastation of drought.

And when the schoolboys were interviewed, they spoke of their fears of the white farmers in the area.

"Yanneer die wibaas kwaai word moet ons hardloop (when the white boss gets angry, we must run)," said 10-year-old Aron.

He, together with Sampson, Philemon, Emmmanuel, Hendrik and Tsapane were taken away from their classroom at the Skutwaster farm school on Thursday, November 22.

Alfred was fetched from a nearby farm where he worked as a gardener and the youths were taken to a garage on Erasmus's farm where they were made to strip, tied to a plank and beaten by the farmer who was assisted by Mark Muleya and Naisson Mbedzi.

Schoolteacher Peggy Phiri said: "Erasmus came here with a slip of paper with the boys' names — I don't know where he got them from but I could not question his actions. Over here, the farmers' word is law." Esther Makokoropo echoed the feelings of the other parents when she said: "Out here there is only sorrow and anger — we are like the grass in the veld — we get stomped on all the time but still we survive.

"If the farmer did pay us, it could never put right his evil deeds. But for us, more money would give us a chance to educate our children and maybe send them away so that they could live better lives."

The law firm Deneys Reitz rendered free legal assistance.

An appeal has been made for donations to assist the families. A fund-raising number — W/O 088 002 010 003 — has been secured and a trust fund will be set up. Donations can be sent to PO Box 61334, Marshalltown, 2107.

# Ovambos 'taking our jobs' say local fishermen



By JESSICA BEZIDENTHOUT

not want to be named, said he was aware that most of the Ovambos were working illegally as they did not have work permits.

He denied that the Ovambos were being paid less than other fishermen. "They are better workers," he said. Several of the Ovambos seemed to agree that the money they were paid was "not okay".

One of them said they worked mostly for R45 a ton of fish caught, but sometimes had to be satisfied with less than R40.

Mr Richard Ball, director of Sea Freers one of the larger companies in Hout Bay, said fishermen were normally paid R60 a ton.

He said his company did not employ Ovambos.

A spokesman for the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) in Hout Bay said the fishermen should join the union.

**ENRAGED** Hout Bay fishermen claim they are being forced out of their jobs by "cheap labour" from Namibia and Southern Angola.

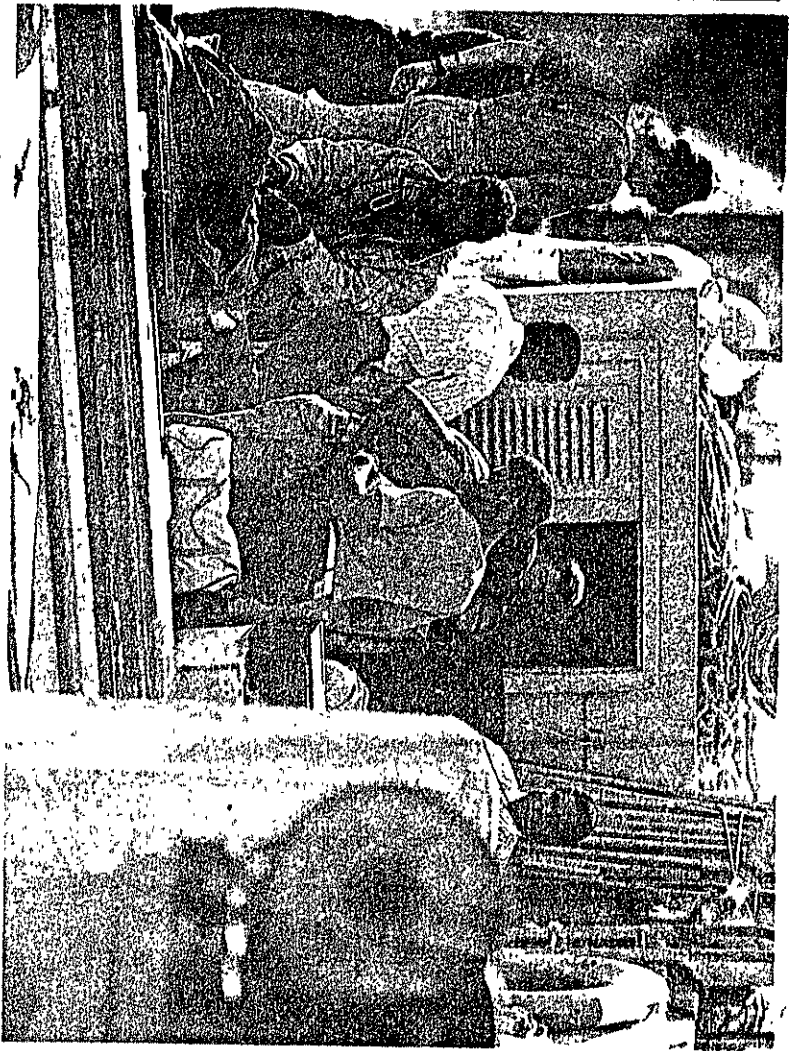
More than 300 Ovambos have settled in the picturesque fishing villages over the past three years and were being employed by private boat owners. Several fishermen have claimed.

"They are causing major unemployment problems for the vast majority of us," said one fisherman, Mr Norman Kapieta.

He said the Ovambos were forcing more and more fishermen out of work because they were prepared to work for less than most other fishermen.

"It is obvious that boat owners would employ them (Ovambos), because they offer cheap labour," he said.

Another fisherman, Mr Mário Ja-



OVAMBO CREW . . . Ovambo fishermen getting ready to set off on a month-long trip on a Hout Bay fishing boat  
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

810 am 2/6/92

# New initiative is launched to revitalise inner Jo'burg

THE launch of the Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP) was the start of a tough initiative to revitalise the inner city area, chairman Cliff McMillan said last night.

The co-operation of all involved — the city council, business and the community — would ensure tangible results, he said.

All three partners contributed to resources in different ways, providing time and expertise on a continuing basis. The business community had accepted the responsibility to fund the partnership while the council made its resources available.

Speaking at the launch, McMillan said the partnership offered the vehicle for a coherent strategy. The partners were involved through enlightened self-interest.

Executive committee chairman Gerald Leissner said the funding of the partnership would take several forms.

Major players in the inner city area had been approached to either extend a low interest loan of R500 000 each or contribute R50 000 a year.

It was hoped R10m would initially be raised from loans or debentures.

Johannesburg City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson said the business community had approached the council and indicated it was willing to have a special levy introduced on companies in the inner city area.

This was an informal approach, David-

PETER GALL  
and ANDREW KRUMM

son said. Once a formal application was made it might have to be taken to provincial or government level, but the council would only consider it if the business community was convinced it was what they wanted.

Johannesburg Civic Associations general secretary Cas Coovadia said negotiations were under way to buy seven buildings in Hillbrow and Joubert Park.

The aim, he said, was to put the pilot project on the partnership's agenda for the development of social housing in the inner city area. The buildings' owners had approached the civic and were asking for R8m. This was under negotiation.

The key aspect was affordability and the private sector had been asked to finance loans of between R8m and R10m at interest rates of 10% to 11%. Existing tenants would not be displaced, and would become owners of the units over time as security of tenure altered people's perceptions of maintenance and security, he said.

Chairman Alec Gullen said the security task group was negotiating with the SA Police about the establishment of satellite police stations. "The SAP has been asked to contribute manpower, while the CJP will fund all the running costs".

## Farm strikes at issue in negotiations

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and Cosatu are still locked in negotiations on the application of labour laws to the country's more than 1-million agricultural workers.

Although the two sides had edged closer, the major issue of curbing farm strikes remained, an SAAU spokesman said.

Also still to be agreed on is the possible application of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to the industry.

SAAU representatives, the National Manpower Commission and Cosatu will meet again shortly.

According to agriculture sources, nearly the whole industry is opposed to the application of inflexible labour laws.

(4) GERALD REILLY

National Maize Producers' Organisation GM Giel van Zyl said there was relative peace on farms throughout the country with good relations between employers and employees.

"What the application of the Labour Relations Act to farm workers really means is a foot in the door for trade unions," Van Zyl said.

He said this would include a third party in a normally stable labour situation with likely disruptive consequences.

Any move to include farm workers in labour legislation would have to take account of the unique conditions in the farming industry, he said.

# Housing row at Boland farm

LAWYERS for Human Rights (LHR) have been called in to help settle a dispute between eight farmworkers and their Gordon's Bay employer, Bonny Bird Farms.

The workers have been living with their families in the Llwandle Hostel. However, according to LHR spokesman Mr Stephan Raubenheimer, management planned to move the workers to new quarters on the farm yesterday — without their families.

The move was delayed yesterday to allow the workers to consult with LHR about a new management proposal. This was that workers should move to the new single quarters on the farm without their families, but should have a day off each week to spend with their families at the Llwandle Hostel.

According to LHR, the "provision of family unit accommodation at the Llwandle Hostel is a benefit of the employment contract", and the workers do not understand why management is demanding that they leave their families.

However, a source close to Bonny Bird said the workers knew when they signed their contracts that they would not be accommodated with their families.

The source said the farm had space for only eight workers, not for the workers' large families.

④ ②②④ CT 216/92



**Angola-Taiwan project**

TAIPEI — Angola has suggested a joint project with Taiwan's state-owned Chinese Petroleum Corp. (CPC) to explore for oil off the Angolan coast, the company said yesterday. (S)

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## Plea to hold farm legislation

PRETORIA. — The SA Agricultural Union said yesterday it was disappointed to learn that the Basic Conditions of Employment Act would be presented to Parliament on Friday.

The SAAU urgently requested Manpower Minister Leon Wessels to hold the Act back until discussions had been completed.

SAAU vice-president Thinus Hartman said in Pretoria that the SAAU, trade union federation Cosatu and the Department of Manpower were in the process of fruitful negotiations as to the best way of converting legal principles applicable to agriculture into legislation. — Sapa (4) CT 3/6/92

# Pensioner, 82, facing <sup>4</sup> eviction after six years

ARC 3/6/92



**SIGN OF THE TIMES?**  
Will this no longer be a familiar sight for Mr Isaak Jacobs?



**HOMELESS:** Ms Magdalene Etson, who shares a house with Mr Isaak Jacobs, has also been told to leave.

**VUSI KAMA Staff Reporter**

AN 82-year-old pensioner claims he has had eviction orders from a Strand farmer after helping him run his property for six years.

Mr Isaak Jacobs said he had helped with daily farm work in return for accommodation and 1½ litres of milk a day, since Mr J Volschenk bought the farm in 1986.

"Mr Volschenk has told me to pack my goods and go, because I am too old to work," said Mr Jacobs. "But I do not know where to go."

Mr Jacobs said that although he was not formally employed by Mr Volschenk, he had done all he could to help make his small farm a success.

"All these years I have been helping fix whatever needs attention on this farm. I did the garden and fence and made sure everything was fine while Mr Volschenk was at work."

Mr Volschenk, a director at a panel-beating company in the Strand, denied he was evicting Mr Jacobs, but admitted he had asked him to leave.

"He has to leave because I must use the house he is living in for some other business," he said.

Mr Volschenk said he was angered by the allegations, because he liked Mr Jacobs and thought he was a "good man".

Also given an eviction order was Miss Magdalene Etson, 42, who had been working for the Volschens as a domestic helper for about three years. She said she was told to go after she had demanded "my rights".

She said she had asked for an increase following an escalating workload, after a schoolboy had joined the Volschenk household.

## Pope arrives today for Angolan visit

VATICAN CITY — On the eve of a visit to Angola by Pope John Paul, the Vatican newspaper accused unnamed foreign oil companies of encouraging separatists in the oil-rich Angolan enclave of Cabinda.

L'Osservatore Romano said yesterday that the companies, with hopes of pumping more oil, sympathised with the National Union for the Liberation of Cabinda and the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda. US-owned Cabinda Gulf is the dominant producer in the area. *8/24/92*

The Pope leaves for Angola today.

The newspaper said the Luanda government was also worried by solidarity shown to the separatists by Zaire and Congo, who did not sign the May 1991 Lisbon accord which ended 16 years of civil war. The two groups opened talks with Luanda last month.

L'Osservatore Romano also criticised foreign businessmen for pouring into Luanda to sign lucrative contracts while malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy raged in its unhygienic shantytowns.

Unita has already warned the government not to try to derive political advantages from the Pope's visit.

The Pope is likely to urge black Catholics to be more political. The church in Africa, facing mass defections to Islam and Protestant sects, is under pressure to renew itself, match the religious commitment of its rivals and take a higher profile in society, culture, economics and politics. — Sapa-Reuter.

## ANC to discuss drought

The Argus Correspondents

④ ARC 4/6/92.

JOHANNESBURG.— The ANC is to hold a workshop today to discuss the effects of the drought on farmworkers, "who, it seems, are going to get the least from proposed government funded relief assistance", a spokesman said.

He said the workshop would be attended by affected regions of the ANC, Cosatu, SA Communist Party, regional development forums and by other agencies active in rural areas.

## ANC workshop on drought relief

Staff Reporter

(4)

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.

## LABOUR

Weekly Mail Reporter

PRETORIA's streets may once again teem with tractors and angry farmers because of the government's decision to debate an essential piece of legislation for farmworkers in parliament today.

"It is shocking that the Basic Conditions of Employment Act will be tabled in parliament on Friday," said Tobie Basson of the Orange Free State Agricultural Union.

But the Congress of South African Trade Unions was this week both surprised and elated at the government's

## Free State fury over farmworkers' Bill

decision. Until now, the labour movement held out little hope for the legislation to get through parliament this session.

"At last the government is taking decisive steps," said Lisa Seftel, Cosatu's campaigns co-ordinator.

The government announced early this week that the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill would be debated on

Monday 5/6-11/6/92

Friday. "The government undertook to put this Bill through parliament this session and the session is coming to an end. If this opportunity is not used, the Bill may not be debated during this session because of the workload on parliament," said Manpower director general Joel Potjorie this week.

The Bill has taken the farmers' lobby by surprise. The South African

(4)

Agricultural Union said it was disappointed at the government's decision and appealed to Manpower Minister Leon Weesels to hold back the Bill. The SAAU believes that talks between it, the government and Cosatu were proceeding fruitfully.

Both Cosatu and the government said that the passage of the Bill should not impede the talks.

Basson said that OFS farmers had built up good relationships with their workers over a long time. "Events such as this only disturbs relationships," he said.

The OFS Agricultural Union is the body most opposed to farmworkers being included in the country's existing labour statutes. It was this union which forced the hand of the national executive of SAAU, making it renege on agreements it was party to in the National Manpower Commission sub-committee on farmworkers' legislation.

'Enough is enough,' Chris Hani tells farmworkers

# 'We will fight this government'

By Quentin Wilson (4)

South 6/6-10/6/92

HUMAN RIGHTS should not only mean people have the right to vote, but also the right to a job, free education and affordable medical care, SACP general secretary Mr Chris Hani told 750 farmworkers in Claremont on Wednesday.

Speaking at a rally of the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), Hani said: "What does a vote mean to a Transkeian peasant who cannot afford to buy a bag of milled-meal? We must not be abstract when we talk about human rights."

"How can we expect our children to study when there is no electricity while they do homework," he said.

Hani, whose speech was received with a standing ovation, predicted security forces would act in a heavy-handed manner against the

proposed ANC mass action.

"They are going to kill us in the next few months, comrades. Listen to the language of Kriel and Pienaar, the language of the ruling class — they are saying that we can march, but then they tell us we must expect them to respond in full force," he said.

Hani warned: "Gone are the days of turning the other cheek. Let them carry out their threats, they have a history of that. They have done it in the past but they must know they can never win."

"We are going to fight this government. They deadlocked Codessa and we shall force them to unlock it through mass action. They hold the key and it's mass action that they hate and fear," he said.

The SACP chief also questioned why the white business community

was not protesting against "the corrupt government" in the light of recent scandals.

"Why are they so quiet? If this was a civilised country, this government would not be ruling. But we are not living in a civilised country — this government has indoctrinated whites into becoming zombies. The voice of protest from the white community and white business is a muted voice," Hani said.

He paid tribute to Fawu for surviving more than 50 years during the "most extreme period of repression" and added that much of the Communist Party's leadership had been produced from this union, citing people like Ms Ray Alexander, Mr Oscar Mpetsha and Ms Elizabeth Mofokeng.

He urged the farmworkers to "spread the gospel" of trade union-

ism, saying that while millions of workers were not organised, "shaked exploitation would continue".

"The government is not talking of relief to those who work on the farms, they only talk about relief to the farmers. When Van Niekerk (the minister of agriculture) goes around visiting farms, I doubt whether he spends any time talking to the farmworkers about how to assist them."

"Instead he spends 98 percent of his time talking with the farmers about how to assist them in coping with their debts. This government does not give a damn about our people," he said.

Other speakers at the rally included Fawu's president and Cosatu's first vice-president, Mr Chris Dlamini, and ANC regional secretary, Mr Tony Yengeni.



# Down

## 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

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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

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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.

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# Pope's cry for peace in Angola

C/Aren 7/6/92

(5)

POPE John Paul, speaking in the killing fields of Angola's 16-year civil war, made an impassioned plea on Friday for reconciliation.

Standing between long-time rivals President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, he appealed for lasting peace for the country's 12-million war-weary people.

He called on Angolans to put behind them the strife between US-backed Unita rebels and the leftist government which killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced more than one million.

"Let there be peace for Angola, peace for Angola always," he said during an open-air mass in a sports field near Huambo, Angola's second city in the

central heartland whose shattered buildings still show the scars of war.

"The painful period of destruction is now behind us forever. Overcome the temptation to prolong the armed conflict, source of ruin and needless suffering. Let the time of reconstruction begin now," he said.

Huambo was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting in the war which erupted when the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) set up a one-party Marxist state after the country gained independence from Portugal in 1975. A peace accord overseen by superpower backers from both sides was signed a year ago.

Thousands of the city's half a million people have been left maimed, orphaned or widowed from the battles for control of the area where Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) draws its greatest support.

The truce is still shaky as is the fate of the first multi-party elections planned for September 29 and 30.

In a veiled warning to Unita, whose leader and many followers are Protestants, the Pope said: "It would be bad for the country if religious discrimination, justified by past errors and injustices, were installed in Angola."

Later on Friday the Pope was due to visit Lubango near the southern border with Namibia, which was an important base in the MPLA's fight against South African forces aiding Unita. - Sapa-Reuter

# Farmer torches labourers' huts

AN irate farmer burnt down at least four of his labourers' huts in an attempt to force them off a farm in Maclean town near East London this week.

Families whose houses were burnt down by the farm's owner this week have refused alternative land offered by the Cape Provincial Administration, saying it was already overcrowded.

Farmer Irvin Kretzman, who recently bought the farm, Waterfall, said he wanted all 25 families on the farm to leave immediately as he could be fined for keeping squatters on his land.

The education of 175 pupils at a school on the farm is in jeopardy as Kretzman has given the principal until the end of the month to find alternate accommodation.

The school is the only one in the area and is also used by children from neighbouring farms.

When reporters visited the farm this week Kretzman was also seen demolishing a hut with a hammer and crowbar. After taking out furniture and tearing down a door frame, he set the house alight.

"I am burning the houses because, if I don't, these people will come back and occupy them. I told them at a meeting in December last year to find accommodation elsewhere, but nobody has done anything."

CP News 7/6/92.

**'We have nowhere else to go,' say rejected workers**

Kretzman said.

He claimed he had again given the labourers three weeks' notice to vacate the farm in May, but they had not done so.

Farmworker Benoni Makeleni, 30, said the first family had arrived on the farm in 1923 and most of them had been born there. "We have nowhere else to go to as we grew up here."

The previous owner, Dennis Taylor, told his labourers he was leaving because the farm was unproductive. He also allegedly told some of the farmworkers they would also have to leave.

Makeleni claimed he had lost R500 when Kretzman torched his house. An unsuccessful attempt was

made by a Black Sash fieldworker, Siphon Menzezeleli, to stop the demolition and allow the farmworkers to stay on the farm for another week.

Kretzman said he could not stop as some of the labourers had insulted him saying he had no court order to evict them. The Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Reverend David Russell, condemned the farmer's action as "cruel and inhuman".

"I think laws which allow people to do this to other human beings are unchristian and diabolic. They certainly have no place in a civilised society or in a new South Africa," he said. Russell said the Cape Provincial Administration should take care of the families.

He made a passionate call to "all caring farmers" to publicly dissociate themselves from what he termed "this unwise and provocative behaviour".

The CPA's deputy director of communication services for the eastern Cape, Andre van Schalkwyk, announced on Thursday he had offered the community a portion of land at Newlands rural village near Ciskei's Mdantsane township.

But Black Sash field worker Menzezeleli said the families had complained that the area, which was part of the Eluxolweni squatter camp, was already overcrowded. — E!news

# New plan to form <sup>51 Times</sup> union for <sup>(Cape metro)</sup> workers <sup>(4)</sup> on farms

7/6/92  
By JESSICA  
BEZUIDENHOUT

AN independent trade union for farmworkers — which would campaign for the abolition of child labour, the right to organise on farms and for recognition agreements with farmers — will be established soon.

This was decided by about 200 farmworkers at a national conference held at a Bellville hotel this week.

The conference, organised by the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), decided that Fawu should form a national committee to oversee the organisation of farmworkers until such time as an independent union could be formed.

Several resolutions — on issues such as the drought, housing and the Labour Relations Act — were discussed at the conference.

On the drought, it was felt that government aid to farmers should be given only on condition that farmworkers were not retrenched.

The conference demanded that farmworkers be covered by the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Recognition agreements



**COMRADES . . .** Mr Chris Hani and Mr Jan van Eck at a meeting of farmworkers in Claremont this week  
Picture: TIM ZIELENBACH

should address social problems, and the union would also campaign for health and safety demands and compensation for affected workers.

Workers should be provided with proper housing off the farms so that they did not lose their homes when they lost their jobs.

The conference also demanded the immediate extension of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and the Wage Act to include farmworkers, and the abolition of the Trespassing and Squatting Act.

Mass action would be considered if the government

failed to meet these demands.

The conference followed a public meeting at the Claremont Civic Centre on Wednesday addressed by SA Communist Party leader Mr Chris Hani and suspended MP Mr Jan van Eck.

Mr Hani told the meeting that for years farmworkers had been the most exploited workers as a result of their exclusion from the labour laws of the country.

Mr van Eck said workers should have the same right to vote as their employers and should not allow their employers to decide for whom they should vote.

South Africa's productive relationship with its long-time enemy, Angola, has grown quite remarkably, DALE LAUTENBACH of Sowetan Africa News Service reports on the changes and the crucial role oil could play in speeding up the neighbourliness further still.

# Oil - trigger that could benefit all

South Africa 8/6/92

**WINDHOEK** - As the relationship between Angola and South Africa develops and sheds old enmities, that strategic commodity, oil, remains the key which could open the way to a strong trade relationship to the benefit of the entire region.

"Oil could definitely be the trigger," says Mr Gert Grobler, chief director for Southern Africa in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

Interest in the South African business community to get involved in Angola and its post-war development is great but financing remains a serious obstacle. "South African access to Angolan oil makes sense and on the basis of future

supply it could facilitate creditlines," says Grobler. Angola produces over half a million barrels a day now, but the sale of this commodity to South Africa remains a political decision while the oil embargo against South Africa is still in place.

Grobler imagines that by the time an interim government in South Africa is in place the "trigger" might be activated. In the meantime the subject remains on the agenda between the two countries and has been, publicly at least, since as far back as September 1990 when the respective energy ministers of the day met in Luanda.

But while the subject remains hypothetical and Angola's political decision on this, hostage to some extent to the ANC through

the OAU and the United Nations, the rate at which the relationship between the two former enemy countries has changed and grown is in many ways remarkable.

Grobler agrees: "There has been a lot of progress in the relationship in a relatively short period which we welcome given the past."

"It's very encouraging and in a sense astounding. We have a very frank and straightforward dialogue (with the Angolan government) and it has produced the first fruits."

From a Namibian perspective, it is fascinating to note that within as short a time as the past six months the level of exchange and productivity between

South Africa and Angola is far greater than it is between South Africa and Namibia.

Overly, the DFA has been careful to construct a scrupulously non-partisan relationship with Angola.

When you talk to American diplomats you can still pick up the old Unita-US alliance in their thinking but with the South Africans it is hard to detect that until so recently they were fighting side by side with Jonas Savimbi's former rebels.

There remain Angolan and other suspicions, most recently from the ANC according to one report, that the old Savimbi-SA alliance cannot so magically have disappeared and that South Africa is now sup-

porting its old Cold War ally in the election campaign for Angola's scheduled September 29 and 30 poll.

Grobler concedes that he cannot speak for "individuals" in South Africa who have their hopes set on a Unita victory in the elections: "But we are going out of our way to adopt a balanced approach."

"We want a good relationship (with Angola) that does not support any one political party. We are supporting the process (of democratisation) and that is of overriding importance. It would be absolutely folly to be caught dabbling with one side."

"That all belongs to the past."

A four-man DFA team is now installed in Luanda following the agreement in January this year to exchange diplomatic missions at the level of representation. Since then South Africa has been engaged in a number of supporting projects in Angola.

An SADF training team is concluding its work having trained 20 Angolan government army (Fapla) members and 20 Unita army (Fala) men in mine clearance, according to Grobler.

"We have also handed over a comprehensive inventory of landmines, mainly in the south of the country." On a far larger scale though, South Africa is in-

involved in trilateral talks with the European Community and the Angolan government for a similar training project in which South Africa would make the know-how available with Europe providing the funding.

The SA-Angola connection is also talking about South African training of medical orderlies for the unified Angolan military. "And another area we are still exploring is agricultural co-operation. Given Angola's potential and our similar conditions there is much we could do," Grobler says, giving the example of Onderstepoort perhaps being used to help in establishing Angola's cattle breeding lines again.

...s of suicide condemned

# Fill gap left by <sup>(S)</sup> Marxists - Pope

STAR 9/6/92

LUANDA — Pope John Paul II urged the Angolan Catholic church yesterday to fill what he called the spiritual vacuum left by the Marxist government which led the country after independence from Portugal.

The Pope has criticised the influence of communism on African families throughout his tour of Angola.

On his first public appearance of the day, the Pope spoke in the shadow of a towering monument to Angola's Marxist founder.

Pope John Paul celebrated the most-highly attended Mass of his seven-day visit to Angola on a sandy wasteland dominated by the unfinished mausoleum of Agostinho Neto, Angola's first president.

The Pope told tens of thousands of Catholics they should "work together for the reconstruction of the country, a country where all will have a place and a voice".

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who attended the Mass, has improved relations with the Catholic Church following strained relations.

More than half of Angola's 10 million people are Catholic. — Sapa-AP.

9: AFP

It was not clear yesterday whether Mr de Klerk and Mr began to pick up.

# Stop fighting, start working, Pope urges Angolan rebels

STAR 9/6/92

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CABINDA — Pope John Paul II yesterday urged rebels to lay down their weapons and join the process which has brought an uneasy peace to Angola for the past year.

The separatist Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (Flec) has warned it will disrupt Angola's first free elections scheduled for September 29 and 30.

Although Flec had said it could not guarantee the Pope's safety during his three-hour stop at Cabinda airport, there were no incidents.

"Your homeland, this Greater Angola, needs work and solidar-

ity from everyone to rebuild itself," the Pope said.

"The reconstruction will not progress without peace. I hope that all will help solve the problems of Cabinda without violence; but with peace and dialogue; respecting the people and their desires, but looking also at the necessities of the entire country," he said.

The Pope spoke in Fioti, the local language, and was welcomed by the sound of Macama men blowing into elephant tusks and dancing as the pontiff passed by in his "Popemobile".  
— Sapa-AP.

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**MARKS THE SPOT  
IN A REAL  
TREASURE!**

## Guards rob R135 000

A security guard and his colleague were robbed of more than R135 000 in cash and cheques at a hardware centre in U...





# Former foes now forge strong ties

STAR 10/6/92



ANGOLAN oil sales to South Africa could open up strong trade between the two countries that would benefit the entire southern African region — if only the oil could be sold.

Angola produces more than half a million barrels a day but cannot sell any to South Africa while the oil embargo against Pretoria is still in place.

"Oil could definitely be the trigger," says Gert Grobler, chief director, southern Africa, in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

There is strong interest in the South African business community in Angola's post-war development, but financing remains a serious obstacle.

"South African access to Angolan oil makes sense and on the basis of future supply it could facilitate credit lines," Mr Grobler said in an interview.

He thought the "trigger" might be activated by the installation of an interim government in South Africa.

But while Angola's decision on whether to sell oil to South Africa is held hostage by the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations — and, through them, by the ANC — the relationship between the two countries has grown remarkably.

"There has been a lot of progress in the relationship in a relatively short period which we welcome — given the past," said Mr Grobler.

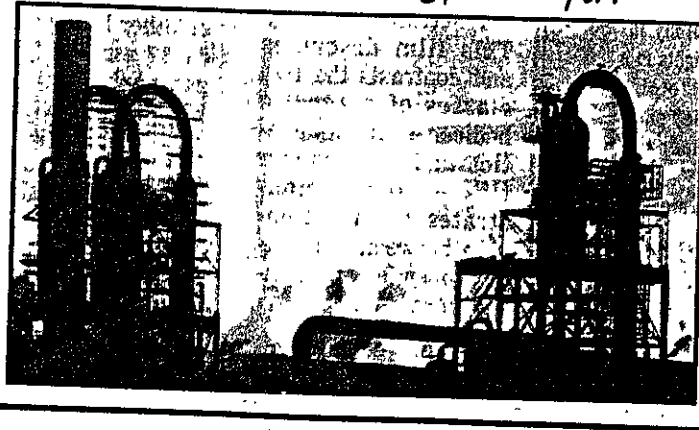
"It's very encouraging and in a sense astounding. We have a very frank and straightforward dialogue and it has produced the first fruits."

It is ironic, given the past referred to by Mr Grobler — when South Africa was at war with the Angolan government — that in the past six months, trade and other exchanges between South Africa and Angola have far exceeded those between South Africa and Namibia.

Overtly, the SA Department

Co-operation between the formerly warring South African and Angolan governments has reached levels that one top official has described as "astounding", reports DALE LAUTENBACH of The Star Africa Service in Windhoek.

STAR 10/6/92



of Foreign Affairs has been careful to build a scrupulously non-partisan relationship with Angola.

When you talk to American diplomats, you can still detect the old Unita-US alliance in their thinking. But with the South Africans, it is hard to believe that until recently they were fighting side-by-side with Jonas Savimbi's former rebels.

Suspensions remain in Angola and elsewhere. The ANC was recently reported as feeling that the old alliance between Dr Savimbi and Pretoria could not have disappeared magically and that South Africa was now supporting Unita in its campaign for the Angolan election in September.

Mr Grobler conceded that he could not speak for "individuals" in South Africa who hoped for a Unita victory.

But he said: "We are going out of our way to adopt a balanced approach. We want a good relationship (with Angola) that does not support any political party. We are supporting

the process (of democratisation) and that is of overriding importance. It would be absolute folly to be caught dabbling with one side. That all belongs to the past."

The SA Department of Foreign Affairs has stationed four diplomats in Luanda following the agreement in January to exchange diplomatic missions at "representative" level.

Since then South Africa has been engaged in a number of aid projects in Angola.

An SADF training team has trained 20 Angolan army (Fapla) members and 20 Unita army (Fala) men to clear the thousands of landmines that were buried in the country during the war.

"We have also handed over a comprehensive inventory of landmines, mainly in the south of the country," Mr Grobler said.

South Africa is also training Angolan instructors at manpower centres in South Africa for similar centres in Angola which would aim to help absorb the

estimated 120 000 demobilised soldiers of both Fapla and Fala into the Angolan economy.

Mr Grobler said the first group of 30 Angolans would soon be installed at two training centres in Angola, teaching mainly construction skills. Another group was due to arrive in South Africa shortly.

On a far larger scale, South Africa is involved in talks with the European Community and the Angolan government for a similar project in which South Africa would provide the training and the EC the funding.

This training would initially take place in Luanda, but between 10 and 20 more manpower centres elsewhere in the country are envisaged.

There is also talk of South Africa training medical orderlies for the newly unified Angolan military.

"Another area we are still exploring is agricultural co-operation. We have already had an exchange of visits in the area of agriculture and we hope to send a fishing delegation to Angola soon," Mr Grobler said.

The idea of marine co-operation from Angolan through Namibian to South African waters has already been enthusiastically expressed by Angolan Fishing Minister Fatima Jardim.

Co-operation will, however, depend on whether an election takes place in September and whether a viable government is installed.

"It is important that the elections take place so that the situation can normalise; so that we can build ties between our two countries not just for our mutual benefit but in the interests of the whole region," Mr Grobler said.

The road to the elections is being built, albeit imperfectly. Registration of voters has begun. The rest depends on whether the MPLA government and Unita retain the will to implement and accept a political solution to their long conflict □

# Farmworkers in action warning

4  
AUG 10/6/92

**SHARON SOROUR**  
Labour Reporter

SOUTH Africa's 1,3-million farmworkers will take mass action if the government continues to delay the extension of labour laws to their sector, delegates at a national farmworkers' conference have warned.

The conference in Bellville last week, organised by the Food and Allied Workers' Union and attended by 120 delegates, also resolved to mobilise "international forces as widely as possible" to put pressure on farmers who were "resisting" the legislation.

Delegates highlighted the "conditions of virtual slavery" under which most of the workers had to live and work.

The lack of labour laws to protect the workers was a situation which could not be tolerated anymore, the union said in a statement.

"We have instructed Cosatu to begin discussing a programme of mass action should the government further delay legislating these basic rights," the union said.

Farmworkers are covered by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Manpower Training Act and the Guidance and Placement Act.

Four other laws — the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA), the Unemployment Insurance Act (UIA), the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and the Wage Act (WA) — have yet to be applied to agriculture.

The conference pledged to continue fighting to end "brutal exploitation".

"We have started a process towards liberating ourselves from slavery and exploitation," the union said.

# Row over farmworkers' Bill

STAR 11/6/92

By Helen Grange (4)  
and Kaizer Nyatumba

The Government has been attacked from several quarters following the tabling of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill last Friday — with the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) slamming it as premature and the ANC saying it had been unnecessarily delayed.

While the ANC was seeking to have the Bill implemented as soon as possible to expedite employment rights for farmworkers, the SAAU and National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) are angered by what they claim is a Government breach of promise in view of ongoing negotiations

over the content of the Bill.

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 not yet complete.

The SAAU and Nampo were also looking to consolidate all three Bills into a single Agriculture Bill.

## Pandering

They now say they have been betrayed by new Manpower Minister Leon Wessels with the near promulgation of only one of the Bills.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Bill is to be voted on by parliamentary

representatives tomorrow.

Sources said Mr Wessels was seen by the SAAU and Nampo to be pandering to Cosatu, whose position in negotiations was strongly in favour of getting the three Bills promulgated as soon as possible.

Conversely, the ANC has accused the Government of pandering to the SAAU by delaying passage of the Bill.

The ANC said it was now time for Parliament to show unequivocally that it would no longer tolerate the exploitation of farmworkers and to demonstrate that it would protect them by promulgating the basic set of minimum rights contained in the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill.

# Deadly minefields delay Angola's peace process

By Helen Grange

STARTZ  
12/6/92

LUANDA — Hundreds of thousands of land mines in Angola, which continue to kill and maim civilians, are threatening to delay the country's peace process.

Angola's MPLA government, in a joint venture with former enemy Unita and the SA Defence Force, is fighting the clock to lift the mines before the country's general election in September.

Some 50 000 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines have already been lifted at great risk by a group of soldiers under the technical guidance of an SADF engineering unit since the beginning of the peace talks.

Minefields extending over distances of as much as 50 km, containing mines laid over a 20-year period, have still to be lifted.

Eight soldiers have been killed and 25 have been injured in the mine lifting operations.

Scores of civilians, accidentally walking in minefields, are killed or maimed.

Angola has the highest per capita number of amputees in the world as a result of the prolonged bush war be-



Slowly . . . Angolan and SA soldiers use a mine detector together.

tween the SA-supported Unita rebel movement and the MPLA government's military wing Fapla.

Now, in an ironic twist, all three former enemies are co-operating in attempts to detect and defuse the numerous minefields they themselves laid.

Mines were also laid over the years by the ANC near the eastern borders of Angola and the Cuban soldiers supporting the MPLA gov-

ernment before their peacetime withdrawal from Angola from 1989.

In a visit to Angola's poverty-stricken capital Luanda yesterday, hosted by the SADF, the media was shown how a group of engineering students drawn from both Unita and MPLA prodded the ground with sticks for anti-personnel mines in a dense minefield.

Electronic detectors are used to locate anti-tank mines, which contain 7 kg of explosives.

SADF spokesmen said that while the SADF had kept maps of their minefields in Angola, there were no records kept of many of the other minefields laid.

Most of the mines were in the Cuito-Cuanavale area, the scene of a major battle between Fapla and the SADF in 1987.

Angolan Inspector-General of Engineering Major-General Helder Cruz said there was no guarantee that all the mines would be found in time for the election.

There were hundreds of thousands more of them to be found and detonated under controlled conditions, he said.

Farmers<sup>(4)</sup>  
12/6-18/6/92  
convicted  
for killing

labourer  
w/m.c. 12/6-18/6/92  
Weekly Mail Reporter

THREE young white farmers from the Riversdale area in the southern Cape have been convicted of culpable homicide, after beating a farmworker to death in what the magistrate described as a "cruel and sustained assault".

The finding in the Mossel Bay Regional Court is a sequel to an incident on the farm Watergat on August 31 last year. Evidence was that the farm owner, Isak Odenaal, did not tolerate workers from other farms visiting his farm, and that on that day his two sons and the foreman beat up several coloured visitors.

Magistrate CPJ Prinsloo convicted Willem Odenaal (22), his 17-year-old brother and the foreman, Christiaan du Toit (24), of culpable homicide for the death of 24-year-old Hans Muggels. Muggels' body was found in a shed after dying of multiple head injuries.

**UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi began to believe his own propaganda, a predicament which transformed him from an admirable bush guerrilla, supported by South Africa and the West, into a deranged power-hungry dictator who has sickened and alienated his former allies and poses a huge threat to his country if he wins the upcoming Angolan election.**

This is the view of Fred Bridgland, southern Africa correspondent for the Sunday Telegraph and Daily Telegraph in London and author of a definitive study on the Angolan War: "Jonas Savimbi: A Key to Africa".

His latest book, "The War for Africa: Twelve Months that Transformed a Continent", was short-listed for the Alan Paton Literary Prize. Bridgland has won seven British press awards, and was a foreign correspondent in New Delhi, Beirut, Lusaka, Brussels and now Johannesburg.)

**THE prospect of Unita becoming Angola's future government is a chilling thought for Fred Bridgland, a prize-winning British journalist and author who this week told a chilling story of human rights abuse in the rebel movement.**  
**HELEN GRANGE reports.**



## Savimbi threat to Angola, says former friend

viet-backed MPLA government and the Western and South African-backed Unita rebel movement.

It was a time when Savimbi was making diplomatic inroads in the United States and Britain, successfully presenting Unita as a democratic insurgency in Angola. Chingunji was indispensable to Savimbi at the time, being Unita's main negotiator in the New York accords which finally saw the withdrawal of thousands of Cuban soldiers from the territory.

Bridgland received a call in London one day from Chingunji, who had become a close confidant and family friend, asking him to fly to Washington to discuss a "matter of life and death".

Chingunji revealed in the meeting his belief that Savimbi had ordered the execution of his (Chingunji's) parents despite the Unita leader's assurance that he had nothing to do with their mysterious deaths.

Chingunji heard, and believed, that his parents — critical of some of Savimbi's principles — had been beaten up and run over by Unita trucks. He confided in Bridg-

land that he feared for his own life every time he went to Jamba, Unita's bush headquarters. Despite the gravity of the accusations, Chingunji had wanted the information to remain confidential and Bridgland had given him his word.

In 1988, Chingunji was called back to Jamba from Washington. Many had warned him not to go. He went, and never returned.

Bridgland recounts the desperate calls he received from Chingunji's friends, asking him to go to Jamba to unravel his friend's fate.

He arrived in Jamba on a day in December 1988, a day he says he will never forget. He was ushered into a conference room and was asked to sit on Savimbi's right facing the Unita politburo members — one of whom was Chingunji.

Bridgland explained his business in Jamba — "to find out about Chingunji" — and Savimbi "exploded". "He shouted and berated me. He said I had come to insult and patronise him. In a grotesque moment, he raised his left palm to the politburo. 'I can tell you there is not a

spot of blood on my hands. Chingunji's parents were killed, but not by me," he said.

The session was interrupted several times by Chingunji, who chastised Bridgland for getting him into trouble. It was then suggested by Savimbi that Bridgland embrace each politburo member as a gesture of apology. "I could hear the mocking laughter as I left the conference room."

On returning to London, Bridgland worked with human rights groups in an effort to secure a passage for Chingunji out of Jamba. Bridgland never saw him again. "He was executed last August on Savimbi's orders," he says.

Chingunji's wife and children as well as several other Unita guerrillas were also killed.

Bridgland believes Savimbi ordered the deaths of Chingunji's parents, who were "strong moral authorities" in the region, because they presented a challenge to him. To prevent the story from spreading, everyone who knew about the murders was also killed.

**I**N THE run-up to Angola's first independent election in September, stories similar to Bridgland's are emerging thick and fast. Allegations by Unita detectors of atrocities within Unita have surfaced in foreign media publications over a number of years.

For Bridgland, the possibility that Savimbi will be Angola's next president is chilling. "If he does win, the many enemies he has made would make it impossible for him to rule effectively."

In a biting statement, Bridgland adds: "Savimbi's devotion to democracy is as meaningful as Winnie Mandela's commitment to child welfare.

"If he doesn't win, there is a strong possibility that he will go back to the bush and fight. Unita is a first-class guerrilla army. The soldiers know the bush extremely well and Savimbi could last for years," says Bridgland.



**DR JEKYLL AND ...** Jonas Savimbi. The Unita leader, former bush war hero, friend of South Africa, is seen as a danger to the democratic process in the run-up to elections in

# B

BRIDGLAND spent 15 years in Angola and admits having once had a close relationship with Savimbi. His respect for this "mercurial, highly educated, well-read man" ended in a bitter revelation which severed his ties with Angola in 1988.

In a candid talk held at the Africa Institute in Pretoria recently, Bridgland unravelled the apocalyptic events leading up to this personal about-turn. His story traces his friendship with Savimbi's former "No 3", Tito Chingunji, who was murdered along with his wife and 13 children last year, allegedly on orders from the Unita leader himself. He tells the story.

Chingunji and Bridgland met at the beginning of the post-independence struggle between the So-

**MS ARE  
FOR  
DIGGING  
FOR KILLING**



emblazoned across banners on the

# Angola struggles to erase war memories

STAR 13/6/92 (5)

**THE war in Angola is over, but it has left a legacy which will haunt Angolans, possibly for decades to come. HELEN GRANGE reports.**

LANDMINES, laid over a period of 20 years by local and foreign soldiers, cover enormous stretches of Angola. Their hidden presence is a dormant promise of death or severe injury to unwitting civilians and peacetime soldiers in the battle-torn country.

And while there is plenty of optimism in Angola's entry into an era of peace, most visible in the close to unbelievable cooperation between the governing MPLA forces, Unita and the SA Defence Force, the obstacles to be overcome in the former Portuguese colony seem almost insurmountable.

**See Page 4.**

Ironically, the SA Defence Force, responsible for a good percentage of amputees in Angola, is leading a team of engineering students drawn from MPLA and Unita ranks in finding and defusing the remaining landmines, many of which were laid by the SADF itself.

The lack of records detailing the whereabouts of several minefields, also laid by MPLA, Unita, Cuban forces and the ANC in their time, is making the task of detection all the more difficult and dangerous. There are thousands of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines still to be found.

In addition, there is the huge problem of uncontrolled urban-

isation by Angolans who have sought the protection of towns and cities during the war years.

Luanda, once an attractive tropical playground, has become a sprawling slum, which has spread its tentacles even to the beachfront where shacks have been erected by the hundreds. Completing the parody is the use of military-issue parachutes as huge, permanent beach umbrellas providing shade for subsistence line fishermen.

The once graceful hotels and high-rise office towers have become windowless, crumbling homes for thousands of city squatters, whose clothes are draped over balconies covered with wire mesh or metal bars for security.

The peace process is also being frustrated by the serious difficulties which remain between the MPLA and Unita over the conditions for the pending elections. Unita's fiery leader Jonas Savimbi is seen by the MPLA government as being highly obstructive on the route to democracy, while Savimbi has misgivings about the trustworthiness of the MPLA in levelling the playing field.

The new president, whether he be Savimbi or current president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has a daunting task of post-war reconstruction ahead of him, and judging by current conditions, it will be a monumental one.

# Joint front to organise farmworkers

SOUTH 13/6 - 17/6/92

4

COSATU's farming and forestry unions would continue organising these sectors while combining forces to set up a national union for farmworkers, the Food and Allied Workers' Union said this week.

A two-day conference in the city last week instructed Fawu to set up a national co-ordinating structure to organise farmworkers.

The union, with a claimed membership of 26 000 farmworkers, and its paper and textile counterparts in Cosatu also demanded that parliament immediately extend the Labour Relations Act to the country's 1,3 million agricultural workers.

In a statement on Monday, Fawu said it was committed to a 1991 Cosatu congress resolution to establish an independent union for farmworkers.

"However, until such a move is possible, Cosatu affiliates should be supported in their

efforts to organise farmworkers.

"An immediate transition (to a separate union) will result in confusion, division between workers and a loss of some of the gains already made."

Mr Dixon Motha, of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union, said his union welcomed moves to set up a contact group for farmworkers.

"Cosatu's new organising department will use the forum to co-ordinate meetings between ourselves, Fawu and the South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union.

"The Cape Town conference did not oppose the Cosatu resolution for an independent farmworkers' union, but recognised there could be problems. A farmworkers' union could struggle to stand on its own because of weak organisation."

Cosatu would be able to assist financially and materially, he said.

Fawu said the three unions would appoint a national farmworkers' co-ordinator to be based at the Fawu head-office.

Cosatu head office spokesperson Mr Neil Coleman said Cosatu would have to consider a rural movement, rather than trade union organisation, if it wanted to achieve its goals in agriculture.

"We will not proceed as if from scratch. Cosatu's affiliates in the food, forestry and textile sectors have been engaged in organising farmworkers and will all be involved.

"It is not good enough that farmworkers remain an adjunct to industrial trade unions. It is important to organise a union for farmworkers," said Coleman.

Extending the Labour Relations Act to agriculture was a priority. "Without the right to organise, farmworkers will not be able to enforce their rights under other labour laws." — Sapa



## Three white farmers guilty of 'cruelly' killing worker

THREE young white farmers from the Riversdale area have been convicted of culpable homicide for beating a farm worker to death in what the magistrate described as a "cruel and sustained assault".

The finding, in the Regional Court in Mossel Bay this week, is a sequel to an incident on Watergat farm in the Riversdale district on August 31 last year.

Evidence before the court was that the owner of the farm, Mr Isak Odendaal, did not tolerate visits by workers from other farms and on that day his two sons and the foreman beat up several "coloured" visitors to the farm.

The magistrate, Mr CP J Prinsloo, convicted Willem Odendaal, 22, his 17-year-old brother and the foreman, Christiaan du Toit, 24, of culpable homicide for the death of Mr Hans Muggels, 24.

Mr Muggels' body was found in a

shed the next day. A pathologist said he had died of multiple head injuries.

The three accused had pleaded not guilty and consistently denied any knowledge of Mr Muggels. However, Mr Prinsloo described the two Odendaal brothers who testified as liars who manipulated the evidence to suit them. Mr Prinsloo accepted the evidence of three farm workers as satisfactory.

Mr Prinsloo said that because the accused had not taken the court into their confidence about what had happened in the shed, the court had to come to its own conclusions.

Although it was impossible to determine who had landed the fatal blow, the three accused had acted in concert.

Evidence in mitigation of sentence will be heard on August 7.

S. Times Cape Metro 14/6/92

(4)

## Farmworkers to get UIF benefits

A BILL aimed at bringing farmworkers under the ambit of the Unemployment Insurance Fund was debated in parliament this week.

The Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill provides for seasonal workers to qualify for unemployment insurance after four months' work for the same employer.

*CIPRES 14/6/92*

# Former enemies remove obstacles to peace

*Sowetan*  
15/6/92  
Sowetan Correspondent 5

LUANDA - Hundreds of thousands of land mines in Angola, which continue to kill and maim civilians, are threatening to delay the country's peace process.

Angola's MPLA government, in a joint venture with former enemy in Unita and the South African Defence Force, is fighting the clock to lift the mines before the country's general election in September.

Some 50 000 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines have already been lifted at great risk by a group of soldiers under the technical guidance of an SADF engineering unit since the beginning of the peace talks.

Eight soldiers have been killed and 25 have been injured in the mine-lifting operations. Scores of civilians, accidentally walking in minefields, have been killed or maimed.

Angola has the highest per capita number of amputees in the world as a result of the prolonged bush war between the SA-supported Unita rebel movement and the MPLA government military wing, FPLA.

## Detect and defuse

Now, all three former enemies are co-operating in attempts to detect and defuse the numerous minefields they themselves laid.

Mines were also laid over the years by the ANC near the eastern borders of Angola and the Cuban soldiers supporting the MPLA government before their withdrawal from Angola from 1989.

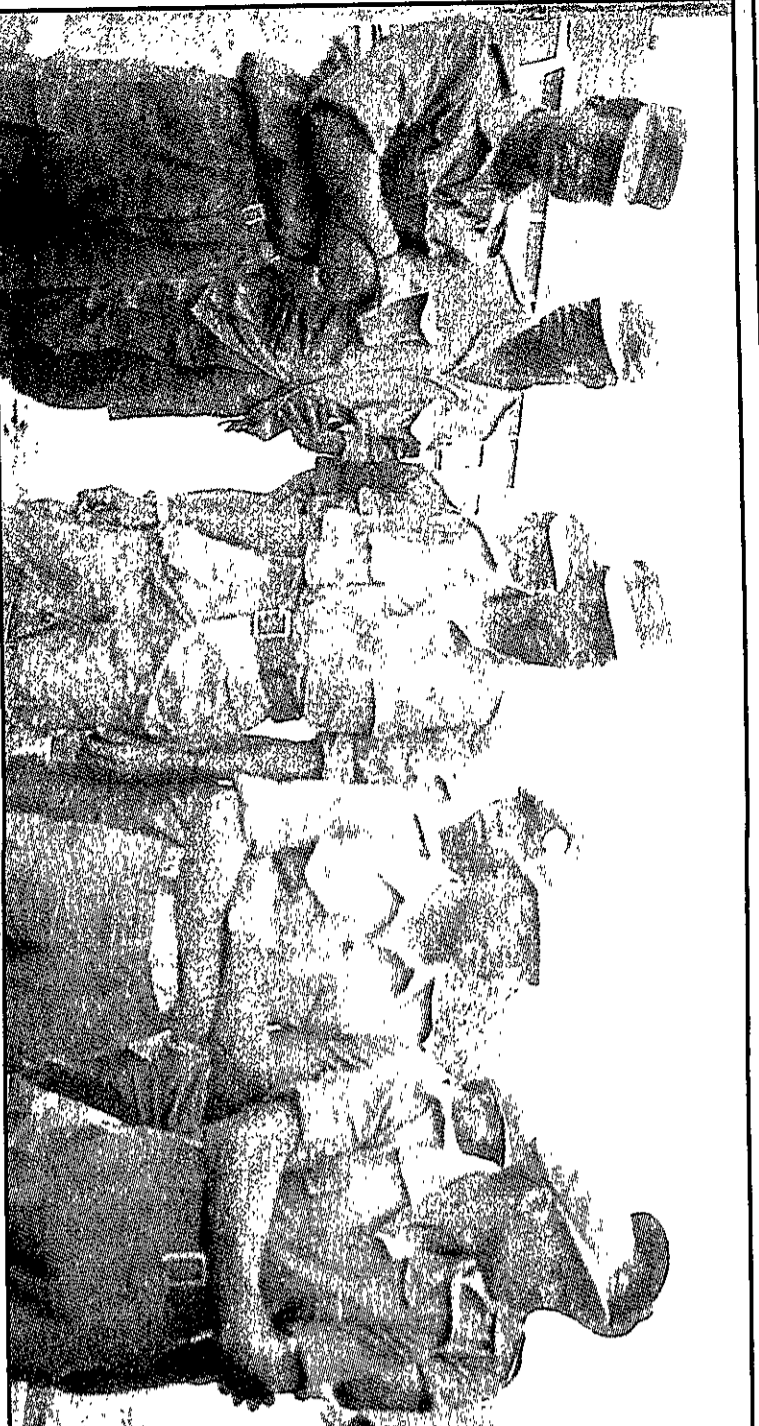
In a visit to Angola's poverty-stricken capital Luanda last week, hosted by the SADF, the media were shown how a group of engineering students drawn from both Unita and MPLA prodded the ground with sticks for anti-personnel mines in a dense minefield.

SADF spokesman said that while the SADF had kept maps of the minefields in Angola, there were no records kept on many of the other minefields laid.

**Pictures by LEN KUMALO and ASSOCIATED PRESS**



A cloud of smoke rises from a mock minefield near Luanda during a demonstration on how to detect and destroy the mines.

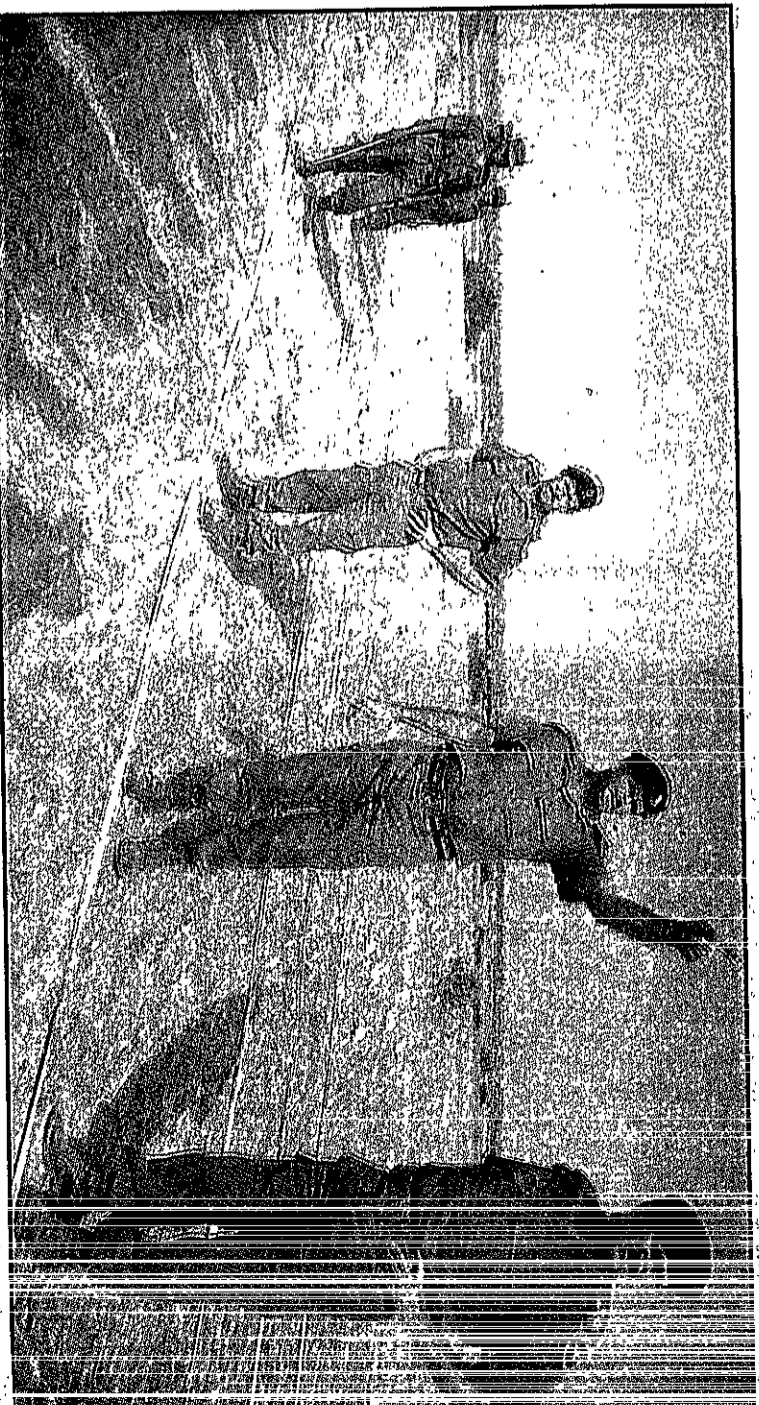


Angolan soldiers listen attentively at a briefing before the "search" for landmines placed during the 16 years of civil war.

**'Scores of civilians, accidentally walking in minefields, have been killed or maimed.'**



An SADF officer (right) during a demonstration.



An SADF officer gives a command for mine detection and destruction inside the demarcated danger zone.

# Farmworkers 'living as slaves'

④ CT 15/6/92

By RONNIE MORRIS

**FARMWORKERS** in the Western Cape are still being paid under the "dop" system, have no schools on their farms and live in fear that they will be evicted from their homes if dismissed or retired.

This was said by Mr Fred Mkontwana, a para-legal adviser at the Stellenbosch Advice Office, in his keynote address to about 100 delegates from 28 farms who attended the first annual meeting of the Farmworkers' Support Committee (FSC) at Cloeteville, Stellenbosch yesterday afternoon.

Mr Mkontwana said that at the end of the 20th century when people had been placed on the moon, when apartheid had been recognised for what it was and was being abolished, South African farmworkers did not enjoy the basic and legal protection and dignity they deserved.

"History has taught us that oppression can only end when the oppressed rise up and free themselves to challenge the system which dehumanises them and their children."

Farm labourers are still paid under the

"dop" system, unfair dismissals are still taking place and they are still living as slaves, he said.

Mr Fred Lewis of the Stellenbosch Advice Office said because farmworkers lived in fear that they would be victimised if they belonged to a trade union, a system of committees would be formed on farms to organise the workers.

The formation of the committees would bolster the victories farm workers have already won in the courts to protect their rights, he said.

her husband was taken prisoner.

Mrs Mashava and other women were ordered to carry bags of maize meal on their heads.

A woman who did not

her dress and held the barrel of his rifle against her cheek, saying: "Try that once more and you're the next to die."

That night she managed to escape. She

later. Refugees arriving at the camp are registered, checked medically and immunised. Each person is issued with a blanket, a bar of soap, clothing

lives in longa go to their families, while others depend on the kind-hearted but poor locals.

Refugee field co-ordinator Sally McKibbin, who has worked among

issued with blankets, soap and maize meal.

"This is the first time in more than a year that I have held a bar of soap," an old woman said.

# ANC denies having armaments in Angola

Star Africa Service

The ANC has denied reports that it still has huge quantities of armaments, including tanks, anti-aircraft guns and troop carriers, in Angola.

Weekend reports said efforts by the ANC to move the more than 27 000 tons of weaponry to Namibia were abandoned after last week's disclosure of their existence by the International

al Freedom Foundation. ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus yesterday said the reports were totally untrue. "The ANC abides by the international agreements reached with the independence of Na-

STAN 16/6/92  
mibia," he said.

ANC arms and personnel had been moved from Angola to countries "further north" after the signing of international agreements paving the way for the indepen-

dence of Namibia.

According to the reports, an inventory of weapons was among documents seized when the ANC's offices in Rua de Liberdade were ransacked earlier this year.

# Angola licks its wounds

Sowetan 17/6/92

**CIVIL war and drought have ravaged Angola and its people.**

Attempts are now being made to pick up the pieces and steer the country towards its first free elections in September.

Hundreds of thousands of mines buried during the war are maiming people and slowing down the process.

The spirit, and irony, of the Angolan peace process was captured when senior South African and Angolan army officers laughed and shook hands next to a blasted and bullet-riddled Buffel "war trophy" here last week.

After a 16-year civil war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives, former enemies are joining hands to remove the mines.

Two months ago the first mixed batch of Unita and MPLA forces started their nine-week training course in the detection and destruction of mines.

Their instructors are members of the SADF.

"We have some maps of where the mines are situated and the South African Government gave us positions of their mine areas," said Major-General Helder Cruz, inspector general of the Angolan military engineering corps, at a media briefing.

"Now we are working together to solve our problems, but while we were fighting the war in Cuito Guanavale we looked at each other through gun sights.

"We can't guarantee all the mines will be lifted. There was a guerilla war and one of the tactics is laying mines which we must find.

In Europe they are still finding mines that were planted during World War 2. We will probably still be finding mines 10 to 20 years from now," he said.

He agreed it would be difficult to have most of the mines cleared in time for the September elections.

Minefields pose a hazard to the masses of people who have to be transported to where they will register and vote.

One foreign correspondent asked Cruz if he would describe what effect a mine had when stepped on.

"I'm lucky it never happened to me," he said.

Indeed there are scores of amputees and people who have been maimed when they strayed too far off a road or path.

A measure of how the "war mentality" has changed, since about 50 000 Cubans were based in Angola, was apparent in a classroom where mine-lifting techniques are taught.

Sitting side-by-side chatting were soldiers, who fought and ambushed each other, now being lectured by South African military men. *Sowetan Correspondent*

## AFRICAN HIGHLIGHTS

# Rebels challenge Unita's Savimbi

Sowetan 18/6/92

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**LUANDA - Two prominent Unita dissidents, General Miguel N'Zau Puna and Mr Tony da Costa Fernandes have returned to Luanda under the protection of the government to "challenge Unita from within".**

Puna and Fernandes, formerly the second-in-command and the co-founder of Unita respectively, addressed a news conference in Luanda yesterday to

**Sowetan Africa News Service**

present the challenge of their new rival group, the Unita "Democratic Tendency".

They and four other signatories to their manifesto want Savimbi to call a party congress this month to decide the party's future through democratic debate.

Fernandes denied this was a move to depose Savimbi, adding: "But Unita is a dictatorship run

by Savimbi and his family. He must accept democracy inside the party."

If Savimbi refuses, the "Democratic Tendency" might form itself into a party, said Fernandes, who expressed confidence that the group has support in Portugal, Switzerland, France, Canada and Angola.

He said he might make a trip to South Africa and is awaiting a response from the South African embassy in Portugal which he and Puna approached for mate-

rial support.

When Fernandes and Puna turned their backs on Unita three months ago, they accused Savimbi of murdering two senior Unita men, Tito Chingunji and Wilson dos Santos in August last year.

Fernandes listed 27 people he accuses Savimbi of killing. He said Jamba was a concentration camp and many families were under threat and unable to leave.

# Cancer, birth defects most controversial

STAR 12/6/92  
ILLNESSES attributable to chemicals used in agriculture vary widely.

Of possible long-term effects, the potential of agrichemicals to cause cancer and birth defects has aroused the most controversy, says Dr Lesley London of UCT's department of community medicine.

Despite the controversy, evidence is accumulating for an association between cancer and TCDD, a contaminant of some herbicides and present in the defoliant (Agent Orange) used extensively in the Vietnam conflict, says Dr London, writing in the South African Medical Journal.

TCDD has been shown to cross the human placenta and to cause foetal abnormalities in laboratory animals.

Impairment of the immune system has also been associated with agrichemicals.

As well, Dr London notes the following:

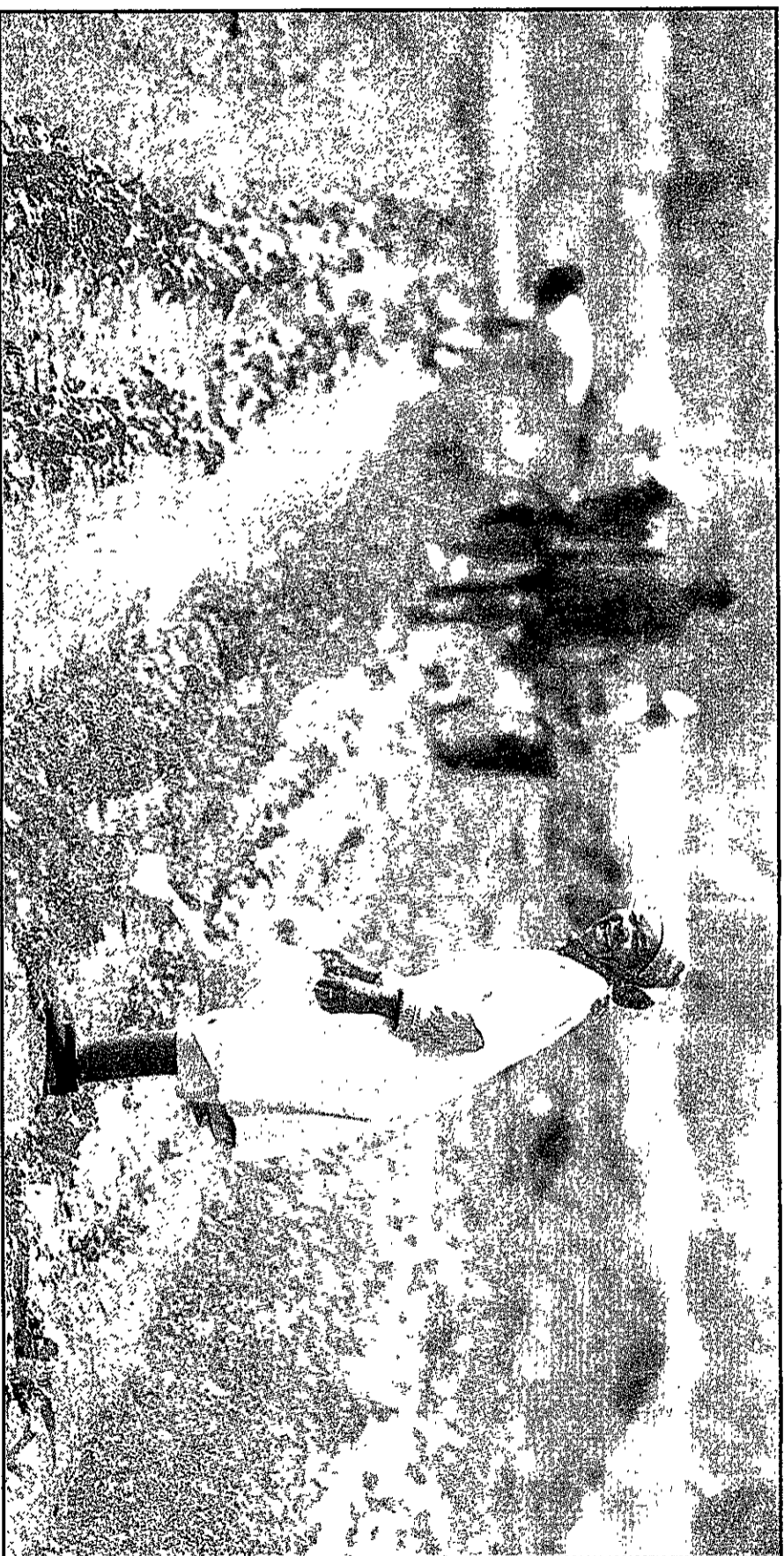
- Paraquat exposure has been implicated in the development of early onset Parkinson's disease.
- Skin problems may be caused by a wide range of agrichemicals, including paraquat, organophosphates and organochlorines.
- Dizziness, blurring of vision, increased secretions and ultimately muscle paralysis and respiratory failure are associated with organophosphates and carbamates.
- The development of central nervous system damage is associated with organochlorines.
- Recent interest has focused on the contribution of organophosphate exposure to the development of neuropsychological problems.
- Organochlorine pesticides have been implicated in liver and renal damage in experimental animals; kepone is known to be toxic to the liver in humans.



# 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.



Lasting effect farm-workers show detrimental health effects from chemicals long after they have left the land.

**V**ISIT 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 agricultural chemicals 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.

Agriculture is 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 agricultural chemicals 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 agricultural chemicals may manifest long after the farm-

worker has left the land.

Estimates of death or illness internationally from agricultural chemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agricultural 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-

ressed to date, he says. A western Cape study found that low levels of safety training were practised and that re-use and improper disposal of empty containers were preventable hazards.

Problems of agricultural hazards 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.

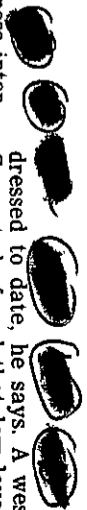
As important discussions over future health services are unfolding in SA, farmworkers' health must not remain the neglected stepchild of a future primary health care service.

"Agricultural safety should be integrated in a comprehensive health service aimed at health promotion and disease prevention for all South Africans," he says.

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18/6/92



# Little trust between the MPLA and Unita

The two armies which fought each other for 16 years in the Angolan civil war have been at peace for nearly 13 months, but there are still potentially dangerous differences between them, as DALE LAUTENBACH of the Sowetan Africa News Service found when she visited both sides' camps.

*Sowetan 19/6/92.*

**LUANDA - Ask an Angolan government soldier what he plans to do after demobilisation and he will shrug and say he wants to find a job and get on with life.**

Ask a Unita soldier and he will say he is waiting for orders.

The difference between the two responses has ominous implications for many Angolans living in a limbo between the ceasefire on May 31 last year and the election scheduled for September.

Civilians, churchmen and international observers all make the same distinction between Fapla, the government army, and Fala, the Unita force.

At the 47 camps throughout the country where the two sides have been separately assembled, the differences between the military cultures - the one haphazard and undisciplined, the other rigid - could not be more obvious.

## Fragile

Margaret Anstee, United Nations Under-Secretary General in charge of the Angolan peacekeeping mission known as Unavem II (UN Angola Verification Mission), acknowledges that the situation is "extremely fragile".

However, she acknowledges that it is remarkable that there has been no major breach of the ceasefire in nearly 13 months, despite a recent increase in the political temperature with the beginning of voter registration and the escalation of the election campaign.

There are still enormous fears among civilians that the result of the election on September 29 and 30 will be contested with bullets.

"We want to return to our homes but we are scared of Unita - that is our biggest worry," said a man of the

desperately poor destitute or displaced community at Matete in Malanje province.

His home is only about 200kms away, but he and about 1 600 others have neither the means to get there nor enough faith in the peace to try.

As he spoke, one of the dividends of the peace accord, the Luanda-Malange train, pulled into Matete station.

The train has resumed regular trips for the first time since 1985 when Unita activity along the line broke this important connection.

The community's fear of Unita is not necessarily based on love of the other side but because of the way the war was fought.

With Unita operating as a guerilla force in government territory, sweeping in on small villages and sabotaging infrastructure, they seem to generate the most concern.

"An atmosphere of anxiety among the population is understandable but it stems from a very positive element and that is that they are sick and tired of war," said Anstee.

"They realise it is fragile and they just want to get through this period."

She said the security situation had deteriorated and there was seldom a clear distinction between ordinary crime and actions with a political motivation.

"There are just too many arms in this country."

In Cazombo in the eastern province of Moxico, the Zambezi River twists close to the town on its short route through Angola.

The area, which saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war, is dominated by Unita.

A few kilometres outside town in a quiet and deeply shaded place, Brigadier Vasco Aurelio runs the Fala camp where, in terms of the

peace accord, 1 300 soldiers and their weapons are confined while awaiting demobilisation.

The brigadier blames the government for the delay in the demobilisation in this and many other camps.

About 900 men await the brigadier, standing stiffly on the dusty parade ground: "Viva peace, Viva Unita," he shouts, telling them that Luanda is the goal.

"Unita is the party of the future and Luanda the point of arrival."

Some men in uniform described by a Fala officer as a cultural group beat drums and dance and sing with a frenzied determination.

## Singing

The officer says they are singing about their history, but the Fala officer stationed in Cazombo as part of the ceasefire monitoring commission says it's a war song.

Dismissed, the troops fade into their neat camp of grass huts, looking at the visitors with little emotion.

In the Fala camp outside Malange a handful of men turn up to listen to Colonel Manual Ximenes.

He tells them that their UN visitors and a group of journalists "are here to help Angola".

## Clown

The ruling MPLA gets no mention and when the soldiers are dismissed they clown about for the cameras before leaving for a camp with little apparent order compared to the neat Fala equivalent in the bushes of Cazombo.

One of the big problems at Fala camps has been the unwillingness of the men to remain in the assembly areas, mainly because food has been scarce.

They shamble in once a week for the Unavem count after which they head out



**A Unita soldier at ease but tensions do exist.**

for the nearest town.

You see them on the roadside, some in uniform and many having changed into sharp civilian gear.

It is clear that their priorities are not military and that their respect for military discipline is negligible.

What makes either force potentially threatening to the peace is its access to weapons and here the suspicions on both sides run deep.

In terms of the ceasefire, the weapons are supposed to be handed in at each camp and counted by Unavem representatives each week.

"Unita didn't fight with those toys," says Ximenes, his mouth close to a sneer as he surveys the weapons turned in by his former enemies.

"Where are the big ones?"

Indeed, at the Cazombo camp, the ratio of men to guns makes no sense according to observers.

Looking at the weapons, it is hard to believe they would have supported anything but the most rag-tag army, which Unita certainly was not.

The eclectic assortment of old rifles shows none of the care that an army which boasts of its discipline should have for its hard-

ware.

Luena, the capital of Moxico, was bombed solidly by Unita for over a month at the end of the war.

"So where are those big guns?" Brigadier Aurelio is asked.

He shrugs and says Fala used 81mm mortars.

There are seven of the mortars in this store where 1 300 men are assembled.

The Fala camp in contrast has well-oiled automatic rifles lined up row upon row in bunkers with men detailed to take care of them. In a nearby field, there are about a dozen T-55 tanks.

## Small

This still does not prove anything and the general opinion among international observers is that both sides have kept something back "just in case".

With a small military monitoring force of 300 men on the ground whose mandate is to watch and nothing more, the UN force can do little if fighting breaks out again.

In that event Anstee could send an appeal to the UN Security Council for help, but she believes the best guarantee is that both sides know the international community would have little patience with renewed conflict.

# A Sapa Correspondent has just concluded a trip to Angola with United Nations personnel to observe the demobilisation of troops and preparations for elections

# Razed Angola has potential

Sowetan 19/6/92

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**WINDHOEK** - An- rich Cabinda enclave to the north, mainstay of the economy during the 16-year civil war, makes travelling possible. Dodging potholes, results of neglect and landmines, the vehicles lurch and bounce.

A relief aid worker, asked if they were perhaps transporting many of the estimated 800 000 displaced Angolans to their areas, said probably not. "Everybody who has something to sell, either bought for trading or grown like groundnuts, sweet potatoes, casava... personally takes it to the point of sale and does business," he replied.

cult introducing the idea of cooperatives here." Marxist rule by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has done little to dampen the spirit of free enterprise. At Mavinga in southern Cuando Cubango province, one is reminded not to step a metre off the landing strip because of landmines.

Provincial capitals remained in government hands. The first sight on approaching Cazombo, a small settlement in Mexico province, Angola's largest with a population of just over one million, was a crashed Aeroflot Antonov-12.

This, however, was a casualty of peace in a ditch beside the landing strip when delivering a United Nations World Food Programme consignment of

stam stream of noisy fume-belching cars, trucks and motorbikes in various stages of disrepair. But Angolans work and trade and play and travel. Those not fortunate enough to secure lifts walk kilometres carrying bundles on their heads. This capacity to carry on its humbling and uplifting. Posters and calls for peace are in evidence. "Loving, forgiving and reconciling," says a large pink one in Malange's main street.

In towns in the sprawling southern African country - the size of France, Germany and Spain combined - trucks and cars, sometimes very old and of every known make, bulge with passengers and goods. Each moving vehicle seems to have an abandoned counterpart, despite the ingenuity of local mechanics.

cheap fuel from the oil-

Unita guerrillas, with South African and United States support, opposed the

It would be unwise to deny shock at first at the decaying buildings, some only partially completed, others with gaping holes, dogs and chickens and con-

From here, about 1 000m above sea level, the road drops 300m over 20km through lush tropical forest.

Truck passengers walk this section as there have been several accidents claiming many lives as drivers fail to negotiate the steep decline. On arriving at the capital, Luanda, we have travelled 472km. It has taken 10 hours. - Sapa



## 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) (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: Brantville

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 Brantville 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.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## (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.

SAR: progress in solving of certain murder cases  
 342. Mr L FLUCHS 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 MOMBORG 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 MOMBORG 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;

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(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 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.

**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) Indusitqwa 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 Indusitqwa—40 employment opportunities.
- 1991 RIDP—approvals from 1 August 1991 until 20 May 1992 at Indusitqwa—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.



# Scourge of Africa threatens Angola

Sowetan 22/6/92

**LUANDA - Sixteen years of civil war insulated Angola from Aids. But now that peace has come, the scourge of Africa is threatening to attack.**

International health experts say severe restrictions on travel inside the country caused by the war spared Angolans the mass outbreaks of the fatal disease that have wiped out entire communities elsewhere in Africa.

## Filthy

But since a truce signed a year ago between the leftist government and Unita rebels, hundreds of thousands of refugees, foreigners and former soldiers have been moving around freely and appalling health conditions have become even worse.

Many hospitals in an impoverished health system are filthy and have no clean needles, water or medicine. The United Nations plans to distribute nine million condoms this year and next to help head off disaster.

"This country has a very special situation. Aids was not as prevalent as in other African countries," said World Health Organisation representative Mr Emmanuel Eben-Moussi.

"But now that there is peace and people are beginning to move around, Aids is spreading."

Since the first Aids case was reported in Angola in 1985, official figures have always been dramatically lower than in the rest of Africa where Aids is spreading faster than anywhere else in the world.

WHO estimates Aids will kill more than six million Africans over the next decade.

Only 484 cases had been registered in Angola as of March, said Eben-Moussi. He expects 700 by the end of the year.

He and other doctors blamed the low number partly on poor statistics, which are difficult to gather because of war-damaged infrastructure. Many ill people refuse to go to hospital.

But Eben-Moussi said random testing across the country indicated that only up to four percent of the 10 million population was carrying the HIV virus which develops into Aids.

He attributed the low numbers in part to limited travel within the vast country, adding that in the centre and south, where villages are few and far between,

Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases are rare.

Nearly all the cases of Aids and HIV have been in areas where there is widespread contact with foreigners — the capital Luanda and northern Zaire and Cabinda provinces.

## Problem

In Lubango in the south, for instance, the main health problem is malaria, said Canadian doctor Stephen Collins.

"Aids is not a problem in this area, there are not many cases of sexually transmitted diseases around here," said a Brazilian UN doctor based in Huambo, Angola's second city in the central heartland. "But Cabinda is another

story due to the proximity with Congo and Zaire."

Ukrainian doctor Anatoly Kosenko told Reuters in Cabinda that the disease was widespread there.

## Ravaged

At high risk, medical experts say, are the 150 000 soldiers and guerillas who are returning to civilian life after sometimes more than a decade of life in the bush.

Prostitution, never very prevalent in Luanda and other cities, is on the increase, officials say.

But convincing Angolans of the risk is a huge challenge in a war-ravaged country where the main concern is peacetime reconstruction. - Sapa-  
Reuter.

## Angola asks for refugee aid

LISBON — Angola has appealed for \$55 million (R154 million) in aid to resettle 215 000 refugees returning from Zaire and Zambia now that its civil war is over, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported yesterday. Lusa said in a report from Luanda that most of the returning refugees were women and children of peasant origin. *SPAN* (5)

● World News — Page 4

22/6/92

# Angola:

STAR 2/16/92

(5)

# tale of 2 armies

As Angola hangs precariously between a ceasefire and elections, there are still dangerous differences between the two entrenched armies, as DALE LAUTENBACH of The Star Africa Service found when she visited camps on both sides.

**A** soldier of the MPLA government what he plans to do after demobilisation and he will shrug his shoulders and say he wants to find a job and get on with life. Ask a Unita soldier, and he will say he is waiting for orders.

The difference between the two responses has ominous implications for many of the Angolans who are living in limbo — between last year's May 31 ceasefire and the election scheduled for September.

Civilians, churchmen and international observers all make the same distinction between Fapla, the government army, and Fala, the Unita force.

At the 47 camps throughout the country where the two sides have been separately assembled, the differences between the military cultures — the one haphazard and undisciplined, the other rigid — could not be more obvious.

Margaret Anstee, UN under-secretary general in charge of the Angolan peacekeeping mission, known as Unavem II (UN Angola Verification Mission), acknowledges that the situation is "extremely fragile."

At the same, however, she acknowledges it is remarkable that there has been no major breach of the ceasefire in nearly 13 months, despite the beginning of voter registration and an escalation in electioneering.



There are still enormous fears among civilians that the result of the election on September 29 and 30 will be contested with bullets.

"We want to return to our homes but we are scared of Unita," that is our biggest worry," said a man of the desperately poor *desocodo*, or displaced community, at Matete in Malange province. His home is only about 200 kms away, but he and about 1 600 others have neither the means to get there nor enough faith in the peace to try.

As he spoke, one of the dividers of the peace accord, the Luanda-Malange train, pulled into Mateete station. The train has resumed regular trips for the first time since 1985.

The community's fear of Unita is not necessarily based on love of the other side but because of the way the war was fought. With Unita operating as a guerrilla force in government territory, sweeping in on small villages and sabotaging infrastructure, it is they who seem to generate the most concern.

"An atmosphere of anxiety among the population is understandable, but it stems from a very positive element: they are sick and tired of war," said Miss Anstee.

At Cazombo, in the eastern province of Moxico, the Zambezi River twists close to the town on its short route through Angola. The area, which saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war,

is dominated by Unita.

A few kilometres outside town, in a quiet and deeply shaded place, Brigadier Vasco Aurelio runs the Fala camp where, in terms of the peace accord, 1 300 soldiers and their weapons await demobilisation. The brigadier blames the government for the delay.

About 900 men await the brigadier, standing stiffly on the dusty parade ground. "Viva peace. Viva Unita," he shouts, telling them that Luanda is the goal. "Unita is the party of the future and Luanda the point of arrival."

Some men in uniform, described by a Fala officer as a cultural group, beat drums and dance and sing with a frenzied

determination. The officer says they are singing about their history but the Fapla officer stationed in Cazombo as part of the ceasefire-monitoring commission says it's a war song.

Dismissed, the troops fade into their neat camp of grass huts, looking at the visitors with little emotion.

In the Fapla camp outside Malange a handful of men turn up to listen to Colonel Manuel Ximenes. He tells them that their UN visitors and a group of journalists "are here to help Angola." The ruling MPLA gets no mention, and when the soldiers are dismissed they clown about for the cameras before leaving for a camp with little apparent order compared with the neat

Fala equivalent.

One of the big problems at Fapla camps has been the unwillingness of the men to remain in the assembly areas, mainly because food has been scarce. They shamble in once a week for the Unavem count, after which they head out for the nearest town. You see them on the roadside, some in uniform still but with many having changed into civilian gear.

What makes either force potentially threatening to the peace is its access to weapons, and here the suspicions on both sides run deep. In terms of the ceasefire, the weapons are supposed to be handed in at each camp and counted by Unavem representatives each week.

"Unita didn't fight with those toys," says Colonel Ximenes, his mouth close to a sneer as he surveys the weapons hurried in by his former enemies. "Where are the big ones?"

Indeed, at the Cazombo camp the ratio of men to guns makes no sense, according to observers. Looking at the weapons, it is hard to believe they would have supported anything but the most rag-tag army, which Unita certainly was not. The eclectic assortment of old rifles shows none of the care that an army which boasts of its discipline should have for its hardware.

Luena, the capital of Moxico, was bombarded solidly by Unita for more than a month at the

At ease (stiffly) ... a stern-faced officer epitomises Unita troop discipline as he stands before his squad at a parade at the assembly point near Cazombo.

The Fapla camp, in contrast, has well-oiled automatic rifles lined up row upon row in bunkers with men detailed to take care of them. In a nearby field there are about a dozen T-55 tanks.

This still does not prove anything and the general opinion among international observers is that both sides have kept something back "just in case."

With a small military monitoring force of 300 men, whose mandate is only to watch, the UN force can do little if fighting breaks out again.

In that event Miss Anstee could send an appeal to the UN Security Council for help, but she believes the best guaranteed is that both sides know that the international community would have little patience with renewed conflict.

Miss Anstee, however, does not expect a post-election Unavem III, but says that if some kind of reduced monitoring were necessary, it would make sense for the international community not to walk away from the investment, albeit small, that it has made so far. □



**L**UANDA - Smuggling and illegal digging are taking the sparkle out of diamond sales by the Angolan government.

It is robbing the treasury of the foreign exchange it badly needs to repair the damage from 16 years of civil war.

Peace has contributed to the problem by making it easier for smugglers and diamond thieves to travel around Angola, the world's seventh biggest producer, industry sources say.

**Activities**

Their activities are robbing the government of sales worth R540 million to R810 million a year, more than it is earning now, said Noe Balazar, chairman of the state diamond mining company Endiama (Empresa Nacional de Diamantes de Angola). "It is very serious," he said in an interview. "Areas under concession are vulnerable to illicit trade." He blamed smugglers

# Smuggling dims Angola gem sales

Sowetan 23 June 92

**Industry sources say that peace has contributed to the problem by making it easier for smugglers and diamond thieves to travel around Angola. Their activities are robbing the government of sales worth R540 million to R810 million a year.**

from Mali, Guinea, Senegal and neighbouring Zaire for the illegal trade.

The MPLA government, military and industry sources say members of the former rebel group UNITA also engage in illicit mining and selling of stockpiles. Officials of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) deny it.

**Sources**

Military sources say it is difficult to police the remote areas where most of the high quality gems are mined - in the Cuango re-

gion of Lunda Norte province near the northeastern border with Zaire.

Angola, which is merging the armies of the two former enemies into one under a peace accord signed

a year ago, has no fully functioning national army to enforce security.

The joint political-military commission overseeing the peace process and transition to democracy

**It is harder to**

**dig with machines if the upper levels have been disturbed, they say**

discussed the illicit diamond mining at a meeting last week.

The commission includes representatives of the MPLA and UNITA and of Portugal, the United States and Russia - the countries which helped bring about last year's truce.

**Difficult**

"The situation is very difficult," Deputy Interior Minister Fernando da Piedade dos Santos said after the meeting.

"UNITA controls some areas of diamond production. The situation must be resolved on a political-judicial level."

Endiama, the sole concessionaire, has stepped up security at its installations to protect supplies and operations from attacks by

bandits and outlaws.

Angola's diamond industry, which accounts for 11 percent of total exports, has recovered from a low in 1985, when it produced 717 768 carats and earned R86.4 million from exports.

**Stability**

Last year it produced 960 600 carats and earned R488.7 million, down from 1.3 million carats and R631.8 million in 1989.

Balazar said sales could rise five percent this year "but it all depends on social stability".

Production peaked at 2.3 million carats in 1974, a year before the southwest African country won independence from Portugal and civil war broke out. Industry sources say the illegal miners, who often

use primitive methods to extract diamonds just below the earth's surface, may make it more difficult for commercial miners to mine better quality gems deeper in the ground.

It is harder to dig with machines if the upper levels have been disturbed, they say.

**Supplies**

Endiama's operating costs are higher than necessary because Angola's infrastructure is in ruin and the company has to move supplies by air across the vast country, Balazar said.

He said Angola probably had rich deposits of diamonds still undiscovered.

Foreign investor confidence could soar once peace took root and the first multi-party elections took place next September.

"Angola could play a very key role in the world diamond market due to the reserves it has. Our intention is obviously to increase production and get there," he said. - *Sapa-Reuter*

# A tale of a city trying to revive its former glory

By *Ray 23/4/82*

THE spectacular sight of Luanda bay, overlooked by a majestic Portuguese fort, blue sea lapping against the palm tree-lined marginale, ill-prepares the visitor about to land at a squalid airport, serving a decrepit city, surrounded by wretched shanty towns.

But it need not be nearly as bad as it might at first seem. The heavy hand of an authoritarian government bureaucracy has been lifted. It is now a friendly bureaucracy.

The once-elegant city is trying to pick itself up. Rubbish is being collected, several buildings are being renovated, bars and restaurants are reopening.

Arrange to be met at the airport. A handful of battered vehicles still ply the city streets but are not usually found at the airport.

The airport is about 4km from the city centre. There are no public telephones or banking services.

If you are fortunate, you have a booking at the Prestige Meridien or the Tivoli, where you can be almost certain there will always be water and power. Such is the demand

even a booking does not always guarantee a room. Wherever you plan to stay, book well ahead; business is picking up.

One of the first things to do on arrival is to make plans to leave, ie confirm your return booking.

No limit on cash or travellers cheques that may be taken in but if you expect to take back more than \$5 000, a bank declaration must be completed for presentation at the airport.

## Accepted

Credit cards: American Express accepted at Prestige and Tivoli Hotels. It is not longer necessary to carry a document authorising you to leave the city but take local advice about your route before travelling out of Luanda.

Internal air travel: TAAG, the local airline, serves domestic routes but can be unreliable.

An experienced resident MD of a foreign company offered this list of do's and don'ts:

**DON'T:**

Forget that skills are at a premium: it is difficult to find a good secretary, let alone an office manager.

Be discouraged by initial failures.

Be put off by your first visit.

Be put off by the present lack of raw materials and machines — this could ease as access to SA sources increases.

Do business without a local partner.

**DO:**

Hire a local Mr Fix It to help you through the bureaucracy.

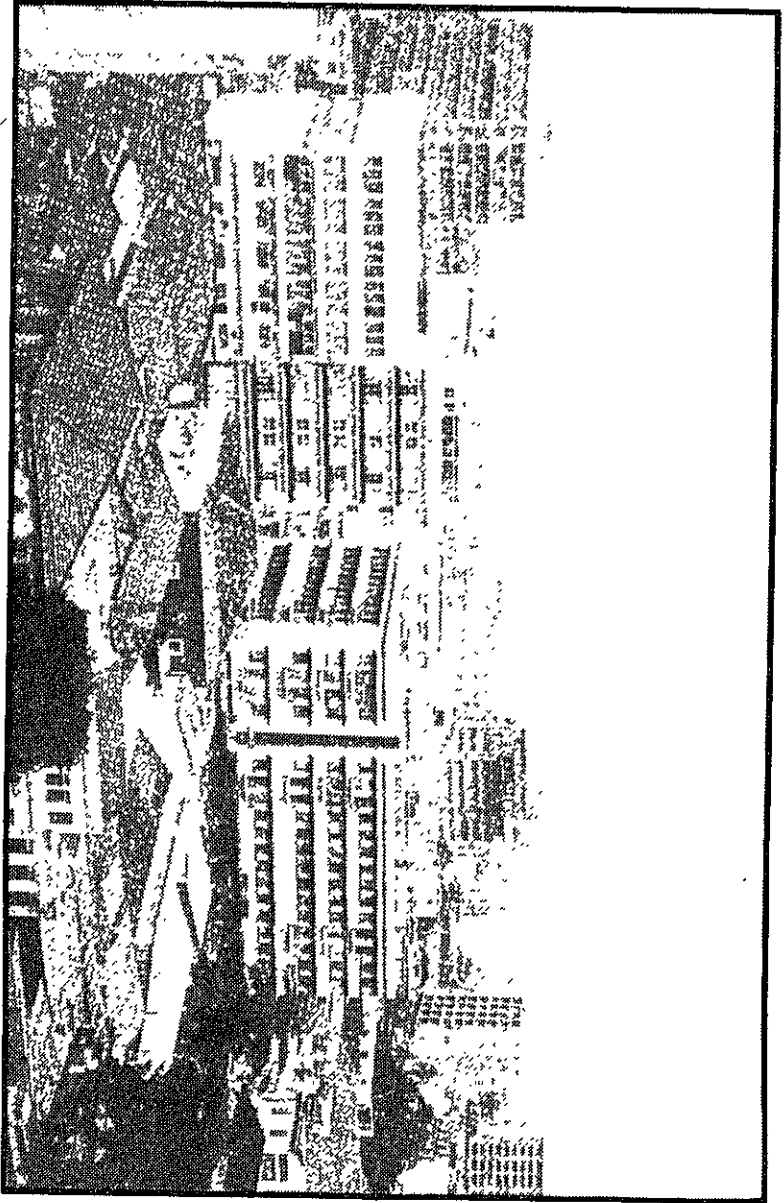
Be patient, flexible and retain your sense of humour.

The combination of obtaining a visa, getting from the airport to the city, securing accommodation, hiring a car and finding an interpreter can be the hardest part of the visit.

All or part of these needs can be handled by the services department of British company Hull Blynth, which has operated in Angola for more than 150 years and has offices in Luanda, Lobito, Cabinda and elsewhere. (London: 71 696 9688 — Nicola Elkins; Luanda: 336591/3; Fax 336647 — Fred Bagorro).

Government working hours Mon-Fri 0730-1230; 1430-1830.

Names and numbers International dialling code: 244-2



Luanda's skyline... impressive from afar.

- EMBASSIES:**
- UK: Rua Diogo Cao: 334582
  - Commercial section 3920998; Fax 333331; Tx 3130
  - Portugal: 333027
  - Portuguese External Trade Institute: 331485
  - France: 391744/391741
  - Germany: 334516
  - Italy: 393533
  - European Commission: 393038
  - South Africa (representative office): 393153
  - US (representative office) United Nations Development programme: 331181
- AIRLINES:**
- TAAG — Linhas Aereas de Angola: 330964/332990
  - TAP: 331687/331692
- U T A:** 335416/7
- S A A:** 393153
- E t h i o p i a n:** 371242/371404
- V a r i g:** 393732
- S a b e n a:** 372969/70
- M I N I S T E R I E S:**
- A g r i c u l t u r e:**
- 323241/323224/345837
  - Finance: 332122; Fax 390579; Telex 3363
  - Energy & Petroleum: 337440/370626
  - Foreign Relations: 332250/321249
  - Agriculture: 322694/323324
  - Construction: 335176/339590
  - Defence: 339857
  - Fisheries: 337996-8
  - Industry: 333732/338597
  - Planning: 339529/339052
  - Transport: 372552
- H O T E L S:**
- Presidente Meridien: 330027
  - Tivoli: 393863/391593; Fax 391128
  - Turismo: 333293/333296
  - Tropico: 391488/331755
  - Panorama: 337841
- O T H E R N U M B E R S:**
- Central Bank (Banco Nacional de Angola): 332633; Fax 390579; Tx 3028
  - Chamber of Commerce: Edificio Palacio de Comercio, 344506/322453; Tx 3283
  - Gabinete de Investimento Estrangeiro (Foreign Investment Office): Rua Central Lulokoi No 25 392620; Tx 3262; Fax 393381
  - Main Opposition Party: Ur-
- I a o N a c i o n a l e p a r a a I n d e n c i a T o t a l d e A n g o l a ( U n i t a):** 393446
- O I L:**
- Sonangol: 334143/334794
  - Elf 390293/390343
  - Cabinda Golf Oil Company: 392646/392696
- D i a m o n d s:** Empresa Nacional de Diamantes de Angola (Endiama): Rua Rainha Ginga, 393336
- C a r h i r e a v a i l a b l e f r o m:** Angocar, Intertransit and Rent-A-Car.
- R e s t a u r a n t s:** Barracuda; Catermar; Esta Restaurante VIP. — Financial Times

# Trade relations with Angola are booming

2316192

FROM beer to prefabricated housing, from spare parts to office equipment, SA products are reaching Angola in increasing quantities.

There has long been a connection through the diamond industry. Now the continent's industrial superpower is rapidly moving into what is being described as one of the most important markets in Africa.

The bitter years of emnity and hostilities have been consigned to history.

The market potential of a country which exports more than 500 000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) is not conveyed by the latest available trade figures. In 1990, SA imports from Angola were negligible (R59 000) but exports reached R50m.

The lop-sided trade relationship could change.

Apart from providing an outlet for Angola's oil (there is speculation that a substantial barter deal is in the offing), SA could be an important market for Angolan fish-meal.

The country's oil sector is also a large market for SA companies. SA is a logical place from which to source all the consumer needs of a 10 000-strong oil workforce which requires regular delivery of fresh food and consumer goods.

The Standard Bank has had a representative in Luanda since the start of the year, and the group may be opening a branch later this year. Meanwhile, one of the companies with the highest profile is Murray & Roberts Construction. At the end of February the company signed a protocol with Cabinda province and the Angola government covering training in the construction and engineering industries, supply of prefabricated houses, schools and hotels, and a range of other services.

But one businessman with wide experience of black Africa urges caution: "No big decisions are being taken until the elections are over and there is greater certainty." — Financial Times

# Smuggling takes shine out of diamond sales

810000 24/16/92

**LUSAKA** — Smuggling and illegal digging are taking the sparkle out of diamond sales by the Angolan government, robbing the treasury of foreign exchange it badly needs to repair the damage from 16 years of civil war.

Peace had contributed to the problem by making it easier for smugglers and diamond thieves to travel around Angola, the world's seventh biggest producer, industry sources said.

Their activities were robbing the government of sales worth \$200m to \$300m a year, more than it was earning, said state diamond mining company Endiama chairman Noe Baltazar.

He said the situation was very serious and areas under concession were vulnerable to illicit trade.

He blamed smugglers from Mali, Guinea, Senegal and Zaïre.

The MPLA government, military and industry sources say members of Unita also engage in illicit mining and selling of stockpiles. Unita officials deny this.

Military sources say it is difficult to police the remote areas where most of the high quality gems are mined — the Cuanango region of Lunda Norte province near the northeastern border with Zaïre.

Angola, which is merging the armies of the two former enemies into one under a peace accord signed a year ago, has no fully functioning national army to enforce security.

The joint political-military commission

oversaw the peace process and transition to democracy discussed the illicit diamond mining at a meeting this week.

The commission includes representatives of the MPLA and Unita, and of Portugal, the US and Russia — the countries which helped bring about last year's truce.

Deputy Interior Minister Fernando da Piedade dos Santos said: "The situation is very difficult. Unita controls some areas of diamond production. The situation must be resolved on a political-judicial level."

Endiama, the sole concessionaire, has stepped up security at its installations.

Angola's diamond industry, which accounts for 11% of exports, has recovered from a 1985 low, when it produced 717,768 carats and earned \$32m from exports.

Last year it produced 960 600 carats and earned \$181m, down from 1.3-million carats and \$234m in 1989.

Baltazar said sales could rise 5% this year "but it all depends on social stability".

Production peaked at 2.3-million carats in 1974, a year before the country won independence from Portugal and civil war broke out.

Industry sources say the illegal miners, who often use primitive methods to extract diamonds just below the earth's surface, may make it more difficult for commercial miners to mine better quality gems deeper in the ground. It is harder to dig with machines if the upper levels have been disturbed, they say. — Sapa-Reuter.

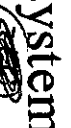
been cautiously welcomed.

Bank official Kabinga Pande confirmed the new moves in Lusaka yesterday by saying the new regulations would be circulated to all commercial banks soon.

Pande said to increase forex on the retention market, the central bank had decided inward remittances of forex for diplomats, missionaries, charitable organisations and private investors from abroad, should be sold to the retention market instead of surrendering it to the Bank of Zambia. — Sapa.

oversaw the peace process and transition to democracy discussed the illicit diamond mining at a meeting this week.

The commission includes representatives of the MPLA and Unita, and of Portugal, the US and Russia — the countries which helped bring about last year's truce.



## Bank of Zambia opens up forex system

**LUSAKA** — The Bank of Zambia has liberalised the foreign exchange system with immediate effect, increasing the business allowance to \$3 150 and allowing travellers to get it from commercial banks without central bank approval.

The central bank has increased the interest rates from 51% to 55%, but has dropped the demand for tax clearance certificates when applying for forex.

The Bank of Zambia has also scrapped forex declaration forms, a move which has

DIAMONDS

## New Cunene dam could wipe out tropical species

810000 24/16/92

**WINDHOEK** — A Namibian research biologist has warned that several species of tropical wildlife may be lost if the proposed Epupa Falls hydroelectric project on the Cunene River goes ahead.

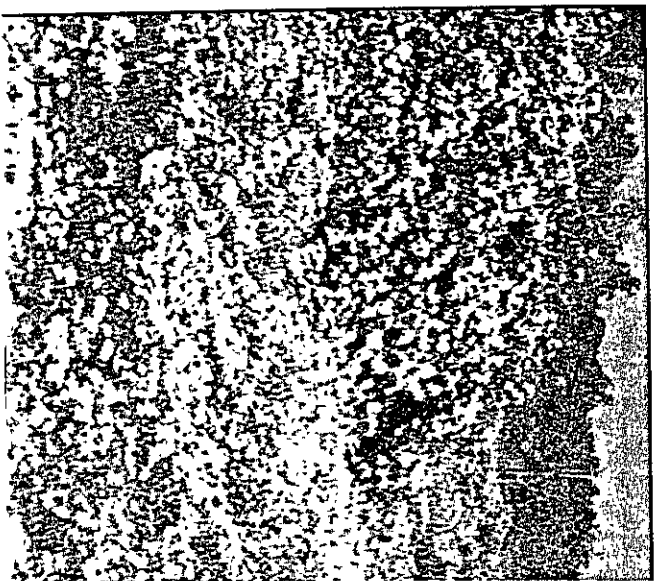
Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism Ministry researcher Rob Simmons said although the Ministry did not directly oppose building a dam at Epupa as the energy benefits were enormous, it was important for complete environmental impact assessments to be initiated. He emphasised that the guidelines of any assessment should be followed to maintain ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity.

He said conservation officials had surveyed bird, animal and reptile populations at the Cunene river mouth last year during the river's peak and low flows.

The relatively small river mouth and lagoon formed one of the richest wetland areas along the Namibian coast. Many of the 72 recorded species were migrant birds which used the area for feeding and refuelling before heading for their breeding areas thousands of kilometres to the north. Twelve of those were endangered species. Others included marine green turtles and Nile soft-shelled turtles, normally found only in the warmer waters off Angola and west Africa.

If the system was inundated with cold water from the planned dam tropical species might be lost.

He recommended that a certain proportion of the water be set aside for conservation. — Sapa.



## Talks on farm labour law suspended

4  
STAN  
24/6/92  
The Congress of South African Trade Unions has suspended talks with the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) about labour laws for the agricultural sector.

Cosatu campaigns coordinator Lisa Seftel said Cosatu would resume talks when the Minister of Manpower set a date for the promulgation of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill and the Unemployment Insurance Bill, which make the existing Acts applicable to farmworkers.

She said the SAAU wanted the Unemployment Insurance Bill to be implemented next year. Cosatu wanted both Bills to be promulgated immediately.

SAAU deputy director of general services Kobus Kleynhans said it appeared that negotiations had reached a standstill.

# Now Unita with Fapla

Saukhan

26/6/92

**WINDHOEK -** Working with 1 300 former rebel foes at the Cazombo assembly point in eastern Angola is "no problem" for Angolan government army officer Lieutenant-Colonel **Goines Muchinga**.

Monitored by the CCPM in terms of the accords, the soldiers must gather at 48 designated assembly points where weapons are stored under United Nations supervision and the demobilisation process begins.

By May 27 about half the estimated 150 000 soldiers had assembled and about 18 000 had been demobilised.

Twenty thousand men from each side are being drafted into the new national Angolan army, while 10 000 Fapla soldiers will make up the air force (6 000) and navy (4 000). Coming from a guerrilla

army, the 1 300 Fapla soldiers at Cazombo, in former rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita),

Family members have begun small gardens, growing tomatoes and other vegetables. Soldiers here spend much of their time playing football, and drill and exercise on the parade ground to putising drum beats from troupes belting out revolutionary songs.

### Weapons

Delays in delivering relief food supplies, blamed on Luanda government bureaucrats "who haven't got their act together", are a major problem, according to camp commander Brigadier Vasco Aurelio. Occasionally soldiers

use weapons from a storage hut, where they are counted weekly, to shoot something for the pot, a UN monitoring official adds.

### Bureaucrats

After seeing the arsenal of dusty automatic rifles and small weapons, journalists inquired after heavy armaments such as artillery.

### Demobilisation

He apologises for its not being as ordered as it might because the men have only one thing on their minds - demobilisation.

### Civilians

"If there are any forces willing to restart the war they will not have the support of civilians," says Unita military-political coordinator for Malange, Brigadier Vasco Chimuco.

"It is understandable there should be small friction between parties in the political game," he says, but adds: "Peace can only be made by those whomake war." - *Sapa*.

demobilisation of about 115 000 Fapla soldiers and 35 000 Fala troops of the former rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

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# Soldiers enlist for new army<sup>5</sup>

LUANDA - The first members of Angola's new armed forces, which are to include the current national army plus former rebels, began pre-enrolment proceedings on Wednesday, officials said. *Govetun 26/6/92.*

General Camalata Numa of the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and General Joao de Matos of the national army became the first two officers to register for the new army, which is to consist of some 40 000 troops, according to a UN peace agreement signed in May last year. - *Sapa-AFP.*

# Drought batters 70 000 jobs

By Sven Lünsche

STAR 26/6/92

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.



# 'I will leave this farm when I die'

By **MONWABISI NOMADOLO** (4)

**DEFIANT** veteran farm labourer Mohlwayo Cornelius Jasoni, who is in his 90s, has refused to leave Grootstry farm where he has lived for more than 45 years.

Unable to walk without the aid of a stick, sickly Jasoni said he would leave the farm only in a coffin.

"I made a vow to my baas that I would only leave this farm as a corpse," said Jasoni.

## Shot dead

Jasoni had been working for decades for Willem Christopher Engelbrecht, 71, of Grootstry farm in Verkeerdevelei in the Free State, when his boss was fatally shot last year in December.

Self-confessed killer Gabriel Mahakoe is standing trial for Engelbrecht's murder and that of three members of his family. *CIPRES*

Jasoni said there had been attempts to evict him from the farm now that Engelbrecht was dead. *28/6/92*

"I started working for that man (Engelbrecht) when he was very young and a bachelor," he said.

The multilingual Jasoni - who speaks Sotho, Xhosa and Afrikaans flu-



**NOWHERE TO GO ... "They will only take me away in a coffin," vows 90-year-old Mohlwayo Cornelius Jasoni, who has been told he must leave his home of 45 years.** *CIPRES 28/6/92* ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

ently - also says that his wife Anna was buried on the farm. She died three months ago after a long illness.

"Before she died, she had undergone two operations on the abdomen," the grey-haired pensioner said. "It had been our wish to be buried together and I will fulfil that wish."

After Engelbrecht's

death, the farm was auctioned and subsequently bought by a certain Botha of Bothaville, Jasoni said.

Jasoni, who originally came from Lesotho, said he had had several farm jobs throughout the Free State and Natal until he developed an "unbreakable bond" with Engelbrecht.

"All my children got

married while I was staying on this farm. All my grandchildren were born and bred on this farm.

"I never starved when that man was alive," he said, referring to Engelbrecht. "He was a good man."

Jasoni is currently staying on the farm with his second daughter, 66-year-old Alinah Badela.

Contesting his attempt-

ed eviction he asked: "Where should I go?"

He added he had never stayed in a township or in town.

The old man is aided by two horses and a cart whenever he goes for his pension money.

"I was given these horses by Engelbrecht some years back," Jasoni said.

# National army still a way off

Sowetan 29/6/92

Sowetan Africa  
News Service

**LUANDA - The new 40 000-strong Angolan national army is supposed to be the country's single military force by the end of September when elections are held.**

So far 1 473 men have been recruited.

Many Angolans express the fear that elections will be held in a country with three armies instead of one.

The peace accords signed on May 31 last year envisaged a single politically neutral national army with all soldiers of the former warring sides assembled prior to timely demobilisation and integration into civilian life.

As it stands now, just three months before the legislative and presidential poll on September 29 and 30, demobilisation has been seriously delayed.

United Nations figures for the end of May hold that only 12 percent of the assembled soldiers have been released.

Projects to absorb them and their dependents, whose total number the UN puts at 250 000, look good on paper but little more.

On the side of Fapla, the Angolan government army, the headache is that

many of the soldiers are spontaneously demobilising themselves and the increasing crime rate is popularly attributed to former soldiers with no money and no food.

On the side of Fala, the Unita army, things look a little more organised on the surface as the men remain in tightly disciplined camps.

But the problem is that they and their families are subject to political control by Unita in this position, effectively cut off from a multiparty election campaign. No ballot made under these circumstances could be considered free and fair.

With the election campaign proper due to begin in August, the scene seems set for chaos versus coercion.

On the ruling MPLA side there has been little indication that the party is a cohesive force or has any idea how to play multiparty politics despite a campaign to reunite the MPLA "family".

On the Unita side there are hints that coercion could be one of their electoral strategies.

Relief workers and inter-

national observers with no particular axe to grind are concerned that especially in south east Angola, traditionally Unita territory, people who were displaced there during the war and now want to go home are not being allowed to do so.

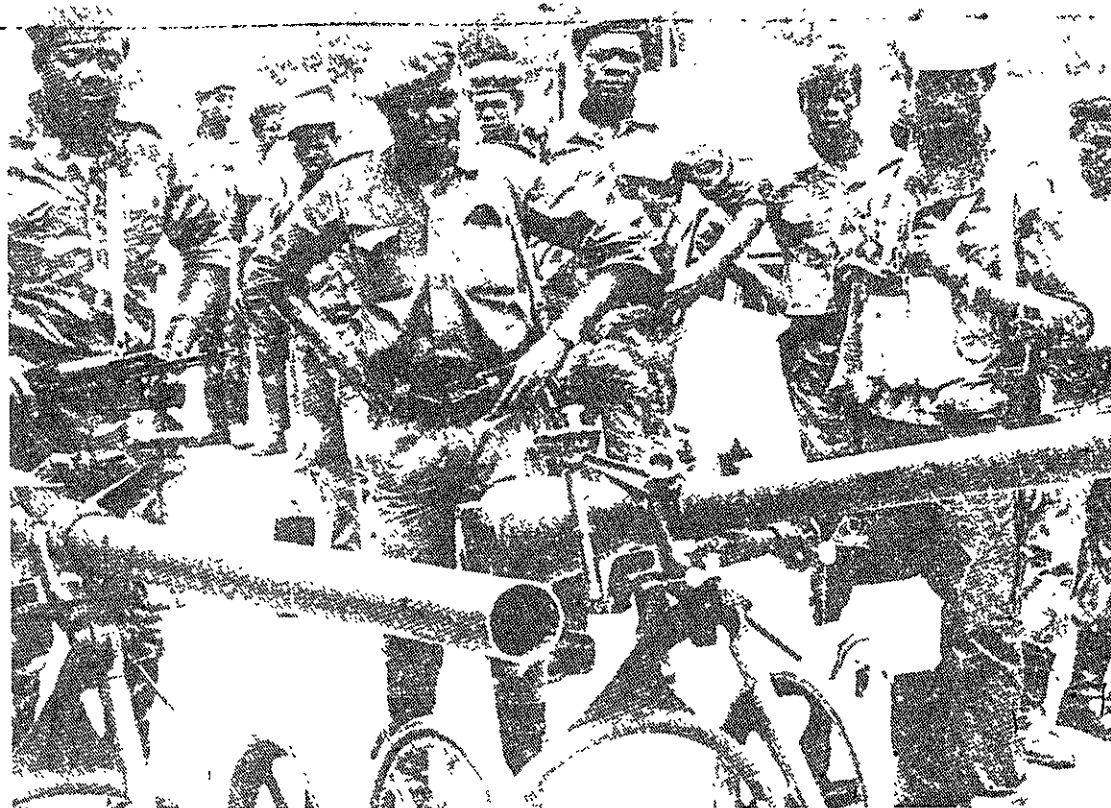
In this uncertain atmosphere, the presence of a fully fledged national army, whose numbers are to be equally drawn from Fapla and Fala, could be an important source of confidence for the Angolan public at polling time.

But they have little faith that this will be achieved.

And little faith either in the nature of the two former opposing forces that, in the absence of orderly demobilisation and worthwhile tasks in which to engage their new freedom, could still be hanging about come end September.

In Luanda, as could be expected in the seat of MPLA power, fear of the Unita army runs deep. But it is not a pro-MPLA inspired fear - indeed the MPLA seems to be inspiring very little with most people talking hopefully of some sort of coalition government for the future.

By the very nature of the war, state army versus guerrilla force, Fapla was ur-



**FLASHBACK: JONAS SAVIMBI with some of his soldiers inspecting some of the antiquated weapons his movement used during the Angola bush war.**

ban-based, Fapla was in the bush; it shows Fapla officers are mostly urbane, sophisticated and educated with civilian aspirations and an impatience to get out of uniform.

Fala officers, while many are educated, are military men, period.

"The difference is that Fapla has always been integrated into civilian life," says Jose Goncalves, a Luandan academic at the developing Catholic University.

"That is not true of Fala; they have been in the bush for 16 years."

Of course among the powers that be, the United Nations, the tripartite observers and the Angolan government itself, no one is admitting defeat when it comes to the creation of the new army.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has criticised his

own government newspaper (now flirting with newly acquired Press freedom) for its stories about the threat that three armies pose to the elections.

The Forças Armadas Angolanas (FAA) might not be quite fully fledged but they will be there, he has promised.

But with just 2,9 percent of 40 000 in the new khaki brown and maroon flashes of the FAA, it seems an optimistic claim.

"It's all swings and roundabouts," said a British military officer in Angola with Portuguese and French counterparts to help with the formation of FAA.

With seemingly insurmountable problems among which the formation of the new army is just one, the willingness on all sides is still there and it would be a mistake to label anything a disaster yet.



**PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS has criticised his newspaper.**

# Angola election nightmare

Sowetan 30/6/92

**LUANDA** - "I have dreams about convoys of motor cars all coming towards me," says Mr Onofre dos Santos, director of the National Election Council in Angola.

The body is charged with registering the population and organising the legislative and presidential poll on September 29 and 30.

"The most dramatic need now is transport," he says.

Beyond that, impassable roads and bridges over Angola's many rivers put an estimated 10 to 20 percent of the electorate out of reach by any means but air transport.

The SADF, with a nice touch of historical irony, has just announced its help with the provision of four Puma helicopters and two fixed-wing light aircraft.

## Crucial

But it needs motor vehicles to reach the 80 to 90 percent of the electorate that Dos Santos dreams about.

A pale, white-haired lawyer, Dos Santos is an interesting figure in this crucial seat of getting the multiparty show on the road.

It is no secret that he is a member of the FNLA, Holden Roberto's movement which, with CIA backing, made a bid for power at independence in 1975 and has now re-

The director of the National Election Council in Angola has to overcome a logistical nightmare in preparation for the September poll. He must also win the trust of the people so that they accept the results gracefully. DALE LAUTENBACH of Sowetan Africa News Service found him surprisingly confident.

Entered the fray of Angolan politics as one of the parties contesting the September poll with seemingly increasing credibility.

Dos Santos shrugs lightly when questioned about his party affiliations: "I was appointed election director with the consensus of the people, the parties and the churches ... they accepted me well.

"No one in this position now would risk their reputation for the sake of a party and before everything I am an Angolan. My only target is to get the elections done and the people to accept the results. I think the people trust me."

But there is not much trust in Angola. Visiting Luanda recently, US assistant Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen made a strong plea for a reining in of the hostile propaganda that is being exchanged mainly between the government and Unita. "There is a lot of exaggeration and verbal hostility is growing," says Dos

"In a way it was a false start because not all the brigades were trained nor did they have the means," says Dos Santos of the projected 1 400 registration brigades of which only about one third have been operational in the first month of the task.

After 30 days figures had leapt to 500 000 and less than a week after that, 750 000. Dos Santos attributes this to an increase in the number of brigades out in the field and not to a sudden enthusiasm on the part of the electorate.

"Everybody is reading manipulation into the situation. We don't have trust; people tend not to trust themselves. The National Election Council must win all the respect it can now so that when the results come people accept them without finding excuses for hostilities."

Working only with estimates as Angola has had no real census for the duration of its 16-year civil war, Dos Santos reckons that about 4.5 million people of a total 10 million are eligible to vote. In the first 21 days of the registration campaign which ends on July 31, only 70 000 secured the cards that will give them access to the ballot box.

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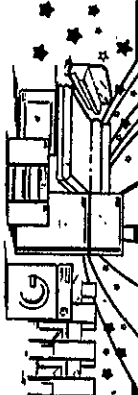
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# Poison cloud hangs

## Over farmworkers

By Quentin Wilson

**F**ARMWORKERS in the Wilderness near George say they are are living under a cloud of death. They say poisonous chemicals used on the farm Dankbaar (thankful) to protect the crops are slowly killing them.

In the most serious incident, an eight-year-old child died after he drank from an unmarked wine bottle that he found on the farm.

Although that happened 12 years ago, nothing has changed, say the farmworkers and former employees.

• Mr Kobus Venter, who was a dairy manager at Dankbaar from June 1991 to March this year, says he took labourers for medical treatment on about 10 occasions because they had difficulty breathing after inhaling poisonous fumes.

Venter says that Diathæm M45 is one of the chemicals used on the farm's potato crops.

• Ms Marie Arrie, who was a domestic worker on the farm for eight years, still finds it difficult to talk about the fatal poisoning of eight-year-old Gerald.

"We were celebrating a friend's birthday and all the kids were play-

ing outside," says Arrie.

"Some of the children ran to the house and told me that Gerald was acting strangely. I went outside and I saw him staggering and then falling.

"After finding out what he had drunk, I ran to a farm some miles away to phone for help. I did not stop running until I got there. But it was too late, Gerald had died already."

According to Arrie, the bottles of chemicals were unguarded and had no inscription to indicate its contents were poisonous.

She says the only compensation she received from the owner of Dankbaar, Mr Thinus Nortjie, was that he provided the coffin and allowed Gerald to be buried on the farm.

• Mr Glen Barnard, who worked at Dankbaar from 1986 to 1989, told of his experience.

"One day we were spraying the crops with a blue poison. I had to work behind the tractor without protection — no gloves, no protective mask, nothing.

"The wind blew the poisonous fumes into my face and about 10 minutes later I thought I was going to die. I could not stop vomiting. I told my friend that I had to get to the farmer because I was sure that I

would not live," Barnard says.

When he got to a doctor three hours later, the doctor told him he would have died if he had waited much longer.

Barnard says Nortjie did not foot the medical bill and did not pay him while he was recovering.

"Nortjie just did not care for any of us. He just wanted us to work and it did not matter to him how sick we were.

"He does not treat his workers like humans. One morning before we set out for work, Nortjie read a passage from the Bible as he normally did. When he finished reading and praying, he told us that he did not know why God had made coloureds because we were such rubbishes," Barnard says.

Six workers interviewed by SOUTH allege that Nortjie carries a sjambok and uses it regularly.

Arrie told how she was once assaulted. "Once I gave my friends some of my potatoes because they needed it. When Nortjie found out, he thought I had stolen the potatoes from him.

"I was washing the dishes in his kitchen and I could hear my friends being hit with the sjambok. After a while he came inside and accused me of stealing from him and hit me in the face.



**NOT FORGOTTEN: Ms Marie Arrie mourns her child's death**

"I told him that I had given them my own potatoes but he did not believe me. He hit me across the back with his sjambok and told me to leave the farm. My nose was bleeding. It was terrible.

"I did everything for him. I cleaned his house, I brought up his three children, I cooked and this is how 'dankbaar' he is," says Arrie. A city law firm is investigating Nortjie but does not have money to

continue the work.

Nortjie confirmed that Lemnate and Diathæm were used on his potato crops.

He said it was "common practice" for all farmers to protect their crops from blight and insects.

"I have never heard anything about my workers being affected by the poisons. If they are then you know more about my farm than I do," he said.

## Breakdown in Cosatu's talks with farmers' union

6/10/92 11/1/92  
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.

Cosatu had cancelled two meetings, scheduled for June 8 and 18, he said.

"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."

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.

"Then, we believe, other 12 months should be allowed for the 65 000 farmers involved to refer 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.



# Home sweet hell!

SOUTH 11/7-15/7/92

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 Ollifant 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," Ollifant 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.

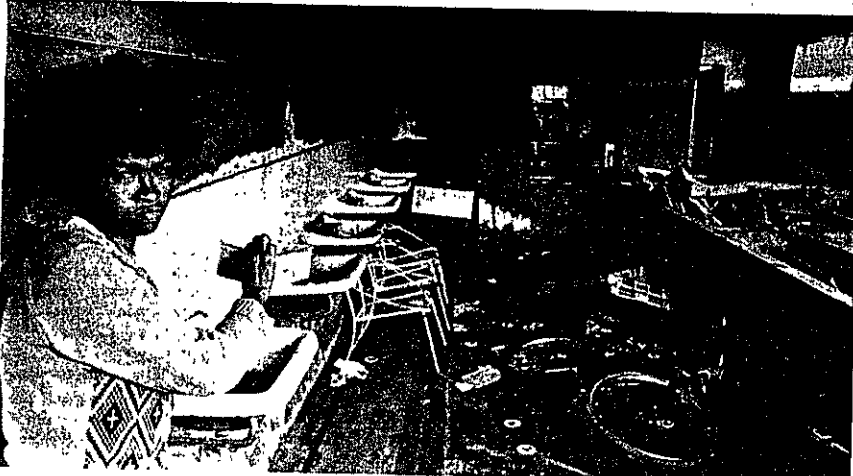
"I was really shocked when I saw the conditions at Morgan's Farm. White people would not even allow their dogs to live under those circumstances," said Mr Anthony Fraser, spokesperson for the ANC branch.

"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 Ollifant 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 Ollifant can squeeze into the tiny space in the corridor she calls home

# Insult is added to worker's injury

By Quentin Wilson

4

South 11/7-15/7/92

A FARMWORKER in the Wilderness, near George, claims he was mauled by a police dog for trespassing and then laughed at and victimised by local police for demanding an investigation into their conduct during his arrest.

The 19-year-old worker, Mr Nolan September, said he had attended a friend's birthday celebrations on May 12 on Dankbaar (Thankful) farm. When the owner of the farm, Mr Thinus Nortjie, became aware of September's presence, he notified the police.

About 6am Sergeants Landman and Meyer arrived to arrest September.

"I did not run away or fight with them at all, but Landman set his dog on me," said September.

"I begged him not to let the dog loose but he just laughed. The dog bit me again and again — on the thigh and stomach — and afterwards Landman actually praised the dog."

Bleeding profusely, September was taken to the George police station where he signed an "admission of guilt" fine for trespassing. September alleged he was held at



**MAULED: Nolan September, 19, who alleges that a policeman set a dog on him**

Photo: Yunus Mohammed

the police station until the next morning without receiving any medical attention.

"When they released me the next day, I had to walk to my

home about 50km away."

When he had recovered from his injuries about two weeks later, he went to the police station to lay a charge against Landman.

"They had lined up a whole row of policemen and I was asked to identify the one who had set his dog on me. When I put my hand on Landman's shoulder they all started laughing."

According to the teenager, the case was referred to a Detective Du Plessis for investigation. It is now two months later and September has heard nothing.

"Landman's partner, Meyer has been pressuring me to withdraw the charge. Once he approached a crowd of us near a shop and insisted on searching me. Then he told me that if I didn't drop the charge, he would ensure I was buried in the ground before anything was done about it," September alleged.

● Captain Anthony Cooper, branch commander of the investigation unit in George, said he "could not comment on any aspect of the case" because his report on the matter has been finalised and sent to the Attorney-General for consideration.

"The A-G will decide whether charges will be laid against the officers or not," Cooper said. He refused to comment on the contents of his report.

# Jail terms for killing on farm

CT 8/8/92 (4)

By DALE GRANGER

TWO men — one an AWB member — were sentenced in the Riversdale Magistrate's Court yesterday to jail terms for killing a farm worker.

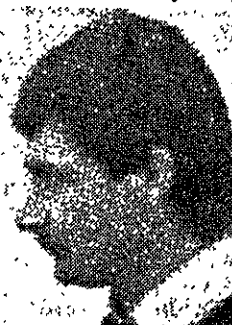
For culpable homicide in the death of Mr Hans Muggels on the farm Watergat on August 28, AWB member Willem Odendaal, 23, was sentenced to six years' jail (two years suspended for five), his brother Margharinus Odendaal, 18, a Std 9 school-boy, received 18 months (suspended for five years) and former Watergat farm foreman Christian du Toit, 25, three years (one year suspended for five).

For assaulting four other farm labourers Willem Odendaal was sentenced to a fine of R500 (or 200 days) and Du Toit to R100 (or 50 days). Margharinus Odendaal was sentenced to six cuts with a light cane for pointing a firearm at a labourer.

All three accused, who pleaded not guilty to the charges, remained expressionless during sentence and served notice that they would appeal against sentence. Their bail of R150 was extended.

Passing sentence, magistrate Mr C P J Prinsloo described the killing of Mr Muggels as a "cruel and disgusting attack on an innocent man who had not provoked his fate but was turned into a human punchbag".

The prosecutor was Mr MP Heyns. Willem Odendaal was represented by Mr G de Kok. Mr D Visser appeared for Du Toit. Margharinus Odendaal was not represented.



SENTENCED ... Willem Odendaal

## Squatter threat over dismissals

CT 8/8/92

By EUGENE PARAMOER

HOUT BAY squatters who are members of the ANC Youth League yesterday warned that action in the Hout Bay Valley will include occupation of vacant land until squatters dismissed for taking part in recent ANC strike action are reinstated.

The Youth League feels that the 17 squatters were unfairly dismissed.

A campaign to reinstate the workers will include the occupation of vacant land by squatters, a boycott of companies which dismissed the workers and mass demonstrations, a Youth League spokesman said.

Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association chairman Dr Rob Millar said last night that the Youth League action could jeopardise the "good working relationship" that was established with the squatter community.

If the squatters wanted help from ratepayers they should discuss it with them instead of threatening to occupy their land.

Dr Millar added: "We are in no position to force employers to take their workers back."

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**MISERY...** Farm labourer Bongile Radebe is shattered after he lost his wife, his home and all his possessions. **PHOTO: TLADI KHUELE**

## Labourer can't bury wife on R100 monthly salary

By **MONWABISI NOMADLO**

A FARM labourer's wife who died six weeks ago will only be buried today because he did not have money for funeral costs.

Nobody would help, not even his farmer employer, who instead ordered him to leave the farm while he was mourning the death of his wife. Nine other labourers were evicted from the Rietfontein farm near Endicot at the

same time. Bongile Radebe, 59, said this week: "I received a high storage bill from the mortuary which I'm unable to pay, let alone afford the cheapest coffin available."

Rosemary Radebe, aged 38 at the time, died of cancer at Pholosong Hospital in Tsakane on the East Rand.

"Where should I go? I have nowhere to go. White farmers are ungrateful. I've been working here for some time now and I hardly got any financial assistance from my boss to bury my wife!" he lamented.

Radebe, who originally comes from Qumbu in the Transkei, added: "I only wish to see my wife resting in peace after all the time she spent at the mortuary."

Radebe spoke of another incident following his wife's death.

Two days after Rosemary's death, the shack in which they lived caught fire under mysterious circumstances.

"We were sitting around a fire in the shack that evening, when suddenly we were engulfed by flames that burnt everything we possessed."

"I've lost my wife, my clothes and everything I have worked for for all these years."

He added that while employed at Rietfontein he earned a meagre R100 a month, plus a bag of mielies.

Radebe's plight was reported to preacher Abraham Ngwenya who has been working tirelessly to collect money to help with the burial.

Ngwenya, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, said: "We even struggled to borrow money from people just to bury her, let alone money to buy food for the mourners."

"I have also been collecting clothes from other families to help Radebe and his five children."

The labourers in this eastern Transvaal area said they have been subjected to unprovoked beatings by AWB/CP-supporting whites.

The evicted labourers complained of having to leave the farm at short notice without alternative accommodation.

They said their children, who were attending the farm school, will be forced to abandon school if they resettle elsewhere.

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# Drought 'could cost 69 000 farming jobs'

④ CT 12/18/92  
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — 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 Mr Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

Speaking at the Northern Cape Agricultural Union annual congress in Kimberley, he said if it was accepted the gross value of the agricultural sector in 1992 would be 14% lower than in 1991, the economic growth rate would fall by 1,8% and 69 000 jobs would be lost in these sectors.

When dependents were taken into account, more than 300 000 people were threatened.

It was clear that unemployment and poverty, particularly in the platteland, where it had already reached serious proportions, could be seriously aggravated.

Mr Van Niekerk said other serious consequences included a decline in agricultural production which could raise the inflation rate by 0,8%.

The need to import 4,6 million tons of maize would seriously affect the balance of payments.

# Drought threatening jobs

8/0A-1 12-18/92 (4)

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

GERALD REILLY

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.

# 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.

# Opportunities in agriculture

STAR 18/1/92

A guide entitled "Training opportunities at Technikon OFS and possible occupations" is useful for pupils, students and counsellors. The Star will republish the information stating the requirements and other particulars. Today we look at careers in agriculture.

## AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Venue: Technikon OFS  
Afrikaans or English medium  
National diploma: Agricultural management

Duration: Three years: 18 months formal training and 18 months appropriate in-service training  
Entry qualification: Senior Certificate without university admission

Subjects required: Mathematics. At least a C symbol for functional mathematics  
Selection basis: Academic achievement, aptitude AND personal qualities  
Occupations: Agricultural extension officer, Farm manager

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: BOTANY

Venue: Technikon Pretoria  
Afrikaans or English medium  
National Diploma: Agricultural Research: Botany

Fields: Pasture Science; Agronomy  
Duration: Three years: two years formal training and one year appropriate in-service training.  
Entry qualification: Senior Certificate without university admission

Subjects recommended: For Pasture Science: Mathematics, Physical Science OR Biology. For Agronomy: Mathematics OR Biology.  
Selection basis: Academic achievement AND Applicable subjects.  
Occupation: Agricultural researcher.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: ZOOLOGY

Venue: Technikon Pretoria  
Afrikaans or English medium  
National Diploma: Agricultural Research: Zoology

Duration: Three years: two years formal training and one year appropriate in-service training.  
Entry qualification: Senior Certificate without university admission

Subjects recommended: For Pasture Science: Mathematics, Physical Science OR Biology. For Agronomy: Mathematics OR Biology.  
Selection basis: Academic achievement AND Applicable subjects.  
Occupation: Agricultural researcher.

## AGRICULTURE: ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Venue: Technikon Pretoria  
Afrikaans or English medium  
National Diploma: Agriculture: Animal Production

Duration: Three years: two years formal training and one year appropriate in-service training.  
Entry qualification: Senior Certificate without university admission

Subjects recommended: Biology, Animal Husbandry, Mathematics OR Economy  
Selection basis: Academic achievement AND applicable

subjects.  
Occupations: Agricultural technician, Agricultural extension officer.

## Venue: Technikon Mangosutho

English medium  
National Diploma: Agriculture: Animal Production

Duration: Three years: two years formal training and one year appropriate in-service training.

Entry qualification: Senior Certificate without university admission (E aggregate)

Subjects required: English (E symbol)

Occupations: Agricultural extension officer, Agricultural technician.  
The addresses of the technicians mentioned are:

- The Registrar, Technikon Mangosutho, Box 12363, Jacobs 4026.
- The Registrar, Technikon OFS, Private Bag X20539, Bloemfontein 9300.
- The Registrar, Technikon Pretoria, Private Bag X680, Pretoria 0001.



# 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. **BIDA-1 25/8/92**

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

**GERALD REILLY**

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.

# BIDA-1 25/8/92 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, Nafecoc, the SA Council of Churches, Saccola and the SA National Civics Association.

# Shady developers

# fleece home buyers

**BIDA-1 25/8/92**

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

**ADRIAN HADLANS**

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."

# We've Made Our Mark In The Legal World Let Us Help You In Yours

To many, the legal intricacies of

Intellectual property field and you could



# Veld fires <sup>(4)</sup> leave 600 destitute

ARG 26/8/92

QUEENSTOWN. — Veld fires which ravaged the Ugie district in the Eastern Cape at the weekend have left approximately 600 farm labourers and dependants destitute and 10 000 head of livestock without feed.

This was disclosed at a crisis meeting of the Ugie Farmers' Association on Monday held to assess the situation. Also present was the Ugie district soil conservation committee and the area's chief extension officer, Mr S. Morgan.

The association's chairman, Danie Venter, said communication was still a problem as telephone lines were down in the district. Telkom had been working since early Sunday to restore the service.

Near accurate figures of damages obtained revealed 35 farms had been totally burnt out and 50 percent and more of 16 farms had been burnt. Stock losses included 130 sheep, 14 calves, 23 cattle, one horse and numerous lambs.

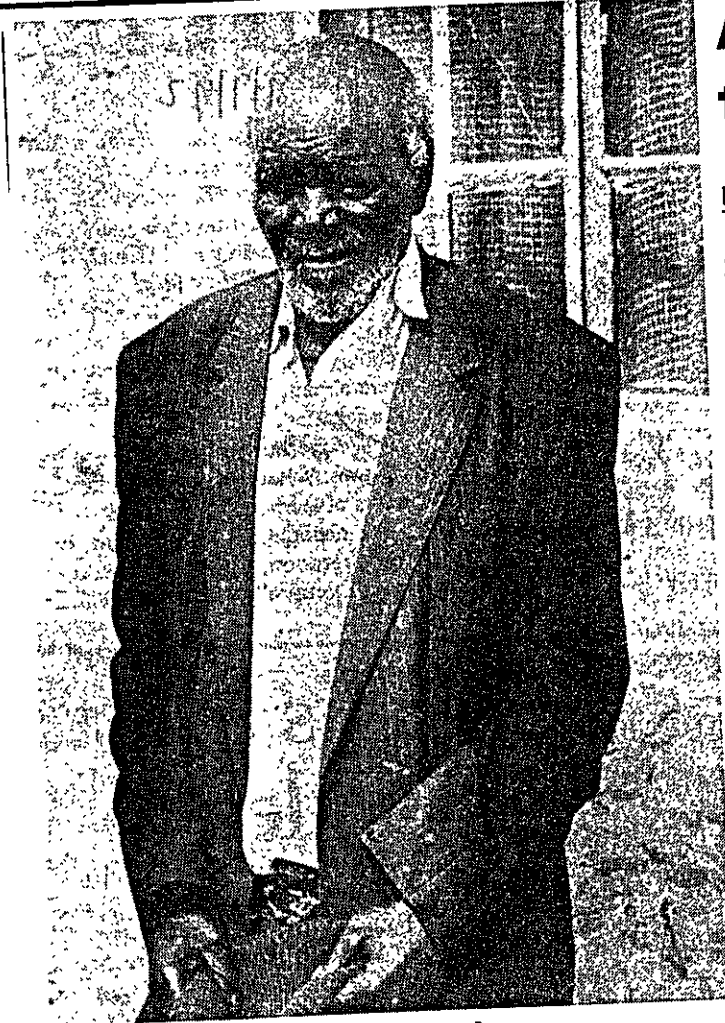
Sixty huts and two threshing machines were destroyed in the blaze.

Mr Venter said 7 100 sheep and 3 000 head of cattle were without fodder as a result of the fire. They would need 150 000 bales of feed to get through the next two months.

Fires started in the Elliot district on Friday night and in Ugie on Saturday morning. Grazing destroyed in the two districts totalled 530 000 ha.

Elliot farmers will meet later this week to assess damages.

Mr Venter said requests to have parts of the Ugie district declared a disaster area would be channelled through the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union in Queenstown. — Sapa.



**Tlabati Mabusela**

## Aged couple told to leave farm

South 5/9-9/9/92

By Justin Pearce

4



AN 89-year-old retired labourer and his wife have been ordered to leave the farm where they have lived for over 40 years — because she is now too old to work.

Mr Tlabati Mabusela began working for the late Mr Jack Dicey in 1950, on a grape farm at Orchard near De Doorns in the Hex River Valley. Born in the Transkei in October 1902, Mabusela said he had come to De Doorns "a long time ago — when I was a young man".

The couple currently live in a two-roomed cottage.

"Jack Dicey gave me the house and said I could live here till I died because I had worked hard," Mabusela said.

He claims that a week ago he was given two weeks' notice to leave the farm.

"If they are going to chase us away they must build something else for us," Mabusela said.

He said the reason he was now being evicted was that his wife was unable to work, owing to bad health.

Mr Ian Dicey, Jack Dicey's nephew who is now in charge of the farm, said he had not personally asked Mabusela to leave the farm. He said he would look into the matter and find out what Mabusela's position really was.



## REHANA ROSSOUW

discovered strange things happening down on the farm when she spoke to human rights lawyers working in the rural Cape:

**L**IKE thousands of Cape farm labourers, Daniel Swiegelaar was not only given financial reward for his labour but hefty doses of cheap wine as well — the tot system is still in use.

On January 28, Swiegelaar fell asleep after his midday tot at the Oude Nektar farm. He was taken into a shed by his foreman when he was found incapable of continuing his work.

Swiegelaar left the shed soon afterwards, then collapsed and died. His blood alcohol content was seven times the legal limit.

There is as yet no explanation for the high count and lawyers hope the inquest reveals the truth behind this strange death.

Last Friday, his wife Mary sat in the public gallery of a Stellenbosch Inquest Court while witnesses testified about her husband's death.

Had it not been for the intervention of Lawyers for Human Rights' (LHR) Western Cape rural office, it is possible that an open inquest would not have been held to determine the cause of Swiegelaar's death.

Mr David Sampson, who had been working with Swiegelaar the day he died, gave evidence.

"Daniel was sleeping after our lunch break, he was very drunk," Sampson said.

"Mr Pieter Smit (the foreman) went to him, smacked him in the face then went into the cellar. Daniel followed him.

"Daniel came out a few minutes later, staggering, and went to sit under a tree.

"I went to see what was wrong with him. He had a bruise on his cheekbone and was foaming at the mouth.

"I felt for his pulse, but there was nothing — he was dead."

# Where the long arm of the law doesn't reach

South 26/9-30/9/92.

4



**WIDOW WAITS: Mary Swiegelaar outside court, where an inquest is being held into the death of her husband**

The case continues next week.

● Pieter Louw, 13, son of a farm labourer in Oudtshoorn, was sent to the farm shop earlier this year.

On his way, he was allegedly shot at by the farmer's 10-year-old son who had been given a rifle to play with by his father.

The first bullet missed Pieter and the second lodged between his skull and the skin on the side of his head.

The farmer's son allegedly called his mother, who applied ointment to the wound, having been told Pieter

had merely fallen.

Pieter only received medical attention two days later when his father told the farmer his son had shot him.

The farmer allegedly refused to assist with getting Pieter to hospital and only partially paid for his medical treatment. The bullet was removed by a doctor and shown to the farmer.

LHR reported the case to the Oudtshoorn police as the parents wanted to lay a civil claim against

the farmer.

However, the public prosecutor refused to prosecute.

The civil claim for damages against the farmer is continuing.

● Dirk Visser was a worker on a grape farm in Worcester. While working he was verbally abused by the farmer and started walking away.

The farmer followed Visser and continued assaulting him, ending by throwing him off a bridge.

Visser sustained serious injuries and a civil claim for damages has been instituted against the farmer by LHR.

● Another case LHR intervened in this year involved a farm labourer who was allegedly shot and killed by his employer.

Witnesses allege that when the worker demanded his salary the farmer slapped him and he hit back.

They also claim that the farmer went into his house, fetched his firearm and shot the worker behind the ear, killing him instantly.

"Although the labourer's wife allegedly witnessed the murder, we had to intervene to ensure that the farmer was charged with murder and not culpable homicide," explained LHR human rights education co-ordinator Ms Cathy Ricketts.

Ricketts also told of a Calvinia farm worker who was allegedly abducted by a farmer after deciding to quit his job.

"It is claimed that the farmer went to fetch the worker, took him back to the farm, allegedly assaulted him and allowed his dog to attack him.

"The worker's wife allegedly telephoned the police station to report her husband's abduction but the police merely phoned the farmer. They didn't take any action after the farmer denied the charge.

"When the worker went to the police station they refused to accept a charge of assault. It was only after LHR intervened that police opened a docket and gave him a case number."

## Fighting for rural rights

FROM the appointment of one person two years ago, Lawyers for Human Rights' rural office has grown to a full-time staff of five.

The office is inundated with reports of human rights abuses and requests for assistance from all over the Cape Province.

"We don't have the capacity to reach every area, despite the need for our services," said LHR regional organiser Mr Wayne Malgas.

LHR does not only provide courtroom expertise.

Its paralegal training project, human rights schools education programme and farm workers' project are geared at educating and empowering rural dwellers.

They have found that rural residents, particularly farm labourers, are hopelessly ignorant about their rights, despite the fact that they suffer the worst human rights abuses in the country.

"We have to nurture a human rights culture so these victims can deal with violations of their rights," said LHR's human rights education co-ordinator, Ms Cathy Ricketts. *Soult*

"People in rural areas are so immersed in their daily struggle for survival that they seldom recognise the fact that they have been stripped of almost all their rights. *26/9 - 30/9/92*

"When we use terminology like 'constitutions' and 'rights', many of them are hearing such words for the first time."

Ricketts said that because rural dwellers were so "disempowered", LHR was forced to battle against their acceptance of their lot in life.

Although the organisation had unearthed hundreds of cases involving clear-cut abuses of human rights, the victims often viewed these as "daily life on the farm".

What LHR has found disturbing is the abuse of women in rural areas where sexual assault and wife-battering is rife.

Child labour is another issue LHR is tackling.

# Drought claims more victims 4

By SOPHIE TEMA

*CIP rev 27/9/92*

A HOUSE built of solid stone with a roof of heavy cement tiles stands out boldly at the entrance to the Clarcot Estate farm near Rust de Winter.

The archaic house – said to have belonged to former SA Prime Minister General Jan Christian Smuts – conceals a small farming community struggling for survival.

Geologists from De Beers Consolidated Mines – who occasionally use the house – confirmed the house was used by Smuts whenever he went on a hunting holiday – one of his favourite pastimes.

The community it conceals are without jobs and will soon also be without homes because STK – the irrigation-scheme group they worked for – has retrenched them.

STK chief executive officer Gert

Greyling told City Press the Department of Water Affairs – which supplies the irrigation scheme with water – informed them that irrigation could no longer be maintained because of the drought.

Greyling said as far as accommodation of the retrenched workers was concerned, STK was not responsible for the land on which the workers lived.

He said STK had hired the land from the government and had to give back the lease once their services had been withdrawn.

Josias Mabaso, a retired chef and one of the oldest residents in the area, said the house he lives in used to store the hides of animals hunted down by Smuts and his son.

“This house was given to me by my employers after I had emptied it of all the skins and hides that were stored there,” said Mabaso.



**BLUE MOOD ...** Josias Mabaso will have to leave his historic home. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

# SAAU acts after Cosatu talks stall

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union has sent its own proposals to government after talks with Cosatu on the issue of labour legislation for farmworkers became bogged down.

SAAU deputy director, general affairs, Kobus Kleynhans said yesterday a document had been submitted to Manpower Minister Leon Wessels setting out provisions which should be included in a separate labour Act for the agricultural industry's 1-million workers. *B/DAM 6/10/92*

Kleynhans said the document was aimed at facilitating the drawing up of legislation, which it was hoped would be submitted to Parliament during the 1993 session.

Discussions with Cosatu on the issue started in February this year but have remained deadlocked.

Cosatu spokesman Lisa Seftel said discussions with the SAAU would be resumed once basic conditions for farmworkers had been legislated.

Kleynhans said Cosatu was opposed to organised agriculture's view that farmworkers should be the subject of separate and specific legislation, and instead wanted them covered by the Labour Relations Act.

GERALD REILLY

Efforts by the SAAU to persuade Cosatu to return to negotiations had failed so far.

"So we decided, taking into account the urgency of the issue, to go it alone and make proposals to the Manpower Minister," Kleynhans said.

Seftel said that after five meetings over several months, the SAAU had not presented any concrete proposals to Cosatu and were more concerned with the principle than the content of future legislation.

Kleynhans said the aim of the recommendations made to Wessels was to incorporate in legislation maximum self-governance for farmers and their workers.

"We want to keep disputes and negotiations to settle them inside the farm gate, and we believe the vast majority of disputes are and can be settled in this way."

Where a deadlock developed, mechanisms would be included in the legislation to resolve disputes outside the farm gate.

These mechanisms were still being formulated, Kleynhans said.

Wessels was not available for comment last night.

④ ARG b/10/92

## Child found dead after chase on farm

### Crime Staff

AN eight-year-old boy was found dead on a farm near Napier hours after a farmer spotted four children near his orchards and chased them with his bakkie.

A police spokesman said Mr

Koos de Wet of Korsika farm saw the children near his guava trees yesterday.

Mr De Wet apparently caught three of the children and took them to the farm school where he instructed a teacher to tell the pupils to stay away from his orchards.

A worker found the body of the fourth child, Willie Fortuin, in long grass in a field. Police said the boy had apparently been run over by a vehicle and had head and arm injuries.

A murder docket has been opened.

# Shot girl to undergo surgery

4  
CT 6/10/92

Staff Reporter

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl is to undergo surgery at Grootte Schuur Hospital today after being shot in the head by a Villiersdorp farmer at the weekend.

A police spokesman said Joelene Petersen suffered facial injuries when a farmer fired several shots as she ran from a strawberry patch on his farm on Sunday.

Police have opened an attempted murder docket. No arrest has yet been made.

Joelene's mother laid a complaint about an hour after the incident before taking her daughter to hospital for treatment, a police spokesman said.

According to a spokesman for the ANC, which has been monitoring unrest in the area, the children had been at a community meeting with Joelene's mother to discuss evictions.

Joelene and her two companions, girls of five and six, were taking a well-used shortcut through the field on their way home when a farmer stopped his bakkie behind her.

The farmer apparently reached for a shotgun in the vehicle and the girls ran away.

When they had crossed a road Joelene turned back to see where the other girls were. She saw the farmer firing a shot and was hit.

Joelene is to undergo surgery today to have a pellet lodged in her jaw removed.

## Farmer 'runs over' boy, 8

Crime Reporter

POLICE are investigating the possibility that a farmer murdered an eight-year-old boy by running him over on his farm.

Willie-boy Fortuin was found dead on a Napier farm on Monday — hours after a farmer chased several children with his bakkie, a police spokesman said yesterday.

No arrest has yet been made.

OCT 7 10 42

# No progress made on farm workers rights

*Sowetan 8/10/92*  
■ Cosatu to have another meeting with Manpower Minister:

**By Joe Mdhlela**

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is to have another meeting with Manpower Minister Leon Wessels on November 5 on legislation affecting farm workers.

Cosatu this week said last week's meeting between the two parties yielded "no positive results".

"Virtually no progress was made in areas of legislation on farm and domestic workers and in giving effect to the recommendations of the International

Labour Organisation (ILO) fact-finding and conciliation commission," Cosatu said in a statement.

Parliament had passed laws on the basic conditions of employment of farm workers and the extension of the Unemployment Insurance Act to cover them, but the laws had not been promulgated, said the statement.

The department had still not drafted and published Bills on the extension of the Labour Relations and Wage Acts. This was nearly a year since the previous National Manpower Commission

(NMC) made its recommendations.

The statement said the reason for the delay was the lack of political will within Government circles to create an internationally acceptable dispensation for farm workers.

Cosatu had registered its objection to the Government's breach of the Laboria Minute in failing to consult with the federation on the extension of basic rights for the public sector.

The federation hoped the next meeting would see a resolution to these problems.



# Boys 'guava raid' leads to death

By Edwina Booyen

THE DEATH of an eight-year-old boy on a farm in Napier in the southern Cape after he allegedly stole guavas has outraged the community.

Police are investigating a charge of culpable homicide following the discovery of Willie-boy Fortuin's body by a farm labourer.

Ms Michelle Morris, of the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre, said she was appalled that a child should die for allegedly stealing fruit.

"We demand a thorough investigation. The conditions under which the child lived on the farm should be investigated," she said.

Napier MP Mr Neville Padayachee said he was not satisfied with the way police were handling the case and is demanding an investigation into the incident.

"According to what the people and the papers say, there's more to this case than meets the eye," Padayachee said.

The child's body was discovered in bushes by Ms Magrieta Kees on Monday afternoon. He had injuries in his head and right arm.

Napier station commander,

collo - 14/11/92  
Lieutenant Paul Thorburn, said police suspect that the farm owner drove his bakkie over Willie-boy while the child was lying in a hiding place.

Police spokesperson, Major Attie Laubscher, said the farmer and some labourers were driving on the farm on Monday morning and spotted four children walking towards his guava orchard.

The children ran away when they saw him and the farmer followed

and picked up one of them. He later caught two others and took them to the farm school where he asked the teacher to keep them out of the guava orchard.

"I will be accompanying Lt Thorburn to the farm on Friday and will then decide whether the police are justified in not arresting the farmer," Padayachee said.

The farmer, whose name is known to SOUTHCOULD not be reached for comment.



SHOOTING VICTIM: Johanna Petersen comforts her daughter, Jolene, who was allegedly shot by a farmer

By Justin Pearce

A GIRL aged 13 was shot in Villiersdorp on Sunday, allegedly by a local farmer.

Jolene Pietersen told how she had been shot in the neck while taking a short cut across a strawberry farm with her sister, Johanna, 6, and a friend, Zaida Kouter, 5. They were on their way home after playing in a nearby river.

"I looked round and saw the farmer in his bakkie. He took out his gun. I said 'Run, they're going to shoot us!' and we all ran."

"When we got to the farm road I

was shot. It was very painful, I touched my neck and felt blood.

"I fell over and shouted to my little sister, 'I'm going to die.' The farmer just drove away. I ran home and took off my bloody clothes."

Jolene's right eye, watered constantly as she told of her ordeal. Her mother, Mrs. Johanna Pietersen, said the watering eye was the result of nerve damage caused by the shot. Jolene has also lost control over cer-

# Girl 'shot in head by farmer'

Souk 10/10 - 14/1992

murder against the farmer who allegedly shot Jolene. No arrest has been made yet.

He confirmed the firearm used in the incident was a shotgun.

Laubscher said a farmer, identified only as Mr L. Ludicke, had repeatedly had strawberries stolen from his field and had hidden in the field to try and catch offenders. Earlier on Sunday he had apprehended three men who had been charged

with trespassing. On returning to the field he saw the three girls and suspected they were also stealing strawberries, Laubscher said.

The ANC has condemned the shooting as "yet another chapter in the shocking history of a community that has been victimised incessantly over the past few months".

Villiersdorp ANC chairperson, Mr Thomas Jansen, said: "We are very disappointed that the person who shot Jolene has not been arrested. It shows the police are not acting in the interests of the community, but only protecting a privileged sector."

# 'My hand hurts!'

C/PRES 11/10/92  
By MOSES MAMAILA

(4)  
WHEN farm labourer Munzhedzi Mufamadi, 58, disobeyed her employer's order not to take green oranges into his truck, she did not know her disobedience would cost her the use of her right hand!

Speaking from her home at Tshino, about 10 km from a Levubu farm in the far northern Transvaal where she worked until she was handicapped, Mufamadi, who is a widow, said that after her alleged beating - which happened last month - her white employer refused to see or employ her again.

It was nearly sunset when Mufamadi and other workers were about to be taken home by truck that their white employer, whom she only knew as "Dlazi" - ordered them not to load damaged oranges onto the truck because that would cause a heavy load.

"He told us his truck could only carry us workers and not our little parcels," she told City Press.

The farmer went away and when he returned he found that some of the workers, including Mufamadi, had taken the green oranges - which were supposed to be thrown away - on to the truck, as they wanted to take them home for their children.

The angry farmer then allegedly assaulted Mufamadi with a long piece of wood, breaking her arm.

The following day she could not move her right arm and it had to be treated at the hospital where it was put in plaster. Her hand is still swollen and she can't use it.

Although she was only paid a meagre wage of R84 a month with a bag of mealie meal, she needs her job back because it was her sole means of survival.

Asked if she reported the assault to the police, Mufamadi said the law was on "their" side.

"Who am I to challenge white farmers? They have money and they can afford the legal costs and in the end the truth is silenced by money," she said.

The area of Levubu is well known for racial attacks on black labourers by their employers.

About four years ago Eric Sambo was assaulted and killed for accidentally running over two puppies which belonged to a white farmer.

The farmer got a suspended sentence and a fine, a decision that evoked worldwide condemnation.

**Widow takes green oranges - so no job!**



**EMPTY KRAAL ... Broken life! Widow Munzhedzi Mufamadi sees only a bleak future ahead after a farmer allegedly broke her arm and then refused to re-employ her.**

PHOTO BY THULANI SITHOLE

# Law has no jaw

C/Pren 25/10/92.

By MOSES MAMAILA

A SAVAGE attack by police dogs on three innocent farm labourers in the northern Transvaal has once again seen justice relegated to the kennel.

Three policemen who set dogs on three elderly women at a Levubu farm in the far northern Transvaal last month might not be prosecuted despite efforts by the complainants who have laid charges.

## No arrests

More than a month after the September 18 terror operation by SAP members, which left Nyatshiongo Mufamadi, Tshinakaho Mufamadi and Emily Mudau severely wounded, no arrests have yet been made in connection with the incident police confirmed this week.

The women of Hama-shau village, who were savaged by the dogs while working on their employers farm, reported the matter to the Venda Police shortly after the incident.

## Confirmed

Deputy police commissioner in the homeland, Maj-Gen PJ Nembambula, confirmed that charges had been laid, but told City Press that Venda Police could not investigate the matter because the incident occurred outside Venda.

The matter had been referred to the SAP in the northern Transvaal and investigations were out of "our hands", according to Nembambula.

Northern Transvaal po-



HANDS THAT BLEED . . . Scarred victims of a savage attack by police dogs. ■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

## It's a dog's life for elderly attack victims

C/Pren 25/10/92

(4)

lice spokesman Maj A Vogel said nobody had been arrested. Initially Vogel said the three elderly women had been arrested for trespassing.

Justifying the use of dogs on the women, Vogel said the dogs had to be used because the women had attempted to run away. This claim was ve-

hemently denied by the victims.

While nobody appears to be taking responsibility for the incident, the elderly farm labourers bear deep scars which remind them of their horrifying ordeal with the "dogs of law".

The women were brutally bitten by the dogs

when three white policemen entered the farm where they were working.

The policemen hurled racial insults at them and then unleashed their dogs.

Although the three tried to convince the policemen that they were not illegally cutting trees but simply doing their work, the police did not

listen and instead assaulted them.

The women were beaten all over their bodies including buttocks and breasts.

To their surprise they were then arrested but later released without being formally charged.

They are hopeful that justice will be done.

## Layoffs at Dairy Board

B/Dau 28/10/92  
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The staff of the Dairy Board and the Dairy Services Organisation had been slashed almost in half to 45, Dairy Board GM Edu Roux said yesterday.

He said certain board functions had become redundant because of deregulation. This, in turn, had affected the Dairy Services Organisation's activities.

The organisation would now mainly handle product promotion.

Another board source said staff cuts and the closure of the board's agency offices in Bloemfontein, Maritzburg, Durban and Johannesburg would mean a saving of several million rands a year.

Meanwhile, the board has received no levy payments since June — the effect of a Supreme Court finding favouring commercial dairies which claimed they were not deriving any benefits from the levies.

**Subsidy suspended**

THE subsidy scheme for farm labourers' housing had been suspended as the R29m allocated for the scheme had been almost fully paid out, Agriculture and Agricultural Development Deputy Minister Tobie Meyer said in Pretoria yesterday. Government intended to continue the scheme in the next financial year, he said.

REPORTS: Sapa-Reuter, AP/DJ

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# Work plan for rural jobless

B10AM 28/10/92

RAY HARTLEY

A MULTIMILLION-rand public works programme to relieve rural unemployment was agreed on by 72 affiliates of the Consultative Forum on Drought yesterday.

Government and the ANC were present at the meeting, which concluded that rural poverty needed to be addressed urgently as it had exaggerated the effects of the drought in many areas.

Announcing the decision, IDT spokesman Wiseman Nkuhlu said the exact sum needed still had to be decided, but the programme would complement the IDT's R100m job creation programme.

Forum secretariat manager Len Abrams said the programme would provide jobs in agriculture and "basic coping services" such as water supply, road construction and irrigation.

The forum's employment task force had been mandated to draw up a framework for the programme which government would be asked to fund, Nkuhlu said.

He said a recommendation from the forum steering committee to investigate action against "the various irregularities reported from time to time" had been adopted.

A recent forum secretariat report has alleged widespread maladministration and corruption in government and homeland drought relief efforts.

Agricultural Development spokesman Mike Walters said some irregularities were already being investigated.

□ To Page 2

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## Work plan

B10AM 28/10/92

(4) (23)

□ From Page 1

Nkuhlu said lack of co-operation with drought relief efforts by some regional governments were leading to a "prolonging of suffering", but ways would be found to continue discussions on drought relief in these regions.

He said relief agencies wanted to have a

say in the allocation of government relief funds next year.

Walters said the country could have confidence in the way the drought crisis was being handled.

"There is no danger of people dying as a result of water and food shortages."

# Protest at delay on farmworkers' rights

CAPE TOWN — Manpower Minister Leon Wessels has agreed to delay extending basic rights to farmworkers until he has tested the feasibility of a separate statute for agriculture, says the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

SAAU deputy director Kobus Kleynhans said this yesterday in response to allegations that government had held back on a revised labour law covering farmworkers because of "undue lobbying" by the farmers' union.

In a statement, he said: "The only agreement which we have with the

Minister is that he will hold back the Basic Conditions of Employment Act until he can determine if our proposals for a separate labour law are feasible or not".

Earlier, the Stellenbosch-based Centre for Rural Legal Studies and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) said the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act still had to be promulgated despite being passed by Parliament in June.

They said they were seriously concerned that, at this late stage, Manpower Minister Leon Wessels had chosen to accept representations

from one party, the SA Agricultural Union, effectively stalling the Act.

Government's withholding of the Act "smacked of political dishonesty".

Meanwhile, about 1,4-million farm workers remained without the barest minimum of legal protection against abuses in the workplace.

The LHR and rural studies centre said the amended Act had been passed after lengthy negotiations in the National Manpower Commission between a wide range of parties.

These included the SAAU and Cosatu. — Sapa.



## Killer faces huge damages action <sup>(4)</sup>

CT 30/10/92  
CONVICTED killer Rudolf Rix, released just six days after being sentenced to 18 months in jail for the death in 1989 of farm labourer Mr Charlie Thompson, was yesterday faced with a R96 000 damages action in the Supreme Court.

But Stellenbosch wine farm manager Rix, who faces the action along with his former employer Koopmanskloof Estate, indicated he would not defend the action.

The action was brought by Mr Andrew Thompson and Mr Godfrey Williams, both of whom have been unemployed since 1989, due to injury.

Mr Thompson is the brother and executor of the estate of Mr Charlie Thompson who was beaten to death with a pickaxe handle by Rix on May 18, 1989. Mr Williams was seriously hurt during the attack.

The hearing was postponed till Monday.

W. van  
30/10-5/11/92

### Digging in their heels (4)

FARMWORKERS' support organisations this week renewed their campaign to insist that Manpower Minister Leon Wessels pass the Basic Conditions of Employment Act for farmworkers.

The minister reneged on agreements to pass the legislation when the farmers' lobby, the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), made urgent representations to the government to stall the legislation.

The SAAU suffered a change of heart when its more verkrampte affiliate in the Free State refused to accept the legislation; the farmers initially agreed to at National Manpower Commission negotiations.

human rights

# 'Invisible workers' of the rural Cape

South 3110-41192

(4)

Diane Coetzer writes that major efforts must be made to halt exploitation of women farmworkers or they may be lost in a democratic South Africa:

**T**HEY are the invisible people. They suffer beatings, sexual battery, harassment and immediate dismissal if they get pregnant. Their wages are often no more than R40 a week.

They are women farmworkers and, according to the African National Congress Land Commission, the most exploited of all.

But changing their status will not be easy.

Workers in the field of farmworkers' rights express concern that unless an intensive grassroots empowerment programme is successful, these women may still be lost in a democratic South Africa.

"The most distressing aspect of this issue is the way women farmworkers and their husbands accept their situation as normal," the Human Rights Education officer for Lawyers for Human Rights' (LIHR) western Cape Rural Project, Ms Kathy Ricketts, told SOUTI.

Take, for instance, the following story, as related to Ricketts.

It was Sunday in the Karoo and a woman labourer was limping along the road, having just suffered a beating at the hands of the owner of the farm. He then came up behind her and continued the beating.

The incident was witnessed by a male farm labourer whose only comment was: "Hoekom slaan jy haar? Dis 'n Sondag."

This kind of acceptance together with the entrenched system of patriarchy in operation on farms, means few cases of human rights violations are ever reported to human rights and labour organisations.

The fact that women don't necessarily see themselves as exploited is reflected in their near total absence from organised labour.

A regional farmworker organiser for the Food and Allied Workers



Pic Yunus Mohammed

**HEAVY BURDEN: Women farmworkers face a long struggle against repression**

Union (Fawu), Ms Mona Peterson, said the union had few women members.

"It is only since the beginning of last year that we have signed up a few. Until then we had virtually no women members," she said.

In an attempt to foster grassroots empowerment, the LIHR Western Cape Rural Office is to launch a three-year Women Farmworkers' project. The project is in its early stages and combines research with a development programme.

Project co-ordinator Ms Sandra Lanz said there were many aspects to the problem.

The mere presence of women on farms is tolerated only in terms of their dependence on a male, usually a husband or father.

"It is an unwritten rule on farms that women must work. If they refuse to or are unable to, they jeopardise family housing," said Lanz.

A recent case handled in Grabouw by the organisation illustrates this.

When the husband was injured at work and could no longer continue with heavy labour he was given a notice of eviction and dismissal. His wife, who worked in the farm

*'Women farmworkers do not have contracts and may be dismissed if they get pregnant. Or they are forced to go back to work as soon as they come out of hospital'*

creche, was simply expected to leave along with her husband.

**S**HE was given no formal notice of her dismissal from the creche or of her eviction.

This was confirmed by Peterson, who said Fawu was dealing with two cases in the western Cape where widows of farmworkers had been evicted from the farms where their husbands had worked.

Pregnancy is often used as an excuse to dismiss women workers no longer deemed viable for work.

Said Lanz: "Workers exist really at the whim of the farmer."

"Women farmworkers do not have contracts and may be dis-

missed if they get pregnant. Or they are forced to go back to work as soon as they come out of hospital."

Their wages lag far behind those of men. Statistics for Stellenbosch show that women earn between R40 and R50 a week or R10 a day. Men earn upwards of R90 a week.

Migrant workers used as temporary labour during picking season earn 30 cents a basket of produce.

One of the most frequent forms of abuse these workers suffer is physical and sexual battering.

Human rights workers describe the level of wife-battering as "chronic", although the blame is usually shifted away from husbands.

"Most of the women I speak to

say their husbands only beat them when drunk or 'gerook'," said Lanz. Assaults by farm owners are also common.

Lanz said the problems needed to be tackled at many levels.

"What we have come to realise is that the only effective change must come from women themselves. Research alone cannot challenge gender stereotypes.

"We can talk for hours about things like empowerment, but these in the end are academic words. Development programmes are more important here.

"Bringing charges against farmers helps by making it more difficult for them to get away with exploitation."

**P**ETERSON said Fawu was attempting to increase its female membership by going from house to house on farms, informing women about the union.

"Part of the absence of women at meetings lies in the fact that the meetings are often held in the evenings when women are busy with cooking and the children."

Yet another arm of this rural battle is legislation.

At a recent workshop on rural policy, the LIHR western Cape Rural Office put forward some specific policy considerations in this regard. These include:

- The right to equal wages and benefits for equal work.
- The right to equal access to permanent jobs and promotion.
- The right to a separate contract of employment.
- The right to equal housing and equal access to land.
- The right to suitable accommodation during seasonal/temporary work.
- The right to be protected against sexual abuse.

Legislation regarding maternity rights was also spelled out.

The LIHR said legislation introducing paid maternity leave of a minimum of three months with job guaranteed was vital.

A woman should be protected from having to carry out work which might be harmful to herself and the unborn child. She should be allowed time to breastfeed once back at work.

Women farmworkers should have the right to be protected from dismissal, to adequate medical care, the right to birth control, family planning and child care facilities.

AGRICULTURE — LABOUR

1992

NOV — DEC.

in brief

*Sowetan 3/11/92*  
**CCB man flees the country**

A WARRANT for the arrest of former CCB managing director Joe Verster, who failed to appear in court yesterday, was issued by Mr Justice Michael Stegmann in the Rand Supreme Court.

The court was told that Verster, who was subpoenaed to appear yesterday to testify at the inquest into the May 1 1989 killing of Wits University academic Dr David Webster, had left the country.

**Agreement to disagree**

FOOD and Beverage Workers Union of South Africa official Mr JT Mdlalose yesterday contested an attorneys' statement on Friday that two union officials had been reinstated as members of the union's executive committee in terms of an order granted in the Rand Supreme Court. He said the return to FBWUSA administrative affairs of the two officials was the result of an agreement reached in court, rather than an order as reported.

**Security boost for Natal**

AN ADDITIONAL 250 policemen left for troubled areas of Natal from the Transvaal yesterday, Law and Order Deputy Minister Gert Myburgh told Soweto. He said they formed part of 600 policemen who would be deployed in the province as part of the Government's plan to curtail violence there.

**Alleged necklacers on trial**

LEGAL argument in the trial of five policemen, alleged to have attempted to murder a man by "necklacing" him, will begin in the Durban Regional Court today.

The men, Lance-sergeants Mark Lucy (24) and Simon Gerald Coetzee (22) and constables David Potgieter (19), Pierre Laubscher (18) and Bradford Brown (19), have all pleaded not guilty before Mr PJ du Plessis to attempting to kill Mr Vusi Phiri.

**Is fencing-off the answer?**

THE GOVERNMENT appears to be in a dilemma over plans to fence off troublesome hostels on the Reef and the Vaal Triangle.

"The aim of fencing off hostels - in line with the Record of Understanding - was to place a barrier between attackers and people on the receiving end of the violence, but in areas where normality has returned we have to ask ourselves whether such measures solve the problem or worsen it," said Deputy Law and Order Minister Gert Myburg during a tour of eight hostels on the Reef and the Vaal Triangle yesterday.

**Hefty damages paid out**

A STELLENBOSCH wine farmer yesterday agreed to pay two farmworkers R50 000 in a Supreme Court sequel to the fatal beating of one of the workers. Mr Wynand Smit, owner of the Koopmanskloof wine estate, did not accept liability when settling the claims arising from assaults by a former employee, Mr Rudolf Rix, said the applicants' attorney, Mr Glynn Williams.

Smit agreed to pay the estate of the late Andrew Thompson R20 000 and R30 000 to Mr Godfrey Williams, plus their costs.

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# Winemaker to settle <sup>④</sup><sub>CT3/11/92</sub> for assaults

Supreme Court Reporter

WELL-KNOWN winemaker and owner of Koopmanskloof Estate Mr Wynand Smit sen agreed in the Supreme Court yesterday to pay two farmworkers R50 000 in settlement of a claim arising from the death of an elderly worker who had been beaten with a pick-axe handle and the assault of another by a former farm manager.

Mr Smit made the offer without admitting liability after Mr Andrew Thompson and Mr Godfrey Williams brought a R96 000 damages action against Koopmanskloof and Mr Rudolf Rix, the former farm manager.

Mr Thompson is the executor of the estate of his brother, Charlie, who was beaten to death in 1989, and has been offered R30 000. Mr Williams, who has been unemployed since the assault, was offered R20 000.

The claim arose out of Mr Rix's assaults on Mr Thompson and his brother, Mr Williams and Mr Johannes Vikus.

Mr Rix was jailed for 18 months for the death of Mr Thompson and the assault on his brother. However, Mr Rix served only six days of his sentence before he was released in terms of the government's amnesty for first offenders.

He appealed against his conviction and sentence but it was dismissed by the Appellate Division.

Mr Johnny de Lange, instructed by Mr Glyn Williams of Chennels Albertyn, appeared for Mr Thompson and Mr Williams. Mr Murray van Heerden, instructed by Cluver and Markotter, appeared for Koopmanskloof Estate.

tion with the mar- LA whose heavy equipment made them better suited to a full-scale war.

### Farmer to pay damages

CAPE TOWN — A Stellenbosch wine farmer yesterday agreed to pay two farmworkers a total of R50 000 in a Supreme Court sequel to the fatal beating of another worker, which left the pair injured.

Wynand Smit, owner of Koopmanskloof, did not accept liability when settling the claims arising from assaults by former employee Rudolf Rix, said the applicants' attorney, Glynn Williams.

Smit agreed to pay the estate of the late Andrew Thompson R20 000 and R30 000 to Godfrey Williams, plus costs.

The claim arose out of Rix's unlawful assaults on four farmworkers in May 1989. One worker died.

Rix served six days of an 18-month sentence for culpable homicide.

Smit's insurers, SentraBoer, had agreed to pay the settlement by November 15.

Williams said the willingness of insurers to insure farmers in respect of their liability for violence against farmworkers was unlikely to contribute to ending such violence. — Sapa.

### 'Drought not broken yet'

RAY HARTLEY

A LEADING agriculturalist warned yesterday against hopes that the drought could break this rainy season after good rains during the past few days in the Free State and Transvaal.

Glen Agricultural Development Institute director Jan Volschenk said farmers would have to wait until January before being certain their crops would grow normally. A low soil moisture reserve meant better than average rains were needed if maize and other crops were to achieve normal levels.

Rains that had fallen so

far were too little to justify maize planting, but there were still two weeks in which the situation could change for the better.

A Weather Bureau official said yesterday the movement of warm moist air from the tropics pointed to normal precipitation in SA's summer rainfall areas, but this could not be predicted with certainty.

Climate Information director Mike Laing said that summer rains had come later than normal, with 50% of areas recording less than seasonal averages for the period.

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## LABOUR

Wed. 6/11-12/11/92  
Farm foment (4)

■ THE South African Agricultural Union's draft plans for a separate labour statute are rotten, say farmworkers and rural organisations.

The farmers want to extend working hours from 48 to 52 hours and exclude the country's 450 000 seasonal workers by making the legislation applicable only to those farmworkers who work for longer than four months a year.

Last Friday, Manpower Minister Leon Wessels bowed to pressure from the farmers and agreed to stall the passage of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, negotiated by a broad forum of parties at the National Manpower Commission.

This week the Democratic Party questioned the delay in the legislation, saying that nobody gained by the political game-playing.



By Quentin Wilson

**M**RS Anne Hendricks is spending her last days in an old, disused cow stable. The 65-year-old woman, too sick to continue working on the Heidelberg farm where she has lived most her life, has been put out to pasture by her white "baas".

Yet Hendricks considers her position in favourable terms. She has a place to stay, there is a tap and the walls of her home are made from sturdy bricks. Compared with the rickety corrugated iron and wood dwellings up the road in Blikkiesdorp (literally: Tintown), Hendricks' situation is one of luxury.

Her rasping cough and dead eyes declare otherwise, but the pensioner insists she is "very fortunate". Travelling from Cape Town to rural towns, a number of truths stick. In Worcester, Oudtshoorn, George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale, Heidelberg, Swellendam and Grabouw, the overriding feature is the shocking standard of living.

Apart from the fistful of whites, cocooned in their cottonwool dorps, the abject poverty is a grim contrast to the striking beauty of the spacious countryside.

In Bongoletu, an Oudtshoorn township, small box houses are filled to the brim with occupants. While electricity is not available to

# 'Merry Xmas workers — you're fired'

SOUTH 7/11 - 11/11/92

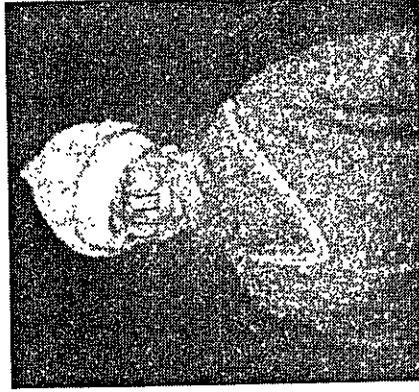
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of the platteland.

In Villiersdorp, for example, a stayaway protesting against VAT adopted in a divisive policy switch resulted by employers. Fire blacks and hire coloureds was their answer to political dissent, assuming coloureds to be more co-operative to the skewed status quo of the local political economy.

In Riversdale a furniture factory goes through its annual rigmarole of retrenching a section of its workforce before the year's end. This forms part of a familiar pattern that has emerged in recent years, where Handelshuis bosses re-employ fired workers in the new year. This saves management from paying Christmas bonuses while relying on a smaller, overworked

force before the year's end. This forms part of a familiar pattern that has emerged in recent years, where Handelshuis bosses re-employ fired workers in the new year. This saves management from paying Christmas bonuses while relying on a smaller, overworked



Anne Hendricks

crew to keep production going through the festive season.

When the dismissed workers return to the fold, their wage levels return to the lowest rung of the salary scale and they are expected to work themselves up again.

In these small towns attempts to build unions with teeth are easily crushed and employers (mostly of Conservative Party political back-

grounds) can do what they want. South Africa's media, almost completely geared towards urban news, does a shoddy job of covering the rural reality and therefore succeeds in hiding outrageous living conditions from public attention.

Scant focus on these communities, which constitute a sizeable wedge of South Africa's geography,

tends to distort the urban public's perception of the national picture.

Urban debate around the economy is a case in point. For example, liberal arguments that warn of mass action endangering the economy fall flat when there is barely an economy to talk of in these areas.

What danger is there to the economy for the millions of Anne Hendrickses, who are treated like cattle by society?

What does economic stability mean for someone living in a shack with no water, electricity or proper toilet facilities?

In fact, the opposite approach has proved more accurate.

In Mossel Bay it was mass action that secured a greater degree of economic stability for those who moved into an empty housing complex.

In Villiersdorp the united black and coloured community were able to resist the job reservation programmes of white employers by threatening a consumer boycott.

But to paint a picture of widespread rural uprising is misleading.

On the whole, people have been battered into a subservient acceptance of their wretched lot. Fear and fatigue is commonplace and the goal of many is simply survival.

A lot needs to be done before Anne Hendricks wants something more than an old cow stable.

# Crayfish strike hit by pullout

SO474 7/11 - 11/11/92 4  
By Justin Pearce

THE CRAYFISH strike on the West Coast received a setback on Tuesday when the South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) pulled out of a meeting with the West Coast Fishermen's Union.

Safroc is the body which markets rock lobster on behalf of the factories.

According to union spokesperson Mr Hennie Mostert, Safroc undertook last week to meet the union on Tuesday. Safroc reneged on its promise at short notice, saying the fishermen must take their demands to individual employers.

The fishermen's demands are:

- Payment of R8 a kilogram for rock lobster. They are currently paid around R4 a kilogram for lobster that retails for R40.

- Protective clothing supplied by employers at no cost.

- The factory must be the sole employer of the fishermen. Up to now factories have named the boat skippers as the fishermen's employers — thus avoiding having to register their employees with the Department of Manpower.

- The reinstatement of 120 workers recently dismissed in Lamberts Bay, Hondeklip Bay, Doringbaai and Paternoster.

"Some of those men have been working there for 30 years and have no other source of income," Mostert said.

Mostert also claimed that employers in Port Nolloth and Hondeklip Bay were using scab labourers from the Transkei to work on the boats during the strike.

Demonstrations have taken place in various West Coast fishing towns to draw attention to the strikers' demands.

# Fishermen sick of mussels and mercy

8/11/92

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

SITimes [Cape memo] 8/11/92

WEST Coast fishermen, on strike since the start of the crayfish season last Sunday, say they are fed up with living on "mussels and mercy".

"Here we don't live, we struggle to survive," says Mr David Gebuza, 59, of Lamberts Bay, who has downed tools with about 1 000 fishermen and women factory workers in several West Coast villages.

The strikers are demanding that the catch rate be increased from R3,60 to R8 a kilogram and that companies should not reduce their fishing fleets to cut costs.

They hope the strike will bring relief after years of poverty.

"We have grown used to hardship and poverty," said Mr Gebuza.

Although several fishermen in Lamberts Bay's small "coloured" township of Sandkamp were willing to speak, only Mr Gebuza was prepared to be identified.

## Afford

He said the fishermen and factory workers in Lamberts Bay worked for only six months each year.

During the other six months, they relied for an income on catching snoek, which "comes by our water very seldom".

"We last had an income in April this year."

"The fishermen are literally living on mussels and mercy — God's mercy," said local Food and Workers' Union organiser Mr Jerome Bezuidenhout.

In Lamberts Bay, where the biggest employer is the Oceana group, fishermen earn R3,60/kg, which has to be split among six to eight fishermen.

"We catch anything from 30kg to 300kg a day — so we never get a fixed income," said Mr Gebuza.

Almost 200 workers, employed by the Oceana group, have gone on strike.

Mr Gebuza said most fishermen could not afford the R160 monthly rent for their council-



ON STRIKE ... fishermen, from left, Willem Boois, John van den Heever and George Mbeza play a game of dominoes with Johannes Jantjies, Lukas Tieties and Koos Miggel Picture: JACK LESTRADE

owned houses.

"People who cannot pay are evicted. They families then stay with neighbours and the houses stand empty until the start of the next season."

Lamberts Bay fishermen seldom have money for food and their children often go to school hungry.

For many children, on some days the only meal is the sandwich they are given at school.

## Deprived

Mr Bezuidenhout said Fawu and the ANC's Western Cape regional office had organised food parcels last week for the people on strike at Lamberts Bay, Elands Bay, Port Nolloth, Hondeklipbaai and Doringbaai.

"These people are dependent on the sea, but have been deprived of the benefits of its resources for years."

Several meetings with the industry's umbrella body, the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), have failed.

Lamberts Bay fishermen are expected to meet their employers next week.

# Mugabe revives fears of land redistribution

Blom 9/11/92

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — With planting about to begin in the wake of the calamitous drought, President Robert Mugabe has revived the anxieties of Zimbabwe's 4 500 white farmers about their future, with a renewed attack on "former oppressors".

Mugabe's bitter speech at the graveside of a veteran nationalist at the weekend came after four months of reviving optimism in the commercial farming sector following the replacement of the doctrinaire Agriculture Minister Witness Mangwende by a noted pragmatist, Kumbirai Kangai.

Kangai revoked a clutch of farm take-overs planned by Mangwende and pledged new ones would only be made in consultation with the Commercial Farmers' Union.

However, when he spoke at Heroes' Acre on Saturday at the burial of Lameck Chikanga, Mugabe attacked unnamed "government bureaucrats", accusing them of delaying the redistribution of white-owned land to blacks.

In 1990 Mugabe caused uproar in legal and commercial circles by declaring his intention to expropriate the six-million hectare "maize and tobacco belt", stretching north and east of Harare, for one-sixth its market value.

Speaking in the Shona vernacular at Heroes' Acre, Mugabe said: "Without land we will never get control of our economy. Land must go to the people first. That is

the basis of economic power.

"(We) should not shy away from former oppressors nor feel embarrassed to grab land which was the basis of the liberation struggle, even if it meant being criticised abroad," he said.

Britain is among major international aid donors to freeze multimillion-rand assistance for peasant resettlement since Mugabe revoked the principle of "willing buyer-willing seller".

Farming sources predict that with long-awaited summer rains about to break, planting of essential food crops on commercial farms may be inadequate due to declining confidence in the industry, shortage of imported inputs and delays in the provision of essential finance.

Mugabe has promised free "crop packs" for each of the estimated 1-million peasant families to plant two hectares. However, his officials have contradicted him, saying only seed for half a hectare will be available — and some consignments may be late in distribution.

Zimbabwe has imported over 2-million tonnes of maize and other food crops to avert the threat of famine caused by the worst drought in a century. In 1991 a mountainous strategic food reserve was flattened due to bureaucratic bungling.

## Lobster fishermen will continue strike

ANC

WEST Coast fishermen will continue their strike because of the breakdown of talks between the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) and aggrieved fishermen, says the ANC's western Cape branch.

The strike, which started a week ago, was called by the fishermen to protest against their poor living and working conditions.

On Friday, a delegation from the ANC and the West Coast Fishermen's Union met representatives of Safroc, the industry's marketing organisation, and Oceana Fishing Group, largest employer in the crayfish industry.

Some smaller quota-holders were also present.

ANC western Cape assistant secretary Willie Hofmeyr said on Saturday

the meeting ended in deadlock, with Safroc stating it was "unable and unwilling to negotiate with the fishermen about issues surrounding the strike".

Hofmeyr said Safroc "flatly refused to act as a facilitator in setting up a forum at which negotiations could take place on the grounds it would be difficult for them to assemble so many different players".

Hofmeyr said: "Safroc's attitude indicates a contempt and callousness towards a community whose demands are entirely reasonable and which has, moreover, made every attempt to negotiate — both before and after the strike."

Because of this intransigence, Hofmeyr said, the fishermen had no choice but to continue their strike.

— Sapa.

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# Labour law cannot wait for farmers' union <sup>4</sup> Wessels

BLOM 11/11/92  
 CAPE TOWN — The country could not wait for the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) to produce concrete proposals for labour law for agriculture, Manpower Minister Leon Wessels said yesterday.

Justifying his announcement on the extension of key labour laws to agriculture, Wessels said he was surprised at the SAAU's reaction.

In terms of an agreement between himself and the SAAU, it was to have submitted its proposals for a "consolidated, agriculture-friendly" law by September 30.

"What was eventually submitted to me did not even approximate the needs for reform and the need for timeous and swift performance in this process.

"(The SAAU) only spelled out principles regarding the Labour Relations Act and (the proposals) implied that the Basic Conditions of Employment Act would have to be substantively renegotiated."

Meanwhile, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut said yesterday the accord between government and Cosatu on extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act had again highlighted the need for

employer involvement in negotiating labour laws.

AHI vice-president P A Olivier welcomed the agreement and said it paved the way for creating and establishing a comprehensive labour dispensation.

However, the AHI regretted the perception that certain parties had been excluded from the process, illustrating the need for employer involvement.

The PAC-aligned Nactu union federation said yesterday it cautiously welcomed the accord.

The Domestic Workers' Association yesterday expressed concern that it was not consulted about the negotiations.

The association had been negotiating with government since 1974.

In its reaction the Domestic Employers' Association of SA said it was critical to the interests of domestic employers that any draft legislation concerning domestic workers be submitted to the association. Chairman Claire Read said the agreement with Cosatu was "very wide and general in its scope" and called on government to hear the association's views. — Sapa.

# The good news spreads

By Ike Motsapi

**L**AWRENCE MASANGO (44) is a cheerful and unassuming father of four. Although his level of education is only Standard One, he is well-informed about things happening around him and in the world.

A farmhand, he is a determined and ambitious man and knows what he wants for himself and his family.

"I want to earn a decent salary so that I can save enough money to buy a house for my family," was Masango's comment when *Sowetan* broke the news to him that farmworkers will now also be

*Sowetan* 12/11/92  
**■ AMBITIOUS MAN Farmhand can**

*now build a house for his family.* (4)

covered by the Labour Relations Act. Masango works at Doornkop Farm near Soweto.

Masango, like many other farmworkers who have been denied the privilege of enjoying secure employment and the benefits that goes with it, was pleased to learn that things are now changing.

He said: "Look man, I earn R300 a month for all the hard work that we do here.

"To most of us this was the way fate meant it to be for us.

"We either had to accept the money or starve, even though we knew that we were being treated as slaves and sometimes abused.

"If you protest against the bad treatment you receive from your employer,

he chases you away and you have nowhere to go.

"Finding work on the farms is difficult and employers know this and that is why they exploit us," Masango added.

Masango said his family had managed to survive under difficult circumstances with the little he received as salary.

He said two of his four children, Aubrey (23) and Elizabeth (18), are about to complete their matric at nearby Naledi.

The other two, Mary (4) and Thabo (3), are being looked after by their mother Mary.



Lawrence Masango: "I can now afford to buy a house for my family." Pic: VELI NHLAPO

## SAAU slates labour deal

4  
GERALD REILLY

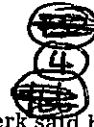
PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) has rejected a claim by Manpower Minister Leon Wessels that it failed to submit concrete proposals to him on labour legislation for farm workers.

Earlier this week, Wessels and Cosatu agreed to extend basic labour laws to farm workers. *3/04/92*

SAAU condemned the "cosy" agreement which ignored it as a role player and accused Wessels of bad faith. *12/11/92*

SAAU president Boet Fourie told a media conference yesterday an alternative to the legislation extending the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act to farm workers would be submitted by year-end.

# Labour law anger FW calls for talks



JOHANNESBURG. — President F W de Klerk yesterday called for a meeting with organised agriculture as soon as possible to discuss objections to the extension of labour legislation to farm workers.

At a news conference earlier in the day, South African Agricultural Union president Mr Boet Fourie alleged that the extension of key labour legislation to agriculture could be used to disrupt agriculture for political purposes.

He also alleged Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels had caved in to pressure from Cosatu, and said the proposed legislation could not be implemented.

In a statement, Mr De Klerk said he was deeply concerned at the reaction to the proposed legislation. "The controversy which has arisen in this regard is neither in the interest of the employers or employees involved, nor of South Africa as a whole."

The ANC insisted yesterday that the labour accord be translated into meaningful action to end what it termed the near-feudal conditions prevailing in the domestic and agricultural sectors.

The proposed legislation was an advance through decades of bitter struggle by individual domestic and farm workers, the ANC said in a statement.

— Sapa 5/12/11/92



**Sudden agreement**

While the provisions of the pathbreaking agreement between government and Cosatu on farm and domestic worker rights were generally expected, employers are concerned at the way in which the deal was done.

In particular, it appears that the National Manpower Commission (NMC) was bypassed — and taken by surprise — at Monday's announcement of the agreement. It was signed exclusively — and suddenly — by new Manpower Minister Leon Wessels and Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo last Friday.

Cosatu only recently announced, after a great deal of discussion, that it is to re-join

FINANCIAL MAIL • NOVEMBER • 13 • 1992 • 41

*\*continue\**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

FM 18/11/92

the tripartite NMC (labour, business and government), having pulled out in part because government ignored the NMC's recommendations.

Aside from the SA Agricultural Union, other employers are wondering whether this will set the pattern and bypass them. Puzzlement is compounded by the fact that Cosatu has hardly any farmworker members — except those in agri-business, who are organised mainly through its Food & Agricultural Workers Union in the Natal sugar and western Cape fruit industries. The inherent difficulty in organising farm labourers is a separate issue.

A "shocked and extremely indignant" SAAU said the decision to extend basic labour rights to agriculture was taken "without any consultation with organised agriculture." It said a meeting had been arranged with the Minister for next Friday to discuss an SAAU draft document (earlier sent to the Minister) outlining a separate labour Act for the sector. While much work had been done "to make the idea of practical labour legislation acceptable to farmers," said SAAU manpower committee chairman Chris du Toit, "I now expect strong opposition to the labour laws."

Indeed, observes labour consultant Duncan Innes, the worry is that SAAU, "which has dragged its feet on the matter," may prevent the effective implementation of the new laws, which will be difficult to police in any event.

While welcoming the envisaged new legislation for "extending protective rights to millions of workers exploited in the past," Innes hoped government would not renege or water down the agreement.

Its main provisions state that the Minister shall:

- Promulgate the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act (BCEA) to take effect on March 1 1993;
- Promulgate the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Act on January 1 1993;
- Introduce in parliament, with a view to passing it in the 1993 session, legislation to appropriately extend the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and Wage Act to agriculture and seek early Cabinet approval for this; and
- Before the end of the year, get his department to publish for comment the proposed legislation with due regard to the NMC's recommendations.

Regarding the BCEA for domestic workers, the Manpower department will submit to the Minister, by the end of next March, draft legislation to be introduced into parliament for passage not later than the second half of the year. It was further agreed that the LRA, appropriately amended and including effective dispute resolution procedures, needs to be extended to domestic workers.

Consideration is to be given to extending the Wage Act to domestics as well. A committee will be set up by Manpower including Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola, together with the Justice department in respect of dispute



**Manpower's Wessels . . . bold foray into the labour field**

resolution procedures. It is hoped to enact this by the first session in 1994.

Extending unemployment and workmen's compensation benefits to this sector is agreed in principle and is to be investigated. So will labour law in the homelands. ■

# Callers welcome law on farmworkers

Sowetan 13/11/92

Sowetan & Radio Metro  
**Talkback**

By Isaac Moleedi (4)

THE extension of the Labour Relations Act to cover domestic and farm workers was long overdue, callers to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show said last night.

Though callers welcomed the move, they, however, felt workers needed to unionise in order to protect themselves against bosses who would not carry out the agreement.

Jabu of Berea in Johannesburg said: "I feel that for the agreement between domestic and farmworkers and their bosses to be entrenched, workers themselves need to be unionised."

Babu of Port Elizabeth welcomed the move but felt the agreement was long overdue.

"The agreements could have hap-

pened long ago," he said.

Callers praised the Congress of South African Trade Union for reaching such an agreement with Minister of Manpower, Mr Leon Wessels.

They condemned farmers who were not satisfied with the Act. They said the provision of the LRA would improve the quality of life of workers than affect the agricultural development.

"As long as we believe that domestic and farmworkers are also workers, they also need to be covered by the Act irrespective of the damage some people think it will cause to the economy. We should all welcome this move which, according to me, is long overdue."

Jason, Durban

"For a long time domestic and farmworkers have been subjected to extreme exploitation. I welcome the Act."

Andile, Johannesburg

"I'm mainly concerned about those people, especially the agricultural union, who do not accept the agreements. These are the same people who don't allow children as young as eight years to go to school."

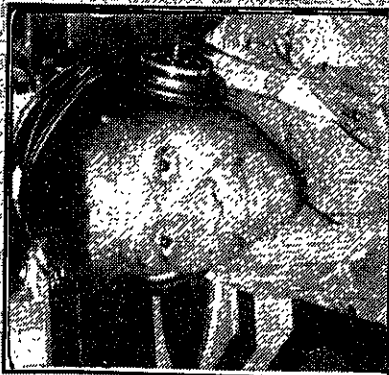
George Morise, kwaNdebele

"We need to congratulate the trade unions who reached this agreement because the farm and domestic workers have long been exploited. This would improve the quality of life for these workers compared to conditions in previous years."

Vusi  
Vaal Triangle

"It's not only whites who exploit our people but there are many black people too who exploit them by giving them about R30 for a five-day work."

Peter, Braikpan



with Tim Modise

## Farmworker rights: ANC joins the fray

SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

④ APT 13/11/92

THE ANC has joined the fray between Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels, Cosatu and organised agriculture over the Cosatu-government agreement to extend basic rights to farm and domestic workers next year.

In a statement the ANC said it "insists that the legislation, once passed, does not remain fine words on paper, but is translated into meaningful action to end the near-feudal conditions that prevail" on farms.

Lobbyists fear the powerful farmers' union — the SA Agricultural Union — may advocate mass dismissals of farmworkers before the laws are promulgated.

The accord, reached last week, commits the government to a concrete programme of labour reforms, including the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act to the country's 1,4 million farmworkers by March 1 next year.

# Govt firm on March 1 for farm labour law

CAPE TOWN — Manpower Minister Leon Wessels yesterday reiterated government's commitment to extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers by March 1, reports Sapa.

He was responding to a Democratic Party statement on President F.W. de Klerk's offer to meet farmers' unions to discuss the controversy over the extension of labour legislation to agriculture.

DP MPs Errol Moorcroft and Robin Carlisle said De Klerk's intervention should not lead to further delays.

Commenting on the DP appeal, Manpower Ministry spokesman Johan Smit said: "The employment Act for agriculture will be promulgated by March 1. This allows the various parties to continue negotiations meanwhile on a possible consolidated statute for agriculture."

Wessels called on the parties engaged in the negotiations to approach them with the appropriate responsibility, Smit said.

De Klerk's announcement on Wednesday followed warnings by the SA Agricultural Union that farmers would not implement labour legislation which they did not support.

Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman said Cosatu hoped government would not bow to pressure from minority interests on this issue.

"While a long process of negotiations on the employment Act is over, our door is still open to discussions with the SAAU on the question of how the Labour Relations and Wage Acts should be applied to agriculture," he said.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) will tell De Klerk at a meeting next week of farmers' anger at the "cosy" deal between Wessels and Cosatu.

De Klerk said earlier this week he was disturbed at the reaction to the extension of the laws to farm workers. He invited the SAAU to discuss the issue with him.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said last night the union would again stress the imperative need for agriculture to have its own labour law.



# Farm labour: Govt committed

MANPOWER minister Mr Leon Wessels yesterday reiterated the government's commitment to extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farmworkers by March 1.

He was responding to a DP statement on State President F W de Klerk's offer to meet farmers' unions to discuss the controversy over the extension of labour legislation to agriculture. (7) ~~ET 13/11/92~~

DP MPs Mr Errol Moorcroft and Mr Robin Carlisle said Mr De Klerk's intervention should not lead to further delays in the process.

Mr De Klerk's announcement on Wednesday followed warnings by the South African Agricultural Union that farmers would not implement labour legislation which they did not support.

Cosatu spokesman Mr Neil Co-

leman said the union hoped that the government would not bow to pressure from minority interests.

● The proposed extension of labour legislation to agriculture has been welcomed by the Human Resources Committee of the deciduous fruit industry, it was reported yesterday. Chairman Mr David Gant said it would bring an end to uncertainty— Sapa

By GAYE DAVIS  
Cape Town

*U DRA die sjambok ons dra die risiko* — you hold the whip, we carry the risk. This is how two Stellenbosch organisations concerned with farmworkers rights see a decision by Sentraaboe Co-op to pay a R50 000 damages claim on behalf of a wine-estate

# Whipping up a quick R50 000

13/11-19/11/92

W.A. W. Co. Ltd

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owner whose manager assaulted farmworkers. The Centre for Rural Workers Support Committee said this week they were "extremely disturbed" that Sentraaboe Co-op's insurance policy cover farmers against civil claims resulting from vicious assaults by farm managers. "Sentraaboe appear to see assaults and violence against farmworkers as a normal part of management practice on wine estates. This effectively amounts to a policy of 'you hold the whip, we cover the risk'." Rudolf Rix, former farm manager of Manskloof Estates, and his wife, who was found guilty of beating a farm worker to death with a pickaxe, were sentenced to 18 months in jail. However, in a move which sparked an outcry, Rix served only six days of his sentence before being

released in terms of government amnesties for serving prisoners.

His former employer, Smit, subsequently agreed to an out of court settlement of the damages claim — without admitting liability. Sentraaboe subsequently paid out the R50 000 agreed to.

"In our opinion the willingness of insurers to insure farmers for their liability with regard to violence against farmworkers is unlikely to help end such violence," said attorney Glyn Williams of Chennels Albertyn, who acted for the claimants.

Sentraaboe Co-op's general manager in charge of business development, James Hogg, said Koopmaskloof Estates was insured in terms of common law liability — a standard clause in most insurance policies which would, for example, cover someone whose dog bit a passerby.

"To suggest that, for this reason, an insurance company encourages its insureds (sic) to incite their dogs to bite people is, to say the least, absurd."

"The suggestion therefore that by providing ordinary common law liability cover, Sentraaboe, or any insurance company for that matter, encourages its insureds to act unlawfully, is denied."

Hogg said Sentraaboe disassociated itself from Rix's actions, saying: "Such actions can never be condoned."

## LABOUR

# New labour deal with old problems

**T**HE accord signed this week between the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the government is being hailed as a victory for negotiated labour policy, but those left out in the cold can derail the hardwon agreement.

The labour movement has always led the field with negotiated and co-determined agreements that outstrip national political negotiations in sophistication as well as content. This week's agreement is no exception.

Concrete dates have been set for legislation to regulate the stepister sectors of domestic and farm workers and public servants. The more powerful National Manpower Commission (NMC) will begin work early next year and the new National Training Board will start negotiations this month.

Cosatu lawyers have, through concerted campaigning, won a promise for the revision of the controversial industrial court. In addition, the labour appeal court will now be a court of final appeal for all labour matters, ending problems both employers and unions have with supreme court judges with a scant knowledge of labour law. Judges to the appeal court will be appointed with the consensus of government, employers and trade unions.

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo called the agreement a "major breakthrough for labour relations" while Leon Wessels said the agreement set the foundation for South Africa to get its labour law in line with international standards.

But their elation is tempered by the voices of discontent which have quickly made themselves heard.

The farmers' lobby, in the shape of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), reacted angrily to the announcement that the minister will promulgate the Basic Conditions of Employment Act for farmworkers by March next year. The SAAU said it was "shocked and indignant" at Wessels' promise.

Only a fortnight ago, Wessels agreed to withhold farmworkers legislation after receiving the SAAU's new proposals for labour legislation.

This week, the minister set himself on a collision course with the farmers when he said the new proposals "did not even approximate the needs for reform and the need for timeous and swift performance".

A determined Wessels said the country could not wait for the farmers to produce concrete legislation.

Despite the headstrong position of the SAAU, Cosatu indicated its willingness to continue negotiations with the organisation on the other labour statutes for farmworkers.

Wessels has agreed to publish the NMC proposals on the extension of the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act to farmworkers by the end of the year and to introduce draft legislation into parliament early next year.

Basic conditions of employment for domestic workers will be promulgated by the middle of next year and a committee will soon be set up to deal with the difficult areas of dispute settling mechanisms and wages for domestic workers, with a view to extending this legislation to the sector by 1994.

The Domestic Employers Association opposes a minimum wage for domestic workers and wants to be extensively consulted about any legislation for this sector.

In addition to the housewives and farmers lobby, the public servants employer body — the Commission for Administration — could also put a spanner in the works.

Lucy Nyembe, of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, has been centrally involved in drafting legislation for the public sector.

She says there is a subtle power play between the Commission for Administration and the government because the former wants to administer the Act and Cosatu would prefer that the Department of Manpower do the administration.

"Wessels may be a liberal and a pragmatist, but the CFA is not," she says.

Draft legislation for the public sector was finalised in September, but there are many problems with the legislation and Cosatu wants the legislation referred to the NMC for further negotiation.

The problems include:

W/Mail 13/11-19/11/92  
*The new deal for public servants and domestic and farm workers has been greeted as a major breakthrough. But opposition from the agricultural and domestic workers lobby could put a spanner in the works.*

By FERIAL HAJFAJEE

●An unreasonably wide definition of essential services which effectively erodes the right to strike.

●The criminalisation of the right to strike.

●The requirement that trade unions give 20 days notice before a strike while employers can get a strike interdict in 48 hours.

Cosatu assistant general secretary Sam Shilowa agrees that dates have been negotiated in the past with various manpower ministers and that they have gone by with no action.

"Minister Wessels is convinced that the acts should go through and we don't want to prejudge him," says Shilowa. "We want him to prove his bona fides."

Other features of the agreement include a resolution to form a high-powered committee which will work at implementing all the recommendations made by the recent International Labour Organisation Commission to South

Africa.

In line with Cosatu's strategy to fashion a key role for itself in the labour market, two task forces have been set up to determine policy on training and the industrial court. The task forces are appointed by consensus and will include key union policy-makers whose appointment will only be rubber-stamped by the minister.

While the Laboria Minute, the foundation stone of this week's agreement, was negotiated by employer bodies, unions and the state, the latest accord is bipartite. Employers and politicians welcomed the accord but said it was essential that employers and other union federations be included in negotiations.



## THE FUTURE OF FARMING

# Overhaul rural structure 'to protect workers'

APR 14/1/92

■ The Rural Foundation, a 10-year-old organisation dedicated to uplifting farm workers and changing farmer's attitudes, held a conference in Stellenbosch this week. The theme was *The Future Of Rural South Africa* and a wide range of speakers ranging from political parties to agricultural experts, farmers and farm workers took part. Weekend Argus Reporter **PATRICK FARRELL** was there.

A COMPLETE overhaul of the rural structure of South Africa is necessary, says the African National Congress.

Mr Derrick Hanekom, a representative of the organisation's agricultural desk, spoke at a Rural Foundation conference in Stellenbosch this week.

Mr Hanekom said the years of racial segregation and colonialism had created "an oppressive and exploitative relationship" between workers and farmers.

"Workers are denied basic legal protection and many aspects of their lives are controlled by the farmers."

He said the ANC welcomed the recent extension of labour legislation to farm workers.

"The help of trade unions and other organisations from the private sector will be encouraged strongly to draw up guidelines for farm workers' conditions of service."

He said the ANC had drawn up a draft document on policy for farm workers and this would be distributed for comment by agricultural organisations.

Among the objectives:

■ Farm workers will be protected from all forms of forced labour, including making wives and children

work at harvest time;

■ The dop system would be prohibited and workers would be helped to fight alcoholism;

■ Working hours would be reduced to those of industry, but farmers and workers could agree to extend hours in special cases;

■ Farmers would have to pay overtime and workers would get every public holiday off; and

■ Annual leave and sick leave would be extended to farm workers.

Mr Hanekom said the ANC also would introduce a wide range of other regulations.

Among these would be the banning of child labour (children under 15), the provision of pensions, unemployment benefits and retirement housing.

"Laws such as the trespass laws, which allow farmers to deny access to people they have dismissed will be scrapped."

Mr Hanekom said the ANC was committed to uplifting farm workers.

"Teachers at schools in isolated areas where farmers might have control, will be protected against exploitation and should be free to join any organisation they choose," he said.

# Storm over assault payout

④ APR 14 11 1992

## JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE R50 000 in damages paid out by Sentraeboer this week is the second time the giant agricultural insurance company has come to the rescue of well-known Botellary wine estate Koopmanskloof.

The latest claim was awarded after Koopmanskloof farm manager Mr Rudolf Rix assaulted four men so badly that one died.

Weekend Argus can disclose that last year Sentraeboer also accepted responsibility for another damages claim brought against Koopmanskloof and its employee, Mr Sven Humboldt, who peppered an eight-year-old boy with birdshot.

Koopmanskloof is owned by wealthy and influential winefarmer Mr Stevie Smit.

There was a countrywide protest some time ago when former Koopmanskloof farm manager Mr Rix was released from Pollsmoor after serving only six days of an effective 18-month sentence.

■ An agricultural insurance company has defended its payment of a large sum in damages after a wine farm manager was convicted of culpable homicide and assault.

Brigadier Erika van Zyl of the Department of Correctional Services said that he had benefited from the December 1990, April 1991 and July 1991 amnesty announcements, even though he was on bail pending an appeal.

The Democratic Party spokesman on justice, at that time Mr Dave Dalling, said that Mr Rix's early release was a "travesty of justice."

It would appear that Sentraeboer has paid out in terms of their insurance policies claims which flowed from criminal assaults by farm managers of its clients, said spokesmen for two Stellenbosch organisations, the Centre for Rural Studies and the Farmworkers' Support Committee, in a joint statement to Weekend Argus.

The two organisations were concerned that Sentraeboer had to pay out policy-holders in

Later Sentraeboer said in a statement to Weekend Argus it deplored the allegations.

Dissociating itself from the "disgraceful occurrence", Sentraeboer said that "Koopmanskloof is insured by Sentraeboer and the standard cover for liability applies."

However, a spokesman for Lawyers for Human Rights in Stellenbosch was of the view that the policy in question, in common with most other policies, which insured the policyholder in respect of injury or death to any person caused by the fault or negligence of the insured or his employees.

At Mr Rix's trial witnesses described how Mr Rix burst in on the sleeping Charlie and Arnold Thompson, Johannes Beukes and Godfrey Williams during the night and beat them with a pickaxe handle.

The damages claim was brought by Mr Williams, who was awarded R30 000, and the estate of the labourer who died in the attack, Mr Charlie Thompson, which was awarded R20 000. Neither the since-deceased Mr Arnold Thompson, nor Mr Beukes left beneficiaries.

such circumstances so soon after the Minister of Manpower had promulgated legislation to protect farmworkers.

Sentraeboer is a co-operative all of whose 35 000 policy-holders are members of agricultural co-operatives undertaking short and long-term insurance and risk management.

A Registrar of Financial Institutions spokesman said it had shown a pre-tax profit of R14,5-million last year.

Its head office is in Johannesburg and the chairman of the board of directors is Mr Frans Laubscher, who farms near Bloemfontein. Most of the other 14 directors are farmers.

Mr James Hogg, Sentraeboer's general manager (business development), told Weekend Argus he considered protests were "a storm in a teacup".

# Beatings: Co-op pays

Staff Reporter

(4) CT 14/11/92

STELLENBOSCH farm manager Rudolf Rix, who served only six days in prison for beating a farm labourer to death with a pickaxe handle, has escaped paying R50 000 in civil damages to the other injured labourers because of the farm's insurance cover.

Koopmanskloof Estate, where Rix was employed, is insured by Sentraboer Co-op.

Yesterday Sentraboer conceded that they paid the R50 000 but only because they had no option.

Sentraboer said they did not condone the behaviour of Rix, 27, but that in terms of the standard public liability policy held by the owner of the estate, Mr Stevie Smit, the co-op had been required to stand in for Mr Smit's liability.

## Normal clause

"We did not give him cover for vicious assault but the standard cover for common law liability was applicable.

"It is the normal clause that covers the insured should his farm dog bite a passerby or the neighbour's child".

Mr Rix was released under three different amnesties announced by the government for first offenders.

Earlier this month Mr Smit agreed to paying R50 000 in settlement to the two assaulted farm labourers, Mr Andrew Thompson, brother of the late Mr Charlie Thompson, and Mr Godfrey Williams, who claimed they had been unemployed since 1989 because of their injuries.

## Farmers' act against strikers

HEILBRON. — Action by farmers against strikers at the Central West Co-operative here was yesterday backed by Mr Jannie Els, regional chairman of the Free State Agricultural Union. **OCT 14/11/92**

Police arrested a man after two people were hurt by shotgun fire on Thursday.

The Farmworkers Research and Resource Project said the farmers' actions showed an "utter lack of regard for the law". — Sapa

## Educating farmers 'is vital' for improving quality of life

MR Johannes Thom, a farm worker from the Western Transvaal, was invited to the Rural Foundation conference to tell delegates what life was like for him — and thousands of others.

A simple man, he told his story with a sincerity that touched those who heard it.

"I ask God to help the farmers who are *agter*," said Mr Thom, 48.

He painted a bleak picture of life before his *baas* realised through the work of the Rural Foundation that progressive management of his workers would reap more desirable benefits for everyone.

Apologising for not being able to speak English as he had a only Standard Three, Mr Thom said: "There were times when Mr Lussmann (the farmer) would go to town for half the day and I would not be sure what I should do next."

"Rather than make a mistake I would do nothing, but when he came back he would take off his hat and throw it on the ground and sometimes jump on it, and *kak* me out and say I knew what to do and why had I wasted so much time."

④ "I would be too scared to tell him I was unsure. Lots of times I was sick, but I had to work."

Mr Thom lived in a leaking mud hut with no electricity.

"The *baas* took decisions alone without consulting us and asking us how we felt. If we complained, he didn't listen."

All that has changed. Now, Mr Thom lives in an electrified house with running water and serves on a committee that discusses management of the farm with Mr Lussmann.

The farm has its own clinic and courses are offered to workers on subjects like tractor maintenance and productivity.

His five children are either at high school or have finished school and are working in the towns.

Mr Thom said that in spite of the changes many problems still existed on farms in the Western Transvaal.

"Most workers do not have electricity and housing is still a big problem."

"Clinics only visit some farms every three months and to get health service you have to travel far distances."

# 'Ask Mandela for raise' workers told

SOUTH 14/11-18/11/92 (4)

By Diane Coetzer

**A** GRAPE farmer in De Doorns allegedly told farm workers to "ask Mandela" for more money if they wanted higher wages.

The incident took place at the Arbeid Adeld farm in De Doorns on October 28 at a meeting called to discuss workers' demands for a wage increase.

After the meeting, seven workers were dismissed by Mr Robert du Preez, foreman and son-in-law of the owner, Mr Hans Germishuizen.

The owner has denied dismissing the workers, claiming they "dismissed themselves".

One worker, Mr Maxwell Bostander, told SOUTH last week that it made him feel "full of tears" to hear the farmer pass responsibility for wage increase to ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela.

"We are not working for Mandela," Bostander said. "We are working for the farmer and he must be the one to increase our wages."

"I am an ANC member and I believe Mandela is there to lead us, not to pay us."

Supported by another two of the dismissed workers, Ms Montie Dladane and Mr Tex Van Rooyen, Bostander told how Du Preez had not been prepared to listen to workers' grievances. Instead, he issued a set of farm rules about which workers had not been consulted.

Bostander said that on Monday, October 26, workers decided to strike for better wages.

Women workers earn R40 a week and men R50. Workers were demanding an increase to R12 a day for women and R16 for men. At a meeting the next Wednesday, attempts were made to explain to Du Preez that workers were unable to buy sufficient food and

clothing with their wages.

Dissatisfaction was also expressed with long working hours — workers begin at 6am — and the deduction of R2,50 for every hour a worker does not report for work.

The farm does not have medical benefits but a doctor's certificate is

## 'A few ANC

## ringleaders are to blame for stirring up trouble'

### — Farmer

demanded if workers are off ill. Living conditions on the farm are poor.

With Dladane, who has been on the farm for 21 years, SOUTH visited the workers' accommodation which is a short distance from De Doorns town centre.

In a block of "housing" — which looks like it could have been stables in earlier days — are a row of rooms for workers.

The rooms have no windows, the only ventilation coming from a stable door which is closed at night for security reasons. There are no toilets and workers have to go "over the hill" to wash. Water comes from a tap some distance from the block.

In spite of Du Preez's orders, workers stayed on at the farm as they have nowhere else to go.

Germishuizen blames a "few ANC ringleaders" for "stirring up trouble".

"The workers came with totally unreasonable demands. We told them they were welcome to try and get these wages somewhere else. They then left and so dismissed themselves."

Germishuizen said he would improve workers' housing when he had the money.

Mrs Miriam Moleleki, co-ordinator of the Masikhule Advice Office in Zwelethema township, Worcester, said conditions of workers on Arbeid Adeld were not unusual.

The director of Lawyers for Human Rights' (LHR) Western Cape Rural Office, Mr Stef Raubenheimer, said a joint meeting would be held soon to "try and find ways of involving the farmers more constructively in issues".

Among those due to take part in the meeting are the Boerevereniging, the Regional Dispute Resolution Committee, De Doorns Municipality, LHR and the Masikhule Advice Office.

"The situation in the area is bad," Raubenheimer said. "Farmers are dismissing workers wholesale for a variety of reasons. This affects the whole town as many dismissed workers don't have accommodation and move into the squatter area, creating problems for the municipality."

# Fishermen win most demands <sup>4</sup>

By Justin Pearce

SOOTH 14/11 - 18/11/92

STRIKING lobster fishermen achieved a partial victory this week when the West Coast's largest fishing company conceded most of the fishermen's demands.

But the West Coast Fishermen's Union has vowed to continue the strike until the company meets their demand of R6 per kilogram payment for the lobster they catch.

Oceana, which holds about 45 percent of the total rock lobster quota, has agreed to compensate the 101 fishermen and 28 other workers who were made redundant at the beginning of the current season.

The company has also undertaken to employ all lobster fishermen as full-time employees, with the associated benefits.

Until now the quota holding companies have regarded fishermen as employees of the boat skipper rather than of the company. This absolved the companies of the usual responsibilities of an employer.

Oceana also committed itself to creating job opportunities, and has made six small boats available to the fishing communities for the catching of linefish.

The company has agreed to participate in a forum which will also include community leaders and workers from Hondeklip Bay, Lambert's Bay, Doring Bay, Eland's Bay, St Helena Bay and Hout Bay.

The fishermen rejected Oceana's offer of R5 a kilogram payment. They have reduced their demand from R8 to R6 a kilogram, and

~~R5~~ ~~R6~~ ~~R8~~ ~~R9~~ ~~R10~~ ~~R11~~ ~~R12~~ ~~R13~~ ~~R14~~ ~~R15~~ ~~R16~~ ~~R17~~ ~~R18~~ ~~R19~~ ~~R20~~ ~~R21~~ ~~R22~~ ~~R23~~ ~~R24~~ ~~R25~~ ~~R26~~ ~~R27~~ ~~R28~~ ~~R29~~ ~~R30~~ ~~R31~~ ~~R32~~ ~~R33~~ ~~R34~~ ~~R35~~ ~~R36~~ ~~R37~~ ~~R38~~ ~~R39~~ ~~R40~~ ~~R41~~ ~~R42~~ ~~R43~~ ~~R44~~ ~~R45~~ ~~R46~~ ~~R47~~ ~~R48~~ ~~R49~~ ~~R50~~ ~~R51~~ ~~R52~~ ~~R53~~ ~~R54~~ ~~R55~~ ~~R56~~ ~~R57~~ ~~R58~~ ~~R59~~ ~~R60~~ ~~R61~~ ~~R62~~ ~~R63~~ ~~R64~~ ~~R65~~ ~~R66~~ ~~R67~~ ~~R68~~ ~~R69~~ ~~R70~~ ~~R71~~ ~~R72~~ ~~R73~~ ~~R74~~ ~~R75~~ ~~R76~~ ~~R77~~ ~~R78~~ ~~R79~~ ~~R80~~ ~~R81~~ ~~R82~~ ~~R83~~ ~~R84~~ ~~R85~~ ~~R86~~ ~~R87~~ ~~R88~~ ~~R89~~ ~~R90~~ ~~R91~~ ~~R92~~ ~~R93~~ ~~R94~~ ~~R95~~ ~~R96~~ ~~R97~~ ~~R98~~ ~~R99~~ ~~R100~~

intend to continue their strike until Oceana agrees to this figure.

Rock lobster fetches about R40 a kilogram on the retail market.

West Coast Fishermen's Union spokesperson Mr Hennie Mostert said he expected that the concessions made by Oceana, who is the biggest employer, would force other employers to take similar steps.

Mr Leon Conradie, Oceana's human resources manager, said the meeting had helped to "alleviate misunderstandings" but no settlement was reached.

He said another meeting would be held on November 16.

ANC assistant regional secretary Mr Willie Hofmeyr expressed disappointment over the failure to reach agreement on the issue of payment.

# Karoo town sees 'scare tactics' against ANC members

By Diane Coetzer

THE community of Murraysburg, a small town deep in the heart of the Karoo, is under siege.

Workers in the local advice office say apartheid is more alive than ever in the town and that ANC members are victimised.

Their isolation from any major city only compounds the situation, they say.

Murraysburg, which has 5 000 residents, is 100km from Graaff-Reinet and 158km from Beaufort West.

## Police accused

Advice officer worker Mr Mbulelo Olifant told SOUTH the police were primarily to blame for acts of intimidation and indiscriminate harassment, particularly a Warrant Officer Van Eck.

Allegations include:

● On August 8, Mr Freddy Bonjala, 82, was assaulted by W/O Van Eck for allegedly urinating in public. Charges against Bonjala have been withdrawn.

● This year five comrades from the town of Richmond who attend-

ed a workshop on Aids in Murraysburg were assaulted by five SAP officers — W/O Van Eck, Constable Blom, Constable Fourie, Sergeant Viljoen and Constable April. The comrades, — Mr Zamilé Bonile, Mr Johnson Lunkwana, Mr Kenana Ndala, Mr Norman Motšana and Mr Jeffrey Njinini — were returning from the conference when they were allegedly stopped by the policemen who asked to search the car and then assaulted them.

● A 56-year-old man, Mr Freek Festus, was assaulted by a Mr Benna Du Toit, allegedly because Festus did not want to work for him any longer. Charges have been laid against Du Toit, but the advice office claims that no follow-up work has been done.

Olifant said the people experiencing repression were ANC members.

"I think this is part of an attempt by the National Party to scare people into joining the party as the ANC has the majority of support in the town and the NP is trying to recruit members.

"Nothing has changed in this town since the end of apartheid," said Olifant.

"People still get called *kaffirs* and *hotots*. We cannot defend ourselves against this abuse as the police are on the side of the whites.

"We sometimes wonder why our leaders signed the National Peace Accord because what is happening in our community is proof that what is written is just words."

The community is also under siege economically.

Olifant said 95 percent of people were unemployed and only managed to scrape together enough money for food by doing seasonal piece-work on farms or gardening.

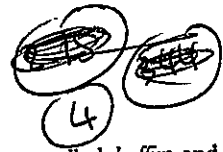
## R30 a month

Domestic workers were also suffering in a town where their average wage is R30 a month.

He alleged that shopkeepers exploited the community by charging high prices for food.

But he said that in general it was difficult to organise workers as many were scared of the consequences.

The SAP at Murraysburg were supplied with details of the workers' allegations. They had no reply by the time of going to press.



SOUTH 14/11-18/11/92



# Farmers protest against extension of labour laws

81003 18/11/92  
PRETORIA — Organised agriculture told President F W De Klerk yesterday that the application of existing labour laws to its industry was unacceptable.

In a statement after a meeting between the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and Manpower Minister Leon Wessels, De Klerk said consensus reached would be taken further in a meeting on Friday between Wessels and the SAAU.

De Klerk said the discussions were constructive but he gave no details of the consensus.

The SAAU delegation said the industry had been appalled to learn that Wessels had reached agreement unilaterally with Cosatu to apply key legislation to agriculture. The lack of consultation was deplored, SAAU president Boet Fourie said.

He told the meeting the SAAU was not opposed in principle to labour legislation being applied to agriculture provided it did not have a disruptive influence.

A prerequisite was that it should accommodate the unique conditions in agriculture, which current legislation failed to do.

Dispute resolution on farms had to be at the lowest possible level — between farm-

er and worker.

Farmers, the meeting was told, saw what was happening in other sectors of the economy — strikes, stayaways and mass actions — and feared farm workers could be manipulated for political purposes.

Transvaal Agriculture Union president Dries Bruwer told the meeting unemployment, urbanisation and squatting problems would all be aggravated if current legislation was imposed on the industry.

Meanwhile Sapa reports from Cape Town that the Black Sash said it was encouraged that the proposed legislative amendments resulted from negotiations between government and credible labour representatives.

Black Sash national president Jenny de Tolly said yesterday minimum conditions of employment would place a check on exploitative labour practices in the agricultural and domestic sectors.

However, extensive education and monitoring were necessary if labour laws for farm and domestic workers were to be effective, she said.

GERALD REILLY

# Farmers, FW in frank talks

Own Correspondent

4  
CT 18/11/92

PORT ELIZABETH. — "Frank and constructive" discussions were held yesterday between President FW de Klerk and a delegation from the South African Agricultural Union regarding the implementation of labour legislation in agriculture.

A government spokesman said Mr De Klerk, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk and Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels met the delegation led by SAAU president Mr Boet Fourie at the Union Buildings.

Mr De Klerk had returned from Britain only a few hours before the meeting.

"The discussions were frank and constructive. It was agreed that Mr Wessels and a delegation from the SAAU will meet again on November 20 to take further the consensus reached today," he said.

The talks followed condemnation of a decision by Mr Wessels earlier this month to extend labour legislation to the agricultural industry and domestic workers from March next year.

Farmers threatened action if the matter was not reconsidered. Eastern Cape Agricultural Union manager Mr Rory O'Moore said the decision by the minister was unacceptable to the ECAU.

He said the government could expect no co-operation from farmers with the one-sided implementation of the labour legislation.

## Credible monitors

EXTENSIVE education and monitoring are necessary if labour laws for farm and domestic workers are to be effective, Black Sash national president Jeiny de Tolly said yesterday.

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*Sowetan 18/11/92*

*(2/12) (4)*

## in brief

*Sowetan 18/11/92*  
agricultural and domestic sectors.  
The Black Sash welcomed the reforms and was encouraged that the proposed legislative amendments resulted from negotiations between the Government and credible labour representatives.

*(2/12) (4)*

# Farmers, FW in frank talks

Own Correspondent

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attorneys to take steps against the ship's owners. — Sapa

## E Cape farmers at crisis point

Own Correspondent

**PORT ELIZABETH.** Drought-stricken farmers in the Eastern Cape are leaving their farms, while others retrench workers on a large scale in the wake of the worsening drought situation.

More than 40 farmers have applied for boreholes to be drilled on their farms under the emergency drilling scheme announced recently.

Though recent rains have brought much needed relief along the coastal areas, very little fell in the interior.

**Optimism but**

# ANC 'supports' commission'

Political Staff

THE ANC has given its full support to Mr Justice Richard Goldstone's call for his commission to be given the authority to investigate the functioning and operations of the SAP, uMkhonto weSizwe, Apla, the KwaZulu Police and certain security firms.

The government has said it is not opposed in principle to extending the commission's investi-

gative scope, but Constitutional Development Minister Mr Roelf Meyer said it would need to discuss with the judge "how far and exactly what kind of powers and authority he would need".

Judge Goldstone made the call after releasing information seized from a Military Intelligence (MI) establishment which indicated that convicted killer and former CCB member Ferdi Barnard had been employed by

MI to discredit the ANC.

"The ANC will provide whatever assistance is necessary to enable the Goldstone Commission to carry out the above task," the ANC said in a statement last night.

However, the PAC yesterday expressed its opposition to the call, saying the only body capable of addressing the issues objectively was a transitional authority.

## SADF admits using ex-Frelimo soldier

Political Staff

THE SADF admitted yesterday that it had "utilised" former Frelimo soldier Mr Jaoa Alberto Cuna but only as a "casual source" for the collection of information on the smuggling of weapons and arms caches.

Mr Cuna claimed recently he had taken part in the shooting of a house full of residents near Durban in March or April this year.

He told Vrye Weekblad newspaper he had been employed by a policeman, but subsequent Goldstone Commission investigations have revealed

that his hotel accommodation during a night in Maritzburg was paid for using a credit card linked to the Military Intelligence (MI) establishment.

The SADF said in a statement yesterday that it had only utilised Mr Cuna in July and August last year.

"Mr Cuna's allegations are being investigated by the Goldstone Commission and the SADF therefore cannot comment on these allegations," it added. Asked if the Mr "Boy" Schultz who allegedly hired Mr Cuna was a MI member, an SADF spokesman said: "We know nothing about Mr Schultz."

## 'Secret files not being guarded'

Staff Reporter

THE remainder of the files that the Goldstone Commission left behind at the Military Intelligence building it raided last Wednesday are not being guarded, according to commission secretary Mr Glen Cuthbertson.

Mr Justice Richard Goldstone yesterday declined to answer further questions about his startling report which implicated Military Intelligence in discrediting uMkhonto weSizwe (MK).

## Nixon set to receive millions

WASHINGTON. — Former president Mr Richard Nixon is set to receive millions of dollars in compensation after a federal court ruled that he should be paid for the seizure of his private records of Watergate.

Mr Nixon challenged a congress ruling impounding the documents and tapes, but lost.

He has continued to fight for compensation, which led to a ruling by the appeals court here that he should be reimbursed. — Telegraph

## 'R16m needed for returnees'

JOHANNESBURG. — About R16 million is needed to help 4 000 exiles ready to return to South Africa, but the exile committee NCCR has no money.

Repatriations have already cost R54m, with 14 000 former exiles and political prisoners now battling with unemployment and a housing shortage.

The NCCR has accused the government of being uninterested in the repatriations. — Sapa

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From page 1

SADF had lied when it said Barnard had never been in its employ.

It was expected the cabinet would accede to Judge Goldstone's plea to give his commission more powers, authority and co-operation and resources to properly investigate all public and private security forces and armies inside and outside the country.

With international and domestic pressure mounting, the cabinet, a source said, wanted to find the best way of being seen to act while keeping political heads out of the fray.

Even within the government's ranks there was protest at the Goldstone Commission's findings.

Ambassador to Washington Mr Harry Schwarz said he was "furious and outraged". The disclosures, he said, had undermined all the embassy's hard work.

The United States administration has called for the prosecution of those involved in the exposed covert operations.

Meanwhile, Mr De Klerk and the cabinet face the National Party's parliamentary caucus in Cape Town this morning.

Mr De Klerk, reeling under sharp attacks on the government's handling of the economy, will have to convince the caucus he is taking decisive action on the MI row as well as on the corruption in the independent states which was uncovered last week by the Parsons, De Meyer and Van der Heever commissions.

● Hopes that obstacles are being cleared to make way for negotiations gained ground yesterday when the ANC's "cabinet" adopted a discussion document that opts for a five-stage process of change and possible power-sharing with the NP.

This means the ANC plan and the government's proposals are now very similar and reinforces speculation that multi-party talks could resume soon.

The ANC's proposals included the formation of transitional executive councils, as agreed at Codesa II, elections for a constituent assembly, the adoption of a new constitution and transformation of South Africa into a democracy.

## Farmers and govt agree

JOHANNESBURG. — Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) have reached agreement on a process to legislate labour law for farm workers based on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

The agreement does not contradict Mr Wessels's earlier deal with Cosatu.

## Protest march: Bhutto arrested

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan. — Police arrested ousted prime minister Ms Benazir Bhutto yesterday after she and supporters broke through police barricades to lead a banned anti-government protest.

About 200 police surrounded Ms Bhutto and took her into custody along with other political leaders who once opposed but now supported her bid to oust the government of Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif. — Sapa-AP

# Attorney tells of assaults by farmer

4 APR 19/11/92

## Supreme Court Reporter

FORMER Bellville attorney Mr Francis Basson Slabber has applied to the Supreme Court for an interdict restraining his cousin, farmer Mr Johannes Melck of Vissershok, from assaulting him or his family members or swearing at them.

Mr Slabber, 41, of Strand, said in an affidavit that he had been involved in business transactions with his cousin since November, 1990.

He said that in November, 1991 Mr Melck brought an application for his sequestration, claiming he owed him R1,2 million.

Mr Slabber denied having owed Mr Melck money. He opposed had the application, but because of "circumstances beyond his control" he could not get hold of all the facts and the order was granted against him.

Mr Melck had also laid a charge of theft against him, claiming he had stolen R640 000 from him. These charges were still pending.

Mr Slabber said that since November, 1991, Mr Melck — a "big, strong aggressive person" — never missed an opportunity to threaten or insult him.

Mr Melck had bragged in the past about having shot dead a stock thief and a copper thief and threatened to shoot him if something went wrong in their business transactions.

He never doubted Mr Melck was deadly serious.

Between December last year and February he and his family had many anonymous telephone calls. He also found his telephone had been bugged.

On August 14, during the first meeting of his creditors, which he had to attend, Mr Melck accused him — during questioning under oath — of being "a thief, a crook and a pig".

Later Mr Melck punched him in the presence of the presiding officer.

Before the second meeting of creditors on November 3 a Mr J C E Kriel confronted him and said: "We know every word you say on the telephone. We will get you. We have already organised someone to get you in jail."

Mr Melck's brother also told him: "Today we are going to f... you up."

After the proceedings had started Mr Melck grabbed him by the hair, shook him and plucked out quite a lot of his hair, Mr Slabber claimed.

This caused him great pain and humiliation.

Afterwards Mr Melck punched him in the ribs.

He said he "fled" to the magistrate's office and later laid an assault charge with the police.

He feared what Mr Melck might do to him should he get him alone or at night.

Mr Justice Conradie postponed the application to December 8.

## Farmers relent on labour laws

6/09/92 19/11/92  
DIRK HARTFORD (4)

MANPOWER Minister Leon Wessels and the SA Agricultural Union have reached agreement on a process to legislate labour law for farm workers based on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

The agreement does not contradict Wessels' earlier deal with Cosatu over which the SAAU had lodged a strong protest.

Wessels said yesterday he was "overjoyed" and Cosatu welcomed the agreement which, it believed, would lead to the extension of the Wage Act and Labour Relations Act to farm workers.

The Manpower Department will publish a concept law for the extension of the two Acts to farm workers by the end of the year. All interested parties will have two months to comment and negotiations between these parties on the law may continue until the end of March, when Cabinet will decide whether the existing Acts will be extended or whether new legislation will be put to Parliament.

The only significant difference between this agreement and the Cosatu agreement is that the deadline for consultation is now the end instead of the beginning of March.

GERALD REILLY reports that SAAU president Boet Fourie said yesterday the union had been forced to agree to government passing "fair and appropriate" legislation if parties failed to reach consensus by March 31, but he warned this did not bind the SAAU to unqualified acceptance.



# Farmworkers' breakthrough

4  
ARC 19/1/92

## Important law reforms back on track

KEY law reforms for farmworkers are again on track.

The South African Agricultural Union has approved a government-brokered plan to extend labour laws to agriculture next year.

This breakthrough towards workplace protection for about 1,3 million workers on farms followed the personal intervention of President De Klerk on Tuesday.

Guarantees that the laws would not be passed summarily, but would be placed "back in the negotiation process" rekindled qualified SAAU support for the reforms.

"Discussion and negotiation regarding the establishment of adapted and practically applicable labour legislation for agriculture will now be resumed," SAAU president Mr Boet Fourie said in a statement.

Welcoming the agreement, Manpower Minister Leon Wessels said it had cleared the way for SAAU to become involved in a

comprehensive labour deal for agriculture next year.

This was made possible because the parties agreed to a process whereby labour laws based on the principles of free association and collective bargaining would be submitted to parliament early in 1993.

As a first step, draft laws extending the Labour Relations and Wage Acts to agriculture would be published for comment before December 31.

Interested parties, including the SAAU, would then be given two months to comment on the proposed amendments submitted by the Department of Manpower.

"The 'bona fide' negotiations between the interest groups will be able to continue until March 31. The Cabinet will then decide which legislation is to be put to parliament.

"A comprehensive labour dispensation for agriculture will consequently be enacted during the next parliamentary sitting, and implemented soon after," Mr Wessels said.

Tuesday's agreement followed vehement SAAU opposition to the government's recent announcement that farmworkers would be drawn into the scope of labour laws by the end of next year.

Mr Wessels said he would be meeting the SAAU tomorrow as planned, thanks to the new momentum in the process of negotiations.

Mr Fourie said if consensus was not reached by the March 31 cut-off date, the government would still pass legislation next year.

The SAAU had to agree to this, but it did not commit itself to the contents of this proposed legislation which, in principle, had to provide for negotiation and dispute-resolution at the lowest possible level.

The SAAU this week said it could reconsider meeting Mr Wessels as scheduled, saying it had been excluded from the November 6 reform accord between the government and Cosatu. — Sapa.

# Farm workers lose leading upliftment ally

**PATRICK FARRELL**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

JAN "Boland" Coetzee, former Springbok rugby player and a founder member of the Rural Foundation, has stepped down as deputy chairman.

Mr Coetzee said it was time for new blood in the foundation, which is dedicated to uplifting farm workers and creating a better future for all rural people — the "forgotten population" — in South Africa.

In December 1982, he and a few colleagues founded the Rural Foundation, which today has as members 3 400 farmers who employ more than 107 000 workers.

Foundation chairman Mr Frans Malan paid tribute to the man known to thou-

(4) ARG 21/11/92  
sands as "Boland", and said he had worked tirelessly for a better life for farm workers and their families.

Mr Coetzee said the foundation had grown from an informal group to a professional organisation that channeled millions of rands into programmes, ranging from management skills for farmers to tractor maintenance courses for their employees.

He said the highlights of the past 10 years included the Rural Foundation's primary health-care programme, the crèche programmes and productivity courses.

"From a 50 percent pass among farm primary school children we now have a 90 percent pass in some areas," he said.

Sport also played an important role in

the rural areas and Mr Coetzee said the Rural Foundation's mini-cricket programme might just be responsible for producing a few of the country's future Springboks.

"Some of our farm workers who have taken up running through our sports programme have competed in the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon." He said he wanted to spend more time with his family, but he would not turn his back on the foundation.

"I have some projects I will be working on in conjunction with the Rural Foundation.

"These will include the establishment of farm villages and the important question of land ownership for farm workers."

**Farmers agree  
on labour laws**

PRETORIA. — The South African Agricultural Union has agreed to a practical programme of negotiating and implementing labour laws for farmworkers next year, Manpower Ministry spokesman Mr Johan Smit said.

The agreement followed constructive and cordial talks between the farmers' union and the Minister of Manpower, Mr Leon Wessels, yesterday. — Sapa

# New laws could bring job havoc

S Times (Buss) 22/11/92 ~~2/11/92~~ (4)

TENS of thousands of jobs are at risk if labour legislation affecting domestic and farm workers is implemented next year.

About 3.5-million people — about 40% of the workforce — are not formally employed. Another 300 000 enter the job market each year. Trade unions are trying to extend minimum wages and other labour regulations to 1.9-million domestic and farm workers.

By CIARAN RYAN

Economists, the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) and the World Bank have warned that labour regulations which set minimum wages hamper economic growth. SBDC economist Edwin Basson says: "If present trends continue, we will be able to create only a fraction of the jobs we need to employ entrants to the market each year. Over-regulation raises barriers to entry for small businesses."

## Sick

Dr Basson says rising labour costs force industrialists into capital-intensive industries. The Reserve Bank has identified the rapid rise in the cost of labour as a key cause of inflation. Labour practices in the formal sector of the economy are regulated by 12 industrial councils and 27 wage determination agreements. The industrial councils represent about 800 000 workers countrywide, down from 1.27-million 10 years ago.

## Job threat

From Page 1  
can deregulate all you like, but by not having these laws, you are not creating jobs.

"We need to raise workers' living standards while creating jobs elsewhere in the economy by investigating new growth paths." The SA Agricultural Union says minimum wages will hurt employment on farms. Although figures cannot be accurately predicted, up to 10% — or 100 000 — farm jobs could at risk.

National Manpower Commission chairman Frans Barker says nearly 34% of economically active people are subject to some form of minimum wage or statutory compensation. The percentage rises to 51% if the non-farming sector is excluded.

A major problem in applying minimum pay to domestic employers is the inability of employers to pass on wage costs and increases in the same way a business can. Dr Basson says: "Another problem will be to enforce and police these regulations. It could result in a huge grey market for labour."

22/11/92 (SMA) COM 1/5

to comply with the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Wages Act, Unemployment Insurance Act and the Labour Relations Act. They will have to pay minimum wages, unemployment insurance, leave and sick pay and other benefits if the unions have their way.

Dr Basson says: "Depending on the level of minimum wages agreed on, there could be a disastrous impact on employment, particularly among domestic workers. With 40% out-of-work the last thing we need is more unemployment. We need to create jobs, not make those who have them richer."

Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman says: "Domestic and farm workers are the last remnants of feudal, apartheid employment practices. There may be some reduction in employment when these laws come into effect, but it has been happening for some time on farms. Why should these workers be barred from the same rights as other workers? You

④  
E/DAW 23/1/72

**Farm labour deal row**

THE 300 000-strong Federation of Independent Trade Unions (Fitu) is "greatly concerned" about the deal struck between Cosatu, the SA Agriculture Union and Manpower Minister Leon Wessels. Fitu president Martin Deysel said it degraded the National Manpower Commission. He objected to Wessels consulting only Cosatu.



Two-year-old weighing 10,8Kg. Lebowa September 1992. (We are not allowed to name the hospital)  
Pic: NANCY DURRELL MCKENNA

# IDT vows to probe farmer's activities

*Sowetan 24/11/92*  
**Trust admits some farmers are abusing drought funds:**

**By Mathatha Tsedu** (4)  
 Investigations Editor

THE co-ordinator of the rural relief programme for the IDT, Mr Johan Badenhorst, has promised an investigation into Botha's case.

He said the IDT trusted that pay sheets signed by workers (who are invariably illiterate) were genuine. The pay sheets are the only proof the IDT had that all monies due to workers were spent on them.

Badenhorst said many farmers were misusing the programme by using workers for their own farm needs instead of community development projects such as water provision, roads and building schools.

Many applications from farmers, on behalf of their workers, had been turned down as worker inputs were necessary, he said. In many instances, he said, they had found that workers were not aware of the applications and farmers had used foremen to sign applications without involving workers.

Also, farmers were not co-operating with field workers who were seen as "instigators and trouble makers". A meeting is to be held with the Rural Development Foundation in Pietersburg this morning to deal with complaints from farmers, Badenhorst said.

He said, however, that some farmers were using the scheme correctly to train their workers and upgrade their living conditions.

Badenhorst said retrenched farm workers who were now destitute, such as Monamola, could also apply to his organisation and they would be able to



Three-year-old Hendrick Ncamane is a typical kwashiorkor victim, with distended stomach and cracking skin.

assist them in terms of the job creation scheme for community development.

Badenhorst said efforts were underway to hire more monitors to deal with the abuses and said the situation was "bad".

# Farmer denies sacking workers

*Sowetan 24/11/92*  
**BREACHING RULES** IDT books and

farmer's story don't tally: (4)

**By Mathatha Tsedu**  
 Investigations Editor

MRS Karina Botha, wife of the farm owner, met us as we were still asking her employees where we could locate her and her husband.

Jittery at first about our presence, she told us her husband was not in. She, however, said the drought had ravaged their crop. The cherries that were usually harvested until late December were already gone.

It had been a terrible time but they had only had to retrench "a small number of people", she said. The rain would help the peach crop, as will the assistance from the IDT (Independent Development Trust) which they were now receiving for employees' wages.

We saw some of the workers doing their normal chores on the farm, with none seemingly engaged in community-related work programmes.

When eventually I spoke to Botha, he denied that he had retrenched any worker. He said Monamola and his colleagues were "never in my employ".

He said he would not take them back but denied that he had banned them from coming in to take their belongings. He said it was the "court".

When told that the people had not been charged, Botha said it may have been the police. He confirmed that he was getting money from the IDT for wages. They were paying R5 a worker a day, he said.

He said he only had 16 workers for whom the IDT was paying R5 a day and he did not need more than that number to run



This child in a hospital in Transkei is another victim of malnutrition.

his farm.

But IDT records show that he was receiving R7 a worker a day and for 25 workers. These are made up of 11 men and 14 women.

Botha has received R15 750 for the wages of 25 workers for three months.

In terms of IDT rules, workers receiving wages from the relief funds should be engaged in community work such as water supply and containment, roads and rural business development.

We were not able to see anything on Botha's farm that related to these specifications.





# focus on drought

By **Mathatha Tsedu**  
Investigations Editor



**C**LOCOLAN, a town in the eastern Free State, is like the real back of the beyond when you are travelling from Johannesburg.

Ravaged by the recent drought, it has a deceptive green layer now that the rains have fallen.

It is a layer that also conceals the misery of the thousands of farm workers who have lost their jobs and homes as a result of the drought.

Workers such as Mr Johannes Monamola (54), until July this year of Nebo farm. Born and bred on the farm, Monamola is a fifth generation in his family at Nebo.

He started working in 1952, earning 25 cents a month. By July this year, when he was told to leave, he was earning R30 a month.

Today, Monamola wanders around the province, looking for a place to stay. When he was evicted on July 7, the new owner of the farm, Mr Piet Botha, called the police.

"They arrived and threw teargas at us. I had never known of this thing. We were coughing and crying and the police arrested seven of us and took us to Clocolan," Monamola said.

A very simple and down to earth man, he said he could not understand what had happened.

"I have stayed there all my life. I do not know any other place as home. My roots are there and my ancestors' graves are also there.

"I had even built a school in the area to ensure that our children get some education," he said, shaking his head.

Monamola and his comrades stayed in jail for two days and were released without being charged.

"The police told us not to ever go to Nebo. Our families were there. Everything we had was there," he said.

A day after his release, the police had raided Nebo and arrested everyone, women and children included.

They were released a day later and also issued with "banning" orders not to set foot on Nebo.

None of them has been there since. They are staying with sympathisers at the Hlohlolwane township outside Clocolan.

"When a man expels you like we were, where are we expected to go? Is it right that we cannot even collect our things?

"I left my clothes, my three cattle, chicken, pigs and other things there. Where am I supposed to live with my children? In the sky? When police lock you up just like that, where do you go? You tell me, because maybe you are educated and you understand these things.

"As far as I am concerned, white people are

Drought has devastated the land and slashed the economy but few realise the heartbreaking plight of the farm workers whose families have lived on farms for generations and are now being evicted with nowhere to go: Sowetan 24/11/92



Mr Johannes Manamola (54) was fired, arrested and expelled from Nebo farm in Clocolan in the eastern Free State.



Feeding the hungry and dying is a daily chore for Mrs Judith Mokgehle, Operation Hunger's Free State regional director.

very very bad. I gave these people my life and now I am thrown out like a dog, to wander and die in the street. It is very bad and I feel very very bitter about it," Monamola said almost in tears.

We took Monamola to his home which he had not seen or visited for about five months.

It was clear that the police treatment had had a lasting effect on him. He was reluctant to get out of the car and was shaking visibly as we walked towards his house.

His chicken and pigs were still there but he was breathing hard - from fear of being found there by either Botha or the police.

We parted with him as we went into Botha's house. He hurriedly got into another car travelling with us and waved briefly before looking straight ahead.

He was in a turmoil.

The group is being fed by Operation Hunger

and has been given sites by the Hlohlolwane Civic Association. They cannot build as they have nothing. Even their old materials are still at Nebo.

Operation Hunger's regional director, Mrs Judith Mokgehle, said close to 300 000 former farm workers who have been kicked off farms are squatting near towns.

"They are a pathetic lot and we have cash constraints in dealing with them," she said.

Children suffering from malnutrition are the major source of concern. Battered stomachs, cracked skin and emaciated infants are the order of the day in these areas.

"It is now feared that children may start dying in large numbers while State finances allocated to drought relief are being squandered by corrupt State officials and farmers," she said.

# Nactu urges Govt to reject demands

*Sowetan 24/11/92*  
■ Farmers want to be exempted from Industrial Court in  
disputes with their farm workers: (4) ~~(14)~~

**By Ike Motsapi**

THE National Council of Trade Unions urged the Government to reject farmers' demand that they be exempted from arbitration, conciliation, boards or Industrial Courts in disputes with their workers.

Nactu was reacting to the farmers' demands after meeting State President F W De Klerk in Pretoria last week.

The farmers told De Klerk they wanted pending legislation to extend labour rights to domestic and farm workers to "relegate dispute resolution to only between the farmers and the workers".

Mr Mudini Maivha, Nactu's information and publicity officer, said: "My union is of the opinion that the extension of these rights to farm workers is long overdue.

"These rights are part of their universal human rights and international labour standards.

"Farm workers have been the most exploited section of the working class in South Africa.

"To confine dispute resolution to farmers and workers only will be defeating the objective of establishing sound industrial relations in the farming industry.

"This will disadvantage the farm workers whose level of training in trade union rights is still low.

"Nactu believes that the labour movement must carry out a vigorous education and training programme for farm workers.

"The suggestion that the extension of labour rights to farm workers could open the way for strikes in the industry is an arrogant one," Maivha said.



# New law delayed to let union have 'fair say'

④  
ARG 25/11/92

**SHARON SOROUR**  
Labour Reporter and Sapa

SOUTH Africa's 1,3 million farmworkers can expect improved protection under the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act when it becomes law next April.

The Act was originally to be implemented by March 1 in terms of an agreement between the government and Cosatu, but this was postponed for 30 days after the giant farmers' union, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), voiced strong objections to the "one-sided" agreement.

Government then assured the SAAU it would have a fair say in drafting the law.

According to Manpower Ministry spokesman Mr Johan Smit, the Act was theoretically open to more amendments, in spite of lengthy negotiations and Parliament's acceptance of its extension to agriculture.

But, he said, it would definitely become law by March 31.

"The postponement will allow Cosatu time to consider the SAAU's proposals for a separate agricultural labour statute, while giving the SAAU the opportunity to submit changes it wants to the Act.

"They have two months in which to do this, by February 28. The government then has until March 31 to consider all the submissions (on the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act, and the Labour Relations and Wage Acts). After that, the government decides what happens."

Cosatu spokesman Ms Lisa Seftel said the federation accepted the delay as it did not affect its November 6 labour rights' accord with the government.

SAAU director Mr Piet Swart said the union hoped to have the Act tailored to meet the specific needs of agriculture, while still maintaining a balance between the interests of employers and employees.

Mr Swart said the SAAU saw the forthcoming negotiations as an opportunity to reach consensus on laws applicable to the special circumstances of agriculture.

# Information withheld from police — Verster

FORMER CCB MD Joe Verster told then Defence Minister Magnus Malan, and an SADF internal inquiry, of claims that Ferdi Barnard had gunned down David Webster, the Webster inquest was told yesterday.

However, the SAP investigation team into the 1989 murder had not been told of these claims implicating the former CCB operative in the killing, Verster said.

A typed transcript of Verster's earlier testimony, given in camera to protect his identity, states that on a question by State advocate Jannie van Vuuren about what information was supplied to Malan on July 13 1990, Verster replied: "That I think it is, that we think it is Barnard, because he said so, but it is hearsay and I have no facts to base it on."

## Suspicion

He said repeatedly during his testimony that he was "talking under correction".

He told Judge M Stegmann that after the Webster murder he had a faint suspicion that Barnard, then dismissed from the CCB, could have been involved in the killing. This suspicion was passed on to Gen Jaap Joubert of the SAP.

"Gen Joubert told me to keep in mind that Barnard was one of our own people and that Barnard was a good person. His father was in the police," Verster said.

Information of Barnard's alleged involvement that was received later — in the form of Barnard's confession to his CCB handler Lafras Luitingh and an anonymous telephone call to Verster — was not passed

STEPHANE BOTHMA

on to the police, Verster testified.

"I did disclose this information, in terms of the Defence Act procedures, to a (internal) board of inquiry," he said.

Verster, who personally dismissed Barnard from the CCB after a breach of security, said in spite of several pointers, he believed Barnard's alleged involvement in the Webster murder was "nonsense".

Before Verster started his testimony behind closed doors last Friday, his advocate J-J Wessels told the inquest: "It is our brief that Verster will answer all questions regarding his knowledge of the murder of Webster."

"However, Verster is not prepared to answer any questions regarding the CCB, because any answer could possibly incriminate him.

"Our brief is that Verster stresses that the activities of the CCB at all times were aimed at the enemies of SA and that the activities at all times were approved by the superior hierarchy.

"Because of changing politics and the continued existence of Umkontho we Sizwe, Verster is currently in the position of not being able to rely on the support of his former superiors and has to look after his own interests and therefore cannot talk freely. Even indemnity will not guarantee his personal safety," Wessels said.

The judge has been asked by representatives of the Webster Trust to consider the subpoena of Malan, now Water Affairs and Forestry Minister, to testify at the inquest.

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AND

## Farmers 'exploiting cross-border workers'

BIDM 25/11/92 MICHAEL HARTNACK (4)

HARARE — Northern Transvaal farmers were illegally employing Zimbabwean "border jumpers" and handing them to the SA Police when they asked for wages, Harare's Daily Gazette newspaper reported yesterday.

Vincent Zulu said he was recently deported from SA and knew of many others who were victimised by miserly commercial farmers.

"In my case, I was working at a farm but when I demanded my salary I was handed over to police who detained me for a week while I waited for the next truck home," Zulu said in Plumtree, western Matabeleland.

An average of 50 people are deported back to Zimbabwe each week from the Transvaal, but most return immediately "because they find the prospects of securing jobs locally next to zero", said the newspaper. SA and Botswana have jointly deported 3 685 people from southern Matabeleland since August, police statistics show.

With Christmas only a month away, the number of Zimbabweans seeking to cross legally to SA has soared. The queue outside the SA trade mission in central Harare for visas for "shopping trips" reached record lengths yesterday, extending 400m into the street.

"I cannot be expected to sit at home and wait for something to happen," said Zulu, announcing his intention to try to infiltrate back into the Transvaal via Botswana. "I need to eat, but there is no food at home. We really do not mind what we do there as long as we get something to keep us going."

The Daily Gazette yesterday quoted an official of Zimbabwe's Domestic and Allied Workers' Union, Adams Verenga, who said 90% of black Zimbabwean employers paid less than the government's R81 a month minimum wage for domestic servants.

# Up to 7 000 farmers 'are likely to be sequestered'

BETWEEN 5 000 and 7 000 farmers were likely to be sequestered this year as a result of the drought and subsidy cuts, swelling the ranks of the unemployed by up to 100 000, a leading development official said yesterday.

IDT drought consultant Steyn du Plessis said R3,8bn allocated by government to agricultural relief aid over the next three years was biased in favour of commercial farmers, but would ultimately work against them.

Much of the money was being used to liquidate credit guarantees, pointing to a significant reduction of government subsidisation of agricultural credit support, he said.

Du Plessis said the IDT had appointed auditors to investigate the allocation of money from a R9,65m fund to farmers for the subsidisation of labour. It has been reported that farmers have been fraudulently claiming for non-existent labourers.

Du Plessis said field inspectors from the IDT and the Rural Foundation, which had been appointed to channel relief money to farmers, would check all farmers who were benefiting from the scheme.

The subsidy of R7 a day per labourer had to be used to improve the conditions of farm workers and could not be allocated to commercial farming. The scheme applied to farmers who would have laid off workers.

RAY HARTLEY

"We aren't prepared to sacrifice the (employment creation) programme because of potential discrepancies committed by individuals who commit fraud."

Meanwhile, the Consultative Forum on Drought's agricultural task force has sent government a seven-point memorandum on how to improve the allocation of relief.

The forum is an alliance of government and development agencies.

Government has allocated R5m to "retaining the services of full-time labourers". This is in contrast to the R226m set aside for the payment of "carryover debt" and the R229m allocated for "interest subsidy: new production credit".

"The allocation of resources is biased in favour of the white commercial farming sector," the task force said. "In particular this bias in allocations and a lack of sensitivity to the range of agricultural activity in SA is reflected in the lack of explicit allocations for subsistence farmers, small farmers, tenant farmers and black spot communities."

Assistance had to be made conditional on "suitable labour and environmental policies being upheld".

Latest government statistics show the Agricultural Credit Board ap-

proved 207 applications for subsidisation of labour and rejected 25.

About R349 000 has been paid to assist farm workers, while R84m has been paid for grain storage.

Sapa reports that Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Bruwer said last night the TAU would not permit inspections of members' farms by organisations such as the Rural Foundation.

He said the union dismissed claims of a drought relief scandal with "disgust". "The members of the union are responsible people who produce food for all the people in SA."

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said last night the mainly black rural population was being saved from the disastrous consequences of drought by tens of millions of rands in government aid.

Reacting to allegations that most drought aid was going to whites, with only R200m allocated to 15-million blacks, he denied claims of mismanagement of aid funds.

Van Niekerk said commercial farming supported 1,2-million mostly black workers and their 5,5-million dependents.

Up to end-August, R20m in food aid schemes had benefited 26 073 families consisting of 140 533 people of whom more than 78 000 were children, 97% of them black.

Part of the programme would be to invite political parties to workshops where they could discuss their aims and objectives with rural people.

Depending on finances, he said the programme would get going in the first quarter of next year.

# Farm labour to be taught 'political<sup>④</sup> literacy'

ARG 28/11/92

■ Although most farm workers are poorly educated, they should not be neglected or taken advantage of when it comes to politics, says a rural group.

**PATRICK FARRELL**, Weekend Argus Reporter

FARM workers in South Africa will soon be exposed to the intricacies of politics in an effort to make them more "politically literate".

The Rural Foundation, a country-wide group dedicated to informing farm workers, is approaching other organisations to get help for the programme which they are hoping to launch early next year.

Mr Oekie Bosman, chief executive officer of the foundation, said people could be manipulated by politicians, so the Rural Foundation felt it had a duty to help the community "become aware of their rights and responsibilities".

He said about 72 percent of farm workers were "functionally illiterate".

"Added to this, many of the people are isolated and have no idea what is going on in the cities."

He pointed out that only 10 percent of workers country-wide had access to a television, and the isolation of workers meant that books and newspapers were not easily available.

"The political process in South Africa is being changed and it is possible that very soon farm workers, like the rest of the population, will be able to vote for central as well as local government.

"But, they have never taken part in the political process and have no political experience.

"Meaningful numbers of the population are engaged in rural work and we, as a non-partisan organisation, have the infrastructure and experience to reach this population."

Two staff already have attended a course on voter-training and the foundation is approaching various organisations, including those in other countries like Namibia, to get more information on "voting in a rural situation".

"Illiterate people would need a symbol or colour to identify candidates and we are looking at ways to make sure they are accommodated in future voting procedures."

He said most political parties were urban-based and neglected the rural community.

"Even if the job is too big for us, we feel we can make a contribution towards sound democracy in South Africa."

Mr Bosman said the first part of the programme would deal with the procedure of voting and how to get an ID book.

The Rural Foundation was a neutral organisation that had at its heart the well-being of the rural people.

He said: "We have been approached by political parties to help them in the rural areas, but we have always refused because we are non-partisan."

He said the foundation's first responsibility would be towards the 4 000 member-farms, but they would also help farmers who did not belong to their organisation.

# Lifestyle dangers down on the farm

■ Researchers trying to establish whether long-term exposure to pesticides might be harming farm workers have made some discoveries about the labourers' lifestyles. (4) ARG 28/11/92

**PATRICK FARRELL**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

A RECENTLY completed study into the health of farm workers exposed to agricultural chemicals has highlighted another problem they face — the high alcohol abuse of certain farming communities.

The study was carried out from August last year on 44 Western Cape farms by researchers from the University of Stellenbosch's Department of Toxicology at Tygerberg, headed by senior specialist Dr Gerbus Müller.

He said: "There has been an increase in awareness and concern about the harmful effects of pesticides on the health of farm workers who are exposed to years of spraying."

One group of 134 men involved in spraying was compared to another of 51 workers in the same region and

age group, who worked in packing sheds and were not exposed to chemicals.

Researchers measured an enzyme in the blood, cholinesterase, which is highly sensitive to compounds like organophosphates, the most common type of pesticide.

The researchers had hoped that if the chemicals were effecting the farm workers it would be picked up in the enzyme tests, but the study did not show any abnormalities in either the exposed or unexposed groups.

Dr Müller said: "By the end of the study we could not find any clear-cut indications of overexposure to organophosphates. But, it must be pointed out that these results were obtained using this method, which is not as accurate as certain other methods, like urine testing."

But, what the study did reveal was the prevalence of "unhealthy lifestyle habits" like smoking and high alcohol intake among the farm workers.

# Tenant labourers 'entitled to land'

STAR 28/11/92

**PHILEMON Maseko's** battle against eviction from the land on which his family had lived and worked for generations cost him his life.

The tenant labourer successfully challenged the notice delivered to him by Johannes Moolman-Meyer, who owned the farm Rietvlei near Piet Retief in Natal.

But days after Maseko's victory he was gunned down, when a "posse" of white farmers confronted him on the smallholding he occupied.

Although several people witnessed the January shooting, police have still not arrested anyone.

Lawyers representing Maseko's family believe this illustrates the tensions which are growing in the battle between black and white over access to land. They say a drastic revision of South Africa's property and land laws is necessary to stave off disaster.

The number of tenant labourers evicted during the past year by farmers who fear their workers might make a claim to their smallholdings under a new government has multiplied.

Under the tenant labour sys-

**LAWYERS say a drastic revision of South Africa's property and land laws is necessary to stave off a social disaster on an unprecedented scale.**  
**BRENDAN TEMPLETON reports.**

tem, workers are employed by a farmer — without wages — in return for being allowed to work a piece of land for themselves on his property.

Calls to give these smallholdings to the families that have worked them for generations have given farmers the jitters.

## **Stacked**

Now evictions have been coming fast and furious and tensions are building up, especially in the Piet Retief area, where peasant farmers have rigorously resisted evictions for years.

But the present legal system is stacked against them.

Although human rights lawyers initially overturned eviction notices with a measure of success, the tide has turned.

Farmers have cottoned on to the notion that if three months' notice is given, tenant workers

can be evicted without difficulty.

The Maseko family's lawyer, Murray Hawthorne of the Legal Resources Centre, believes a year's notice should be given.

However, he says lawyers have argued this case with little success in the courts.

Their argument is based on the fact that tenant farmers are paid only once a year — when they harvest the crop on their smallholdings.

The courts' failure to recognise this means they are in an extremely vulnerable position. Losing their land means tenant workers also lose almost all the wealth their families have built up over generations.

Sources at Wits University's Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) say they believe these plots should be given to tenant workers because they have been prevented from buy-

ing land under apartheid laws.

The fact that they have worked these plots for many years means they should be entitled to ownership, they say.

Aninka Claasens of CALS believes the tensions of the Maseko case will increase a hundredfold if a climate conducive to resolving conflict over land is not created soon.

The tenant-labour struggle is part of a far larger battle over land. It is being waged just as fiercely in urban areas where the homeless, many of them driven in from rural areas, are simply occupying vacant land.

## **Disputes**

"At the moment, the Government cannot contain land disputes. People are simply squatting on land that is standing empty.

"Even though the Government has the police, all the repressive land laws in its arsenal and even the army behind it, it cannot stabilise these situations or protect white farmers," Claasens says.

The situation is not indicative of a rebellion but rather of a massive group of people who have been driven to desperate measures by the need to find a place to live, she says.

# 'Dorpie democracy' claims its victims

By Diane Coetzer

**A**NC members and communities in far-flung rural communities continue to face repression on a scale akin to that of the mid-eighties.

Over the past weeks, SOUTH has been inundated with calls from communities desperate to highlight their struggle for free political activity.

Earlier this month, advice office workers in the Karoo town of Murraysburg told how ANC members were victimised by members of the police force and the white community, many of whom continued to call them "kaffirs" and "hotnots".

A young girl from Villiersdorp was shot in October allegedly by a white farmer for trespassing on a strawberry farm.

Villiersdorp also hit the headlines this year. In May two boys caught stealing a sausage were assaulted by the shop owner. He tied them to a telephone pole and hung a sign around their necks. The sign read: "I am a thief. I steal."

In another Karoo town, Aberdeen, situated between Graaff-Reinet and Beaufort West, things are no better.

ANC Youth League secretary Mr Kenneth Mkoko said: "We are being harassed by the SAP and are not allowed any free political activity."

He alleged that ANC members

had been detained without reason and released without being charged. He said policemen often fired their weapons without reason.

"When we attempt to have meetings the SAP make their presence felt in the vicinity of the meeting and people are then afraid to attend."

Mkoko also alleged widespread exploitation in a community where breadwinners earn no more than R60 a week.

Many members of the 400-strong community were unemployed, he said.

The Western Cape region of the ANC has expressed its concern at the victimisation of rural communities by "the regime".

Regional assistant secretary of the ANC Mr Willie Hofmeyr said: "Small communities in rural areas are frequently totally at the mercy of local officials, police and the right-wing white community and have neither the resources nor the mobilising strength to wage an effective struggle."

Hofmeyr said the organisation was attempting to address the problem.

Where branches are strong and organised, the ANC had set up good communications networks.

Where local structures were weak, the task was more difficult and the organisation tried to ensure that its rural organisers remained in contact with as many areas as possible and that they worked closely with other

organisations to strengthen these structures.

In the past year, ANC executive members Dr Allan Boesak, Mr Jan van Eck, Mr Neville van der Rheede and Mr Jannie Mornberg have toured areas like Britstown, Camarvon and Groot Brak.

"On these rural visits we also meet with community leaders and assist with local problems as much as possible," said Hofmeyr.

"The most recent example is the way we were able to help the West Coast fisherman to bargain for a better deal with the lobster quota holders."

Hofmeyr said of particular concern to the ANC are reports that the NP is using intimidatory tactics to sign up farmworkers in rural areas.

"In De Doorns, for example, workers were trucked in by local farmers and told that they would be dismissed if they did not join the NP."

"This kind of intimidation of poor people, who depend entirely on their jobs for survival, is outrageous and is one of the strongest supporting arguments for the ANC's call for widespread monitoring of the election process."

~~SECRET~~ SOUTH 28/11-2/12/92

# 'Hotnot' remark: Farmworker demands R12 500 as settlement

By Diane Coetzer

A BOLAND farmer may find himself in the Cape Town Supreme Court being sued for unfair dismissal if he fails to reinstate a farmworker he fired two months ago.

Brandenburg Farm owner Mr Koos Visser has until the end of November to reinstate Mr Frans Maarman, if he wants to avoid a civil case.

Visser has to allow Maarman to move back into his house on the farm and has to pay him R110 in outstanding wages and R5 000 in damages for allegedly defamatory statements.

Farm manager Mr Dirk van Zyl also has until the end of November to pay Maarman R7

500 in damages for allegedly assaulting and defaming him.

The Legal Resources Centre, is acting on behalf of Maarman, and has given his employers the option of either meeting these demands, or being sued in court.

The LRC alleges that Visser was in breach of an employment agreement when he fired Maarman and that he failed to pay Maarman all wages owing to him.

It is also alleged that the farmer said to Maarman: "Luis-ter hierso, jy is hoekal 'n opstoker en 'n ANC. Jy moet maak dat jy van my plaas af kom."

If formal legal proceedings go ahead, claims against Visser and Van Zyl would fall under the

common law. Until the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill is promulgated and the Labour Relations Act extended to farmworkers, this sector is not protected by any labour legislation.

The claims arise out of an incident on the farm in September when Maarman was allegedly beaten, verbally abused and later fired.

Maarman was carrying out his duties on the sheep farm when Van Zyl allegedly said to him: "Jy moet die skaap reg hou. Ek donner jou, hotnot".

Van Zyl also allegedly assaulted Maarman by hitting him across the face with an open hand, causing him to collapse to the ground.



# Rural women focus on development needs

By Jo-Anne Collinge

STAR 30/11/92.  
The annual general meeting of the Rural Women's Movement (RWM) saw delegates from about 30 communities taking their first steps to register the demands of rural women

on the constitution-makers.

Meeting near Tarlton, west of Johannesburg, about 200 delegates at the weekend told representatives of the Women's National Coalition that the Women's Charter was the focus of their

(Roba) (4)  
campaign to influence the constitution-making process.

Women from the rural areas made it plain that their demands centred on development issues — water to drink and to use in productive work; education; health care; and

job creation. (3254)

Another burning issue was that of land. Rural women felt they had to have land rights. The women spoke strongly about customary laws which oppress them in marriage.

# R150m for rural project

④ CT 30/11/92

## Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Kagiso Trust, the IDT and the Development Bank of Southern Africa have co-operated formally for the first time with a R150-million water and sanitation programme in rural and semi-urban areas, according to a weekend statement.

The co-operation comes two years after the De Loor report recommended the rationalisation of development institutions.

Development Bank managing director Mr André la Grange said yesterday the Kagiso Trust secured R48,5m from the EC, and this was matched by the IDT, over a three-year period. The bank offered operational support of R3m and a loan of R48,5m.

Mr La Grange said the bank's loan would be spent on developing a water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

The EC's concern about the drought was one of the reasons why the supply of water was the first area of co-operation between the three organisations.

He said the community-based programme would increase the capacity of non-government organisations to help marginalised communities.

The statement said although the money was not enough to solve the problems deprived communities have with water and sanitation, it started to acknowledge "the historical imbalances in the provision of such services".

"It is, therefore, an important step in alleviating the cycle of poverty."

# Showdown at High Noon fruit farm

Sowetan 2/12/92

ABOUT 150 workers at the High Noon fruit farm near Villiersdorp downed tools on Monday after a local labour leader was arrested for alleged intimidation, Ovenstone Farms managing director Mr Arthur Kemp confirmed.

Workers demanded that police release a former High Noon employee, Mr Petrus Motsamayi, who was still in custody on Monday after being arrested on Thursday.

Motsamayi had also been dismissed "for threatening two members of our management staff with necklacing", said Kemp.

African National Congress Villiersdorp spokesman Mr Thomas Jansen said workers were upset because High Noon management had not taken

## Workers down tools after labour leader is arrested for intimidation:

up the incident with the workers committee on the farm.

Motsamayi, being held in Caledon prison, was a member of the workers committee and was also active in the ANC.

Jansen said he and three ANC representatives were ordered off the farm on Sunday when they tried to address the workers. They continued their meeting on a road outside the farm watched by police and farmers.

A Stellenbosch attorney acting for Motsamayi claimed his client had been evicted from the farm on Thursday.

### ANC concerned about farm labour issue

THE ANC yesterday expressed concern that government had reopened the debate on the provision of basic conditions of employment to farm workers.

The ANC said the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) had been less than impressive on the rights of farm workers, while other bodies

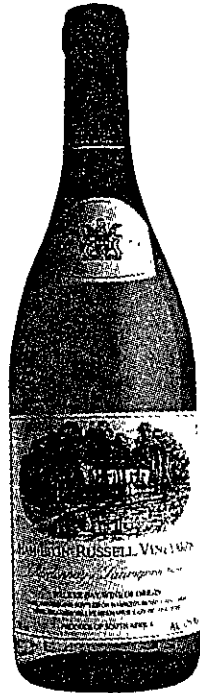
**DIRK HARTFORD**

— like Unifruco and the Cane Growers' Association — had welcomed the extension of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to farm workers. It criticised the SAAU for its "badly conceived and incomplete proposals" and said Manpower Minister

Leon Wessels should not erode minimum standards for farm workers because of pressure from sections of the farming community.

The ANC said the SAAU should depart from its "antiquated vision of employees" and develop a new vision of agricultural labour relations.

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*Chardonnay /  
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### Bester Homes under provisional liquidation

*B10M 4/12/92* PETER GALLI

BESTER Homes has been placed in provisional liquidation after an application in the Pretoria Supreme Court by its major creditor, Absa.

This follows months of market speculation about the property developer's ability to meet its obligations.

Bester Homes' issued share capital of R200 is held by JSE-listed Bester Investments, which was suspended by the exchange yesterday.

Executive chairman Theunis Bester said yesterday total interest-bearing loans amounted to about R139m.

Bester Homes owed Absa R68m through Trust Bank (R64,1m) and Volkskas (R4,15m). The firm was liable for another R35m, due on demand for sureties on behalf of companies in the Bester group, adding up to a total debt to Absa of R108,1m. Boland and First National Bank are the other major creditors.

"The Bester Investments 1992 annual report stated that the group was already technically insolvent and a scheme of arrangement was being considered by its creditors," Bester said. As they were unable to reach agreement it was decided that the company would be placed in provisional liquidation.

An Absa spokesman said yesterday that the Bester group had not paid interest on its debt since November 1991. "Most of its assets are non-income generating and the fear is that it could start to eat into its assets to service its debts ... eroding security held by banks."

Bester said the group had stopped doing new business. It was honouring existing obligations, including completion of two retirement homes in the Cape. It was likely that the liquidators would have to use some of the company's unsecured assets as security for a loan or to sell to fund completion of the developments, Bester said.

He was optimistic that a scheme of arrangement could be reached. "We valued our land holdings at R350m, but present market conditions are making it almost impossible to sell."

Absa was awaiting a response to the provisional liquidation application, which was unopposed.

The return date was set for January 12. Bester Homes' end-February balance sheet put current assets at R206m against current liabilities and provisions of R196m — R141,2m for overdrafts, loans and acceptances.

**150 farmworkers return** (4)

27/4/12/92

ABOUT 150 workers at a Villiersdorp apple farm, High Noon, returned to work yesterday after a four-day strike over the release of an arrested colleague.

# Demand for bet

SPAR 4/12/92

*Eden*

*4*

**T**HE parting exchange could have been scripted for the New South Africa. "Thank you for organising the demonstration so well... for the good discipline," said the government representative. "We will thank you when our demands are met," responded the community leader.

As they left the sturdy brick clinic, to face a crowd of placard-bearing women waiting expectantly in the burning noon sun, civic leaders and officials alike surely knew that, in spite of the courtesy, it would be an uphill struggle to get adequate health care in the western Transvaal settlement of Hartebeesfontein.

The demands set out by the community's women, who took to the streets in protest this week under the banner of the Rural Women's Movement, reflected the state of dire underdevelopment of health services by the Transvaal Provincial Administration in some rural areas.

Firstly, the women said, they wanted a doctor at the clinic every day — not just once a week.

Secondly, they wanted the clinic to operate 24 hours a day, instead of closing at 4 pm and functioning only five days a week. If an after-hours emergency developed, they said, the nearest help was some 40 km away in Rustenburg.

In addition, the women insisted, they needed a 24-hour ambulance service operating from the Hartebeesfontein clinic. At present, they said, an ambulance had to be called from Rustenburg after hours. Usually residents had to bother the police to make the emergency call.

Women in labour had become quite predictable victims of this makeshift system. "It's not a proper situation at all to have

Women of Hartebeesfontein this week highlighted how poor rural health facilities are — and not only in the homelands. JO-ANNE COLLINGE was there when they faced the authorities.

*4*

your baby in front of the police station," said Ellen Ntsolengoe — but this was what happened from time to time.

"You can have a person furiously bleeding. By the time the ambulance arrives he has already lost consciousness," said civic association chairman Nathaniel Mmusu. Some people had died en route to hospital.

Dr Lourens du Toit, the TPA's regional health director for the western Transvaal, was sympathetic to the demands. He said the authorities would try to introduce a 24-hour service in the coming year. But as for having a doctor in attendance each day, "we are never going to get near that in the next year or two".

While some immediate administrative changes were agreed, a problem which could not be easily resolved was that of tariffs.

Not only did residents demand free care for recipients of State old age and disability pensions, but they urged a reduction of the present clinic tariff of R4 a visit. Hartebeesfontein comprised many unemployed and poorly paid farm workers, it was pointed out.

"If we come here to the clinic and we have no money, they will do nothing for us," one woman said.

Du Toit said Hartebeesfontein's problems were not unique. "The need is extensive across the whole western Transvaal. It's a mushrooming thing and the problem is that the population is so dispersed. Sometimes all we can provide is a mobile clinic."

When health planners speak of the maldistribution of resources, comparison is commonly drawn between whites and blacks or between the homelands and "white" South Africa. But health indicators compiled by Wits University's Centre for Health Policy show that in the non-homeland areas of Transvaal the average number of people served by a clinic was 19 133 in 1988, about double the number recommended by the World Health Organisation. Of the 10 homelands, only Kwa-zulu had a less favourable ratio.

Furthermore, researchers Laetitia Rispel and Graham Behr point out: "The homeland clinics attempt to provide comprehensive care whereas the non-homeland clinics provide preventive or curative care only." Hartebeesfontein's clinic has a preventive focus.

Rispel and Behr make the point that while the provinces have a considerably higher per capita health expenditure than the homelands — a gap of R170,54 in 1988 — this was largely accounted for by the bias towards curative hospital services outside the homelands.

Residents of Hartebeesfontein feel that, having been dumped in the bush away from any established town, they are bottom of the service heap. And the figures suggest they may be right. It is a situation they refuse to accept.

You have to provide, civic chairman Mmusu told the provincial delegation — "You are the people who brought us here." □

# ter medical care

# ANC worried about talks on farm workers

THE ANC yesterday expressed concern about the government's re-opening of the debate on the provision of basic conditions of employment for farm workers.

The provisions on farm workers in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act have again been thrown open for negotiation in terms of the recent agreement between Minister of Manpower Mr Leon Wessels and the South African Agricultural Union, the ANC said.

The ANC's department of economic planning said in a statement that less than a month ago the minister undertook to put into effect by March 1 next year the amended Act, incorporating farm workers, which had been passed by Parliament and signed by the President.

"The postponement of the date from March 1 to March 31 is not of central concern to the ANC.

"Our concern is that the debate on the basic conditions of employment for farm workers has been opened once again," the ANC said.

The ANC was "clearly not pitched against farmers — but in future agricultural policy it may well have to take into account certain farmers' and farmers associations' record on and attitude towards employment practices.

"SAAU has been less than impressive and informed in the debate on rights for farm workers.

"We call on SAAU to depart from their antiquated attitude," the ANC said. (4) CT 4/12/92

**DIANE COETZER** takes a trip on the 'alternative' wine route — through landscapes of squatter camps and hostels peopled by the jobless and exploited:

**S**TELLENBOSCH is South Africa's second oldest town and, to many people, its most beautiful. White-washed buildings, most of them national monuments, peep from behind rows of oak trees. Then there are the fields upon fields of wine grapes that surround the town that is situated at the foot of the mountains.

This is the side of Stellenbosch seen by tourists from South Africa and Europe.

But the grand wine estates so beloved of the town's tourists often hide exploitation of an even grander scale — sometimes mere metres from the fine restaurants and wine-tasting centres.

### SPIER: living on R46 and a dog

PETER October doesn't want a lot.

Just a decent wage, a decent house and the chance to bring his 14-month-old baby up in the most decent way he knows how.

But as a farm worker on Spier, one of Stellenbosch's most popular wine estates, October, aged 28, says he is denied this.

"What kind of a life is it for us if we don't even earn enough to buy our children food and we live in houses so run-down we are constantly sick?" October asked. "We cannot even openly join a union for fear that we will lose our jobs."

October earns R45,70 a week, works a 12-hour day and gets the traditional "dop" at the end of it.

And all this on a wine estate described in John Platter's wine drinkers' bible as a "magnet for tourists, who can sample wines and local specialties at two restaurants on the property, visit the art gallery and on a Saturday morning wander among the stalls at the country craft markets amid old oaks and roses".

During SOUTH's visit to the estate, the contrasts between the grand beauty of the estate and the workers' lives became clear.

Just a few hundred metres from the Spier restaurant, workers live in the type of run-down housing generally seen on smaller grape farms.

October himself lives in an unhealthy damp two-roomed cottage with his child, Joleen, and her mother, Juanita Sias, who also

# Stellenbosch — behind the gabled facade . . .



**ABOVE:** The front of Peter October's home at Spier  
**RIGHT:** Clara Solomon and her daughter, Katrina

works on the farm with young Joleen on her hip for a wage of R37,50 a week.

"Look at this place," said October, pointing to the room in which October and Sias cook their food.

"The water runs under the house and the floor is always damp."

October said he had problems with the "dop" given by the manager to "take the tiredness away".

"I would rather have money for food and clothing."

As is common on so many wine farms, management at Spier has apparently been very resistant to the organisation of farmworkers.

"Most of the workers are signed-up members of the Farmworkers' Support Committee (FSC)," October said, "but it is difficult to hold meetings here."

October said he had heard of new legislation (the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act) designed to protect the rights of farmworkers.

"If the law comes in, I believe it will help farmworkers a great deal."

### MEERLUST: eviction comes knocking

It was difficult to reach Clara Solomon

With Mr Paul Endley, an organiser from the FSC, I had to drive to a river on Meerlust wine estate, park

went back to work he was told to leave the farm with his family.

Solomon now works a few hundred kilometres away where there is no family accommodation.

"I feel that my father was unfairly treated simply because he got sick," said Katrina Solomon, 20.

Endley said: "We have given the case to Lawyers for Human Rights because all attempts we have made to communicate with management have come to a dead end."

Although most workers were signed up with the FSC, negotiations were difficult, he said.

### NEETHLINGSHOF: fighting for rights

TOURISTS on their way to taste Neethlingshof's award-winning Noble Late Harvest or Lord Neethling Rouge this holiday season may find themselves confronted by placard-waving demonstrators denouncing the famous wine estate.

The FSC will stage the protest if they do not get a formal commitment by the estate that the employees' organisation will be recognised.

FSC General secretary Mr Grant Twigg said the picket was being considered as the wine estate had "acted in bad faith in refusing to recognise the FSC".

"We have been communicating with the wine farm for a number of years over a recognition agreement," Twigg told SOUTH.

"An undertaking was given by management that we would be recognised if we could prove we had the majority of members at the three farms owned by Mr Hans-Joachim Schreiber — Neethlingshof, Stellenzicht and Welmoed.

"But after we had shown about 80 percent of workers as signed-up members, management backed out of the deal."

Twigg said the organisation had been mandated by the workers to send a letter to Schreiber (formerly of the Dresdner Bank) in Germany asking for an explanation.

Workers feel he may be unaware of their battle for recognition.

During a visit to Neethlingshof workers' village — one of the better in the area in that it has adequate housing, a creche and a community centre — an FSC member said the non-recognition was the main problem at the estate.

## Organisers meet in the shadows

FARMWORKER organisers can sometimes be forgiven for thinking they are playing a role in a rural skop, skiet and dinner movie.

As the course of their duties they face being chased off farms by farmers with guns, being set upon by dogs and being subjected to a barrage of verbal abuse.

They also have to meet workers under the most clandestine conditions — mostly in the dark of night, often away from the farm on a railway platform or beside the road.

As the general secretary of the Stellenbosch-based Farmworkers Support Committee, Mr Grant Twigg, tells it. "Every farm is different as you never know how the farmer is going to respond."

"Many farmers are completely against organisers setting foot on their farms and are resistant to workers signing up with the FSC."

"And they will let you know their feelings in no uncertain terms if they catch you on their land."

Many workers are "silent" members of the organisation as they fear being dismissed "at whim" by the farmer if membership is discovered.

Twigg said this underscored the urgent need for farmworkers to be given legislative protection.

The FSC, which has 3 000 members employed on farms in the western and southern Cape, is fighting for the urgent implementation of the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Act.

But, says Twigg, this is not enough. The organisation is also lobbying for the extension of the Labour Relations Act as there needs to be a provision in any protective legislation compelling farm owners to recognise outside representation of workers.

## Employers tight-lipped

ATTEMPTS by SOUTH to contact management at Spier and Neethlingshof for their comment proved fruitless.

Only Mr Carl van der Merwe, manager of Meerlust wine estate, spoke to SOUTH. He said the Solomon family had had to move out of their house on the farm as no member of the family was working for Meerlust any longer.

He then referred SOUTH to his attorneys.



## 18 wounded in Free State strike

*clipped 6/12/92*  
EIGHTEEN people were wounded at the Central West Co-operative at Viljoenskroon in the Free State on Friday morning when striking workers and security officers clashed. ~~(2)~~ ~~(12)~~

The SABC said the strikers apparently attacked the co-operative's security offices with sticks and stones and the guards retaliated with firearms.

The police arrived at the co-operative shortly after the incident and were also attacked with stones. Five police vehicles were damaged (4).

# Farm restaurant dispute

**FORTY** workers dismissed by a renowned Stellenbosch restaurant were angry that police had been called in to settle a dispute on Sunday, the Farmworkers Support Committee (FSC) said yesterday.

FSC general secretary Mr Grant Twigg claimed that before a work stoppage on December 18 at the Lord Neethling Restaurant workers had tried for more than two weeks to negotiate with management over a delay in

the payment of their bonuses.

A spokesman for Neethlingshof Estate (Pty) Ltd, Mr Francois Theron, confirmed the presence of police at the estate but said they were there "in view of increasing tension".

Mr Theron said the matter of workers' demands for early payment of their December salaries and bonuses had not been raised formally before employees "embarked upon unlawful strike action". — Sapa

CT 23/12/92 (4)

# Board to guide pay on farms

ET 24/12/92 (4)

By **BARRY STREEK**  
Political Staff

GUIDELINES on minimum wages for farm labourers will be issued by the Wage Board in terms of a draft bill, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Leon Wessels, disclosed last night.

He said a document containing these guidelines has been drawn up.

Mr Wessels said a document had been prepared regarding the proposed amendments to the Wage Act following discussions with the South African Agricultural Union and Congress of South African Trade Union and the National Manpower Commission's latest recommendations.

"It is proposed that the Wage Board be empowered to recommend guidelines regarding minimum wages for the various sectors and regions in the agricultural sector."

The Wage Board would take into consideration the ability of employers to carry on their business successfully should any recommendation be made about a minimum wage be made.

The board had to consider markets, transport costs and other circumstances before making any recommendations, as well as the cost of living in an area and the value of board, ra-

tions, lodgings and other benefits given by employers to employees.

"It is further recommended in the draft amendment bill that the special circumstances prevailing in the agricultural sector be taken into consideration by the Wage Board when making its recommendations."

Mr Wessels said interested parties could comment on the document at the Department of Manpower by not later than February 26, 1993. A copy of the draft bill was available at the government printer.

## Government

The provision of minimum wages and the extension of industrial legislation to farm and domestic workers — the most unprotected labour sectors in South Africa — has been highly controversial.

Although the NMC recommended in the early 1980s that labour law be extended to farm workers, the government refused to act until recently and the NMC's first report on the matter was never published.

The government maintained for years it was negotiating with agricultural groups on the matter, but actually took no action until recently.

Mr Wessels did not say whether the SAAU or Cosatu agreed with the proposals contained in the document.

## Govt proposal on farm pay levels

DIRK HARTFORD

THE Manpower Department has prepared a working document which suggests the Wage Board should have the power to recommend guidelines for minimum wages in the agricultural sector.

According to Manpower Minister Leon Wessels, the document is a result of recommendations from the National Manpower Commission and discussions with Cosatu and the SA Agricultural Union.

But, his statement gives no indication that SAAU and Cosatu agree with the working document proposals. Wessels indicated the Wage Board should only issue "guidelines" on minimum wages, rather than prescribe minimum rates, as is the case with industrial workers, reports our Political Staff. *BIDM 24/12/92*

The draft legislation aimed at amending the Wages Act recommends that "special circumstances" in the agricultural sector be taken into account by the Wage Board when it makes recommendations.

These considerations could be similar to guidelines already contained in the Wages Act. The current Act instructs the Wage Board to consider the ability of employers to do business successfully when making recommendations.

Distance from markets, transport costs and other relevant circumstances — like the cost of living in particular areas and the value of board, rations, lodging or other benefits provided for workers — also need to be considered.

The working document is the first step taken by government since a set of controversial agreements Wessels reached with Cosatu in November.

## Farm labour document out

Political Correspondent

MAJOR changes to the rights of agricultural workers will be proposed in a draft bill published by the government today.

The working document, which will appear in the Government Gazette and which arose out of the National Manpower Commission's report, entails:

- The extension of the Labour Relations Act to the agricultural sector.

- The establishment of a special Labour Court.

- Mechanisms to create labour codes for the agricultural sector.

A government spokesman said it was hoped that a consensus bill reflecting the concerns of the government, Cosatu, the SA Agricultural Union and other interested parties would be tabled in Parliament next year.

## Comment invited on Labour Act

PRETORIA — A working document on the extension of the Labour Relations Act to the agricultural sector has been published in the Government Gazette and comment has been invited.

Manpower Minister Leon Wessels said the document flowed from a report by the National Manpower Commission recommending the extension of the Labour Relations Act to the agricultural sector.

It entailed the extension of the Act to agriculture, the establishment of a special labour court, and mechanisms to create labour codes for the agricultural sector.

"Based on the comment received from interest groups on the working document, as well as further deliberations in this regard, the government will decide whether existing legislation should be extended or alternatively whether a single act to regulate labour relations in agriculture should be promulgated," Wessels said.

All interested persons and organisations were invited to submit comment on the working document, before February 26 1993, to the Department of Manpower, Private Bag X117, Pretoria 0001.

Copies of the working document are obtainable from the government printer. — Sapa. 31/12/92